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**COMMUNITY LIFE, B5**

## District nears privatization vote

Custodial services could be outsourced as officials grapple with \$6.9 million deficit

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

A report done for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials by Creative Collaborative Services says the district doesn't have enough custodians to adequately clean and maintain the district's 26 buildings.

Facing a \$6.9 million budget deficit they've only come half-

way toward eliminating, district administrators are on the verge of recommending custodial services be farmed out to a private contractor.

Brodie Killian, the district's deputy superintendent for business and operations, said Friday the administration will likely present the board "with the opportunity to ratify" a contract with a vendor he declined to name because the

decision hasn't been made. Administrators are scheduled to meet with the custodians this week; however, Killian said the administration is "very close to having all the financial details to be able to recommend a highly qualified firm."

A consultant hired shortly after Dr. Michael Meissen arrived as the district's new superintendent called the district's financial model "unsustainable." Meissen and Killian have both maintained since then the district's financial discussions and decisions are

being made to reverse that trend. "We are in the process of analysis with the general goal of increasing quality, expand services and contain costs," Meissen said recently. "One of the options being reviewed ... is a model of a performance contract for cleaning and custodial services."

Though board members aren't expected to vote on the issue until the June 10 meeting, some already know how they feel. Board Treasurer Mark Horvath is in favor of privatizing and has been since the

discussion began several months ago. And the district's struggles after privatizing transportation - it's already had to change transportation vendors after the last one experienced a number of problems, including keeping drivers in the seats - haven't deterred Horvath.

"(Custodial work) is not part of our core business," Horvath said. "We can't afford the retirement costs. We're going to get the contract right. I'm absolutely in favor of the the-

See DISTRICT, Page A2



Jay Densmore is handing over the reins at Plymouth Furniture Refinishing to longtime employee Jared Hindman. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## City to vote on budget Monday

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

The Plymouth City Commission is expected to vote Monday on a spending plan for the next fiscal year, including a general-fund budget of nearly \$7.5 million - up about 2.7 percent from the current budget, approved a year ago.

The vote follows months of planning by city officials and several commission budget meetings over the last two months. Monday's commission meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room at city hall.

The general fund is the biggest of the city's funds for the 2014-15 fiscal year, which begins in July. Other major funds include water and sewer funds (for operations and capital improvements) totaling more than \$5.25 million, a waste and recycling fund of \$1.2 million, a recreation fund of \$1.17 million and Downtown Development Authority funds totaling more than \$919,000.

### New revenue?

Commissioners, reviving debates from other budget discussions in recent years, have talked about imposing a tax collection fee of up to 1 percent on all property tax bills as a way of increasing revenue, which took a dip during the Great Recession. Officials estimate a 1-percent fee would generate just over \$200,000 a year.

The commission is looking for more revenue in order to achieve its goals for the year, including adding an officer to the 15-member Plymouth Police Department. The fee, if collected, would go toward property assessment and tax collection work, offsetting money now dedicated to those purposes.

Discussion at study sessions, though, show a board divided on imposing the fee, which is collected in many neighboring communities.

### No traction

Another revenue-generator, a "publicity tax" allowed by a 1925 state law, was also discussed, but did not gain much traction among commissioners. The law limits the revenue through the tax to \$50,000 across a community, so the cost to the individual property owner would be very small.

The commission will hold a public hearing on the budget before its vote Monday.

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## Crafting a new legacy

Furniture restoration shop changing hands as longtime owners prepares to retire

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

Jay Densmore is passing his business on to the next generation, as is done with much of the antique furniture he's restored in Plymouth for 36 years.

Densmore, the owner of Plymouth Furniture Refinishing on Main Street, is making arrangements to sell the shop to Jared Hindman, an 18-year employee with what his boss says is a natural talent. They hope to complete the sale by the fall.

"The whole thing is absolutely working out for Jared and I," Densmore said in his shop Tuesday. "He's worked hard for it. He deserves it."

Plymouth Furniture Refinishing - which started out in Old Village in 1978 as Furniture Rejuvenation Unlimited - repairs, restores, modifies and refinishes antique furniture and newer, mostly high-end, pieces: dining-room sets, bed frames, desks, chairs, settees, dressers, armoires, vanities and more. The shop also buys and resells antiques, but that part of the

business has dropped off significantly in the last few years, Densmore said.

### Plymouth roots

Densmore is a 1968 Plymouth High School graduate who says he spent a lot of time in the wood shop in both junior high and high school, making projects ahead of most of the rest of the class.

"Wood was just a good medium for me," he said. Having grown up in Plymouth was a big advantage when it came to running a business there, he said, and

some of his former teachers and mentors became customers.

Now, Densmore, 64, says he's ready to retire.

"It's time to enjoy the grandkids now," said Densmore, who has two daughters and three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way. He and wife Chris, who live in Brighton, also want to travel the country to visit longtime friends.

Hindman, of Redford Township, said he started

See SHOP, Page A2

## New grad sees opportunity in Senate race

By Matt Jachman  
Staff Writer

Lots of newly minted college graduates are out looking for that first big job and Matthew Edwards is no different.

Except that Edwards, who graduated last month from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in human resources management, is looking for that job



Edwards

in the Michigan Senate and the hiring committee is made up of voters in the 7th District. Edwards, who just turned 22, is challenging incumbent Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton Township, in the Republican primary in the senate race.

The 7th District includes Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township, Livonia, Northville Township and part of the city of Northville; the primary election is Tuesday, Aug. 5.

State Rep. Dian Slavens of Canton Township is the only candidate on the Democratic ballot.

Edwards, of Plymouth Township, is the youngest son of Ron Edwards, the township

treasurer for nearly 18 years. He said he developed a love for politics from being close to his father's career - despite, he admits, proclaiming while growing up that he would go in a different direction - and he sees an opportunity to upset Colbeck and bring a young person's perspective to Lansing.

See RACE, Page A2



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### INDEX

Community Life ..... B5  
Crossword Puzzle ..... C3  
Health ..... BB  
Homes ..... C1  
Jobs ..... C2  
Obituaries ..... B7  
Services ..... C1  
Sports ..... B1  
Wheels ..... C4

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**RACE**

Continued from Page A1

**'Time to step up'**

"I want to get the young voices involved," Edwards said recently. Politicians, he added, often say they want to hear from young people. "I thought it was a good time to step up now."

Furthermore, Edwards said, Colbeck's alignment with the Tea Party, a conservative movement that arose after President Barack Obama took office in 2009, makes him vulnerable, as Tea Party candidates across the country have been losing recent elections. "A lot of the Tea Party's going down," said Edwards, who styles himself as a moderate Republican.

Colbeck countered that he doesn't buy that assessment.

"I don't agree with his view that the Tea Party is diminished," Colbeck said Friday, pointing to victories Tuesday by Tea Party-backed candidates in a statewide primary in Texas. "We need people of all political persuasions involved in the process."

Edwards said the idea of running occurred to him around the time Colbeck withdrew the petitions for his re-election bid. Colbeck re-entered the race April 17 by paying a \$100 filing fee; Colbeck said he was confident in his petition signatures and that they had already been certified by Wayne County, but that "we just wanted to take one more drama point off the horizon" and avoid any potential challenges to the petitions.

Edwards formally entered April 22, the deadline for primary candidates, also by paying the fee. "I wanted to make sure this is what I wanted to do," he said.

**Colbeck: 'So be it'**

That's the way the system is supposed to work, Colbeck said of the challenge. "Somebody's got a reason to run, then so be it," he

said.

Brothers Mark and Thomas Edwards plan to assist Edwards with his campaign. Mark, 24, is an accountant who lives in the township and Thomas, 30, is completing a Ph.D. in biology at Purdue University.

"They were very supportive and wanted to help right away," Edwards said.

Edwards has three state issues he wants to stress: fixing Michigan's roads, retaining new college graduates and boosting manufacturing.

He isn't afraid to say he's in favor of increasing taxes to improve roads, contending the increase would be offset by lower vehicle repair and insurance bills. To keep college graduates, he'd look for ways to encourage businesses in the state to step up efforts to recruit young people. And to strengthen manufacturing, he said, he'd look at using tax credits to encourage job growth and retention.

"Michigan is a great state and people do want to come here," he said.

**Campaign trail**

Edwards plans a lot of door-to-door campaigning and is planning to cover the most heavily populated areas of the district. He's planning for campaign literature, a campaign website, a fundraiser and, of course, lawn signs.

"Door to door's going to be our biggest asset," said Edwards, who described himself as a "people person" who enjoys talking to people.

Edwards is a 2010 graduate of Canton High School, where he captained the soccer team during his senior season. He works part time at the township's Hilltop Golf Course.

He said he's not worried about the perception some might have that his father put him up to running.

"I'm the one who brought it up to my father in the first place," he said.

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**SHOP**

Continued from Page A1

with Densmore in 1996 because he needed a job and stuck with the work after falling in love with it. He had no formal training and learned on the job, he said.

**'Not just work'**

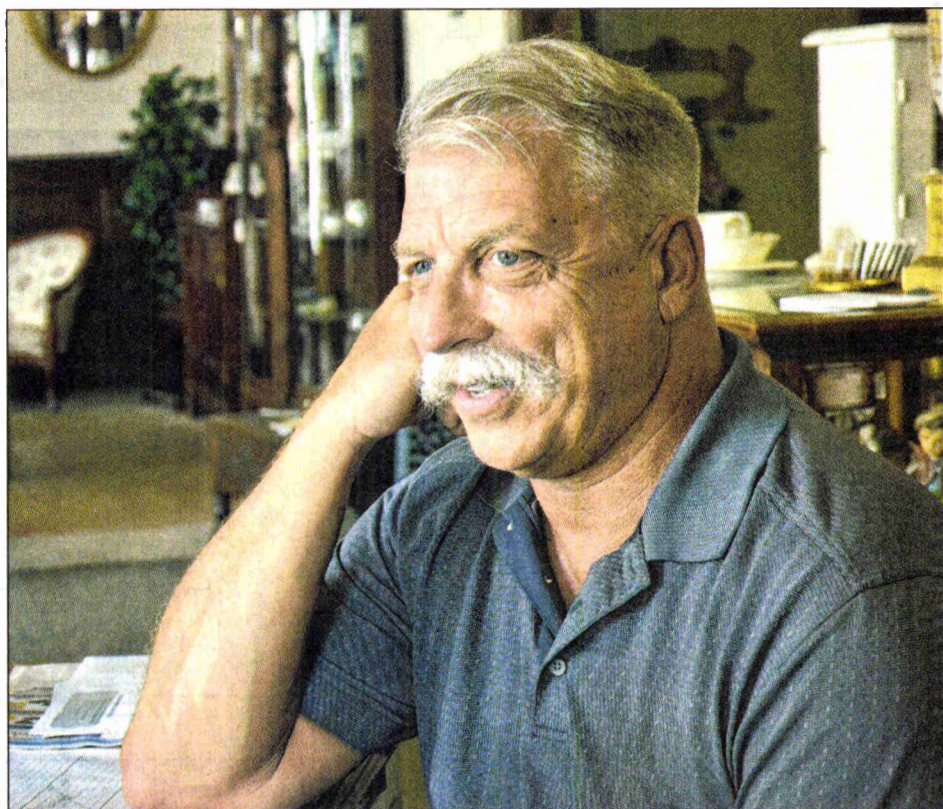
"It's not just work, it's fun," he said while taking a break from re-coating chairs to begin giving them a "distressed" look.

Densmore says his protege has a fantastic eye for color, better than his own.

"There may be some artistic ability there," said Hindman, who grew up in Plymouth Township and graduated from Salem High School.

Hindman said he'll discontinue buying and selling antiques - many pieces in the showroom have greatly reduced prices - and concentrate on restoration, repair and refinishing; Densmore said that's where 98 percent or more of the business is anyway.

"I need to focus on carrying on his tradition of good work," said Hindman, who jokingly



Jay Densmore is ready to retire and turn Plymouth Furniture Refinishing over to a longtime employee. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

called Densmore "the old wise one." When the shop settles down after the transition, Hindman said, he may restart the antiques sales.

Densmore said his work has changed with the times: finishes are of better quality than years ago and applying them

more technical; entertainment centers are now converted for use with flat-screen television sets; antique double beds are remade as queen- or king-sized beds; and there's been a "generational change" in the antiques market, with many young people

not as interested in buying antiques as were their parents and grandparents.

Still, he said, people recognize that "good furniture is good furniture forever."

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**DISTRICT**

Continued from Page A1

ory (of privatizing). The execution (of the contract) has to be done right."

The district is still negotiating with its custodians, but Joe Portelli, a union steward for the custodians union, said union members have already given back to the district.

Custodians, he told board members recently, have given back \$2 million and taken 17 unpaid furlough days each of the last two years. In addition, he said, the union has lost 22 positions.

"Two years ago, we were told the schools needed \$1 million or we would be privatized," Portelli said. "We took a severe pay cut to keep our jobs. We signed a contract under duress. That's not negotiation."

Killian said the cost of providing the custodian service is "20 to 30 percent more expensive" to do in-house. He said by outsourcing, the district can provide more jobs and better coverage.

He also said any con-



The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education is considering privatizing its custodial services.

tract with a vendor would include provisions for current P-CCS custodians to get first crack at the jobs that would, in many cases, come with a pay increase. He did acknowledge, however, that employees not vested in the district's retirement system - those who have fewer than 10 years on the job - who took jobs with the vendor would lose their pensions.

Killian said 41 of the district's 68 custodians are in that boat.

Charles Portelli, the

MEA Uniserve representative for P-CCS unions, noted at a recent meeting that district employees who work outside the administration building haven't received a raise in some seven years, but that administrators have been given raises as recently as this year.

He said he'd been told those raises were given because administrators had "taken on extra responsibilities," an answer that prompted Charles Portelli to point out all

employees have done just that.

"All of your employees have assumed lots of responsibilities and duties in the last seven years," he told board members at a recent meeting. "Custodians have been reduced in force and taken on more duties to keep our buildings clean. They come to work every day and do their best to keep our buildings safe and clean for our students."

"Why are we trying to balance the budget on the backs of all of our employee groups?" he added. "Why would we sell off all of the parts of this once-great district so a private company can make a profit?"

Killian said, with 87 percent of the budget taken up by wages and benefit packages, the deficit gives the district little choice.

"When you're looking at as significant a deficit as we are and you're trying to keep cuts away from the classroom, you have to look at ancillary costs to balance that," he said.

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Regular Meeting dates in 2014: June 17, July 22, August 19, September 9 & 23, October 7 & 21, November 18 and December 9.

Special meetings, if any, will occur on Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman  
Township Clerk

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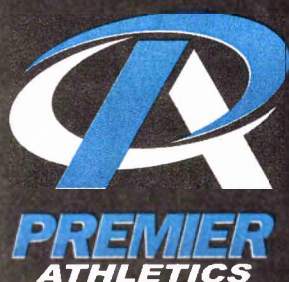
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## District cutting its way toward balanced budget

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

With a little more than a week to go before a public hearing on the 2014-15 school year budget, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators are still some \$2.8 million short of eliminating a projected \$6.7 million deficit in the plan.

Still, officials are confident they will be able to present a balanced budget to the district's Board of Education at a scheduled June 10 public hearing.

That hearing is scheduled to be part of the board's regular meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, in the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth.

Brodie Killian, the district's deputy superintendent for business and operations, said he's confident the remaining deficit will be made up with union members at the negotiating table.

"We plan to present a balanced budget, pending what happens in negotiations," Killian said. "We are trying to

keep reductions as far away from our customers – the students – as possible."

The original budget projection included a \$5.3 million deficit, but Killian said at a meeting Tuesday night that number was increased by some \$1.3 million, including \$540,000 in extra expenses revolving around the transportation budget.

The administration has chopped about \$3.8 million by cutting 41 teachers (saving some \$3 million), 4.25 full-time equivalent positions among its

non-union jobs and four secretaries. Original estimates had the district eliminating 21 teachers due to declining enrollment – Killian said the district figures to lose some 590 students for the 2014-15 school year – and the other 20 are being cut to deal with "continued structural financial challenges."

It could raise another \$1.2 million by selling off assets, notably property the district owns at Joy and Beck in Canton Township.

Killian said the rest of the

budget could be balanced by potential of further union concessions, more favorable utilization of health care money and the potential privatization of the district's custodial services.

If those negotiations aren't completed before the public hearing – the district is meeting with its custodians this week – Killian said the \$2.8 million shortfall will be made up for temporarily by using the district's fund balance.

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## CANTON TO CAPETOWN

Teacher travels to Africa to build STEM skills

A teacher at Achieve Charter Academy is about to embark on a global journey to establish a learning opportunity for students in her classroom, plus students in a classroom in Cape Town, South Africa.

Middle school science teacher Kim Jaster will travel to Africa in July to teach students at Cape Academy of Math, Science and Technology about solar cars and their relationship with alternative energy. She hopes this trip will be the first of many to share educational expertise about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills.

"The heart of America's educational renaissance is STEM and its connectedness is the secret," Jaster said. "With it, students get the relevance they need to be more mindful about their learning."

Jaster said the school is working in collaboration with Eastern Michigan University on this project. Achieve students will complete a science project in their classroom, make a video of how they did



Achieve Charter Academy teacher Kim Jaster will travel to Capetown, South Africa, this summer.

it and send it with Jaster to share with the students at Cape Town as their first introduction.

Eventually, the goal is to have students in the two classrooms provide lessons to each other through the help of a computer technology called Raspberry Pi, a computer that functions without electricity, which is in short supply in Africa.

The school has also partnered with the Sonlig Project to have the video and curricular content developed by our students and loaded onto a version of the Sonlig Mobile

Digital library. The students at Cape Town can use the devices to review the lessons and build their own solar cars.

Jaster said she is hopeful this project will take off quickly and provide her students with a greater global awareness.

"I hope my students will have a new perspective that highlights education as a tool for a better life, not just a test score to achieve," Jaster said. "When people touch hands with people across great distances, the quest for global interdependence and peace becomes reachable."

### ON CAMPUS

#### Indiana University

Madeleine Vala, 20, of Plymouth, graduated Saturday, May 10, with high distinction from the Indiana University School of Public Health with her bachelor's in kinesiology.

Vala

Vala studied sports marketing and management and has minors in business, marketing and youth sports management. She was a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and had internships with the IU Athletic Department and Indianapolis Colts. She has been admitted to the Indiana University Maurer School of Law beginning fall 2014, where she plans to focus on sport law.

Vala, a 2011 graduate of Salem High School, is the daughter of John and Sandra Vala of Plymouth.

#### Providence College

Marriana Marcarelli of Plymouth was among more than 900 students from Providence College who received undergraduate degrees during the college's 96th commencement exercises held

May 18.

Marcarelli graduated with a bachelor of arts degree.

#### Alma College

Alma College has named more than 450 students to the dean's list for outstanding academic performance during the 2014 winter term.

Students from Canton who made the list included Alyssa Leright, Chelsie Myers and Lindsey Schmidt.

Katherine Greenough of Plymouth also made the list.

#### University of Dayton

Kevin Hayes and David Titus of Canton and Shannon Hogan of Plymouth were among students named to the University of Dayton's dean's list for the 2014 spring semester.

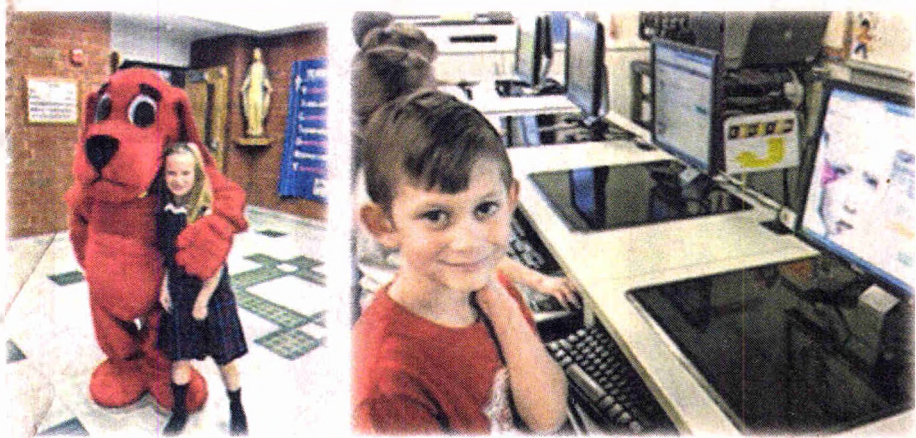
To qualify for the dean's list, an undergraduate degree-seeking student must have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA for that semester.

#### Southern Arkansas

Brendan Bird of Salem High School has been selected to receive the Achievement Scholarship from Southern Arkansas University. This scholarship includes \$1,000 per semester and has a four-year value of \$8,000.

Bird is the son of Lisa Bird.

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# Canton official earns award

Emergency planner lauded for efforts

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

It's Kathleen Rich's job to help Canton respond as effectively as possible to unthinkable disasters such as a massive tornado or a terrorism act.

She also can quickly assemble a small army of volunteers to search for a missing child or a dementia patient who has wandered off and become lost.

As Canton's emergency management planner, Rich's efforts have earned her Wayne County's Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, Leader Award.

Timothy McGillivary, Wayne County's director of homeland security and emergency management, said Rich was the sole recipient of this year's award, given Tuesday during a ceremony in Dearborn.

McGillivary lauded Rich for her efforts to form a team of Canton residents who can help handle disaster situations even before first responders arrive on the scene. He said CERT volunteers also help out at routine community



Kathleen Rich, Canton Township emergency management planner, accepts her award from Timothy McGillivary (left), director of Wayne County Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

events.

### 'Vital role'

"It's a time-proven fact during an emergency that friends and neighbors who live in the area play a vital role," McGillivary said Friday. "The CERT program has been such a vital cog in emergency preparedness and homeland security for the community. I can't say enough nice things about the folks who have volunteered their time."

Rich said the most difficult part of her job is convincing average residents they need to prepare and have a plan of action for disaster situations, though she said CERT volunteers take their role quite seriously.

Rich never expected to be singled out for her efforts.

"It was very unexpected, but it's very rewarding and humbling," she said. "There are a lot of good people working out there."

Rich serves on the Wayne County, regional and state Citizen Corps boards and is instrumental in keeping lines of communication open to all teams regarding funding opportunities, training and other activities.

She became involved in the Citizen Corps program - of which CERT is one portion - in 2010 and started a Canton CERT team in spring 2012. She started part time as Canton emergency manage-

ment planner in 2005 and became full time in 2008.

### Emergency training

In all, 33 residents graduated from the first-ever CERT class, which involves 16-20 hours of training in basic disaster preparedness, light search and rescue, first aid/CPR, fire safety and utility controls, disaster psychology and CERT response to terrorism.

Volunteers are trained as neighborhood first responders, assisting those in need until police and firefighter paramedics arrive. Canton has amassed as many as 75 volunteers in efforts such as searching for missing people.

Every September for National Preparedness Month, Rich and other area Citizen Corps team leaders coordinate a full-scale disaster exercise with volunteers at the Wayne County Community College's Downriver campus in Taylor.

To learn more about the Citizen Corps program, go to [www.ready.gov/citizen-corps](http://www.ready.gov/citizen-corps). For more on CERT, go to [www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams](http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams).

To learn more about Canton's CERT program, send an email to [krich@canton-mi.org](mailto:krich@canton-mi.org).

# Trial set for Canton home invasion defendant

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

A Garden City man charged in a Canton home invasion while



Toth

two teens hid in a closet and called for help is set for a jury trial July 28 in Wayne County

Circuit Court, barring a plea deal.

Michael Steven Toth, 28, remained jailed Friday, but court records indicate he could be freed if he manages to pay reduced bonds totaling \$10,000 - or 10 percent of \$100,000 - on charges of first- and second-degree home invasion, possession of burglary tools and larceny in a building.

Toth's bonds earlier had been set sharply higher at \$150,000, or 10 percent of \$1.5 million, when he was arraigned in 35th District Court, according to Canton authorities. However, the amount was reduced May 16 by Wayne County Circuit Judge

Michael Callahan, who nonetheless ordered Toth placed on an electronic monitoring tether if he manages to secure his freedom.

Toth was charged after Canton police nabbed a suspect climbing out a second-story window as a Canton boy, 17, and his sister, 16, hid in a closet and called 9-1-1 for help when they heard loud noises as an intruder used burglary tools to break into a home on Emerald Pines Drive, near Palmer and Lotz.

Deputy Police Chief Debra Newsome has said the suspect was caught leaving the home with jewelry and jewelry boxes the morning of April 21. Toth also was charged with two other home invasions in Canton.

During his preliminary hearing in front of 35th District Judge Michael Gerou, Toth was described as a former U.S. Marine who was unemployed and living in Garden City with his girlfriend and their child.

[dclcm@hometownlife.com](mailto:dclcm@hometownlife.com)

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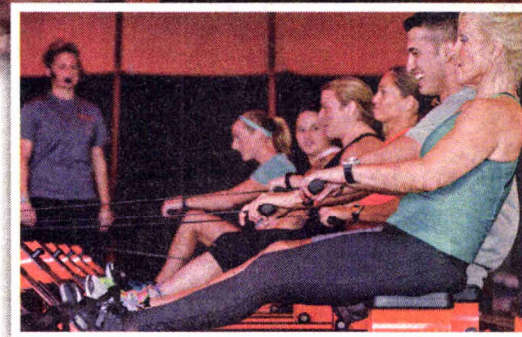
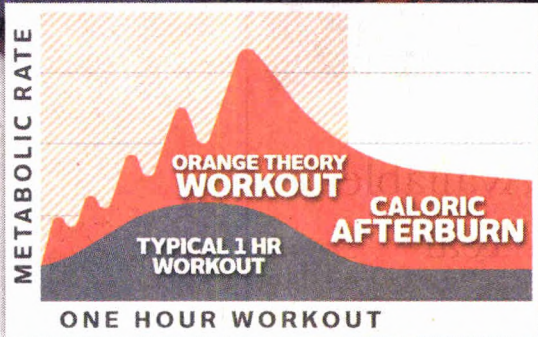
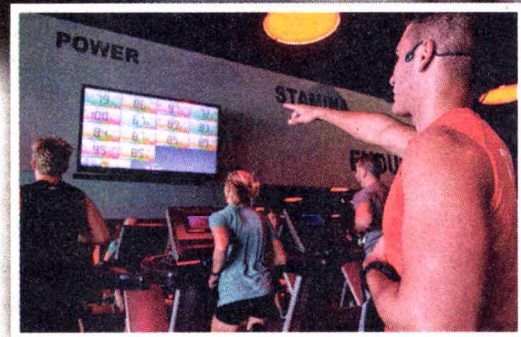


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# Detroit's claim stalls development plans

By Eric Lawrence  
Gannett Michigan

An ambitious plan to develop 500 acres of land in western Wayne County into an advanced technology powerhouse and retail district projected to create thousands of jobs has been stalled over a property dispute with the city of Detroit.

Northville and Plymouth townships have partnered to develop bordering property they own in their respective communities along Five Mile, between Beck and Napier, to complete the project.

The proposal, which calls for using former Detroit House of Corrections farmland in Plymouth Township, the Robert Scott Correctional Facility in Northville Township and land in between, would include acreage Plymouth Township acquired through a Wayne County tax foreclosure sale in 2011.

But the city of Detroit claims 190 acres of that property should not have been included in the sale and that it still owns the land. The dispute with the city of Detroit over who owns the land has been tied up in court and partially delayed because of the city's bankruptcy filing since last year, but is expected to move forward in coming weeks.

Melvin (Butch) Hollowell, Detroit's corporation counsel, said a court filing on behalf of Detroit to resolve the title issue is "imminent."

"This is our property and we'll defend it vigorously," Hollowell said.

Complicating the mat-



Richard Sharland of Plymouth stands on the edge of Johnson Creek near the old Detroit House of Corrections facility. TIM GALLOWAY | SPECIAL TO GANNETT MICHIGAN

ter is that Northville Township officials have uncovered a potential problem with their ownership of the Robert Scott Correctional Facility, purchased from the state of Michigan for \$1 in 2012.

Both the state and city of Detroit, which owned the property before the state did, could exercise claims on the Scott property if that parcel is not developed for a "public purpose," such as building a park or even a police station, according to Northville Township Supervisor Robert Nix, who said the township stumbled upon the legal encumbrances from the site's previous owners as part of due diligence on the title.

Officials had hoped the parcel would be a mixed-use development, perhaps including upscale retail and research and technology companies.

Nix pledged that Northville Township officials will move forward with development to the west of the Scott

site regardless of what happens there.

"We're trying to work through this with everybody," Nix said, noting that thousands of jobs are possible if the development partnership succeeds. "This is a big, big project, long term. ... This is a big benefit or spark plug for western Wayne County."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume expressed frustration with the complications, touting the benefits that the development partnership could ultimately provide to the whole region.

"Here's the city of Detroit ... tying up Northville Township property and now they're tying up property that was foreclosed by the Wayne County treasurer," Reaume said, referencing the dispute with his township over what is known as the DeHoCo parcel.

"What we're proposing is something that's a benefit for all of Wayne County," including Detroit.

## Property worth millions

Reaching a settlement in the case would boost development prospects for the entire corridor. Officials in both townships said they have been meeting monthly for about six months with state and county economic development officials, as well as DTE Energy, which would need to provide utilities to the area, on how to market and develop about 500 "buildable acres" out of the approximately 1,000 acres in the two communities that make up the corridor.

Those possibilities are complicated by the DeHoCo dispute.

The DeHoCo issue became a court fight after Plymouth Township resident Richard Sharland, a retired farmer and local activist, questioned the sale because it was affecting a friend who had farmed the land under a rental agreement with the city of Detroit and he brought it to the city's attention.

The parcel was part of 323 acres sold to Plymouth Township in 2011 in a tax foreclosure sale because of unpaid taxes by the city of Detroit and a private company. Plymouth Township real estate company DeMatia, under the name Demco 54, had purchased one of two adjacent parcels from the city of Detroit in 2006, but failed to exercise an option to buy the remainder — the 190 acres in dispute. The township combined the parcels improperly for tax purposes, according

to Sharland, who said the township should have known that the parcels were separate.

"The city of Detroit residents should be concerned that they had money taken away from them. ... They can use the money better than Plymouth Township can here," Sharland said.

Plymouth Township paid more than \$606,000 to purchase both parcels, which are valued in the millions of dollars. According to information supplied by Sharland, the assessed value for both parcels was \$14 million in 2007, but that had dropped to \$8 million for the disputed parcel and \$1.6 million for the other parcel in 2009, a time, Reaume noted, when property values across the country were down.

## No one takes blame

The resulting legal mess has three entities — the township, the city and the Wayne County treasurer's office — assigning blame to one another.

Detroit's position is that it's illegal to foreclose on municipal property. Wayne County Chief Deputy Treasurer David Szymanski said his office is not at fault because the office relies on local units of government to provide proper documentation, while Plymouth Township's Reaume questioned why city property outside of a city should be able to avoid tax foreclosure when taxes go unpaid.

He also disputed suggestions by Sharland that the township did anything improper. "We followed all the state procedures for land divisions,"

Reaume said. "There was nothing deceitful or dishonest on our part."

Reaume said the township simply saw an opportunity to purchase a piece of land with a unique natural feature. The property is split by Johnson Creek and Reaume said officials could envision a recreation area with trails along the cold water creek.

Plymouth Township Trustee Bob Doroshewitz, who is at times at odds with the supervisor, backed up the assertion that officials were unaware of any problems associated with purchasing the property. Doroshewitz said Treasurer Ron Edwards, who did not return a call seeking comment, first brought the purchase proposal to the board to consider.

"That property's worth millions. ... There wasn't a lot of debate and dissent," Doroshewitz said. "We're going to have to find some settlement, some middle ground. Both sides have dug their heels in."

Hollowell said the city would have the option to sell the property and is not closing the door on a sale to the township, "but I don't think that commitment has been made by the administration."

He dismissed any concern that the city is holding up development in western Wayne County. Indeed, efforts to develop other portions of that Five Mile corridor are likely to continue regardless of the dispute.

"It's important for the city to protect the ownership of its property and we will do so," Hollowell said. "I think we have a responsibility to everybody to clear up title," then good-faith negotiations about the "ultimate disposition of the property" can proceed.

## State-owned eyesore

The status of the state-owned DeHoCo prison site itself, which is east of the land in dispute between Plymouth Township and Detroit, remains unsettled as well.

Unlike the disputed parcel and the former Scott property, which were at one time both used as farm fields for the prison, the former DeHoCo site is contaminated and numerous buildings — described as something akin to those in the movie *The Shawshank Redemption* — remain standing 28 years after the prison closed.

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, has introduced legislation to transfer the property from the state Department of Technology, Management and Budget to the state land bank in an effort to speed up development efforts that would tie it in with the corridor.

"It's state-owned property that is a real eyesore for the community and detriment," Heise said, noting that he wants the state to tear down the buildings. "The state also has a responsibility to be a good neighbor and we, the state, need to clean that site up."

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The June 7 show is great place to see all types of electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids up close. PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY

# Schoolcraft to host electric vehicle show

Visitors will get to see many models in one place

The largest electric vehicle show in the Midwest is celebrating its sixth year at Schoolcraft College. The show, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 7, is a must-see for anyone who's ever considered buying an electric vehicle.

The show is free and open to the public. It is a great opportunity to see all types of EVs and PHVs (plug-in hybrid), talk to the owners and ride in or drive many of the cars around campus.

The EVs on display will include the BMW i3, Cadillac ELR, Chevrolet Volt, Nissan Leaf, Tesla Roadster and Tesla Model S.

The show also features electric scooters and performance EV motorcycles.

Other vehicles at the show include unique conversions such as a Chevy S10s, an Austin Healy Sprite, a Fiat X19, a Ford Escort, a PT Cruiser, a Porsche Boxter and even an



Show attendees at the 2013 event look under the hood at this Ford CMax.

electric go-cart kit for kids. Past years have seen highlights such as a 1916 Detroit Electric, a 1976 Citicar and drag-pull racing electric trac-

tors. "This is the largest event of its kind in the Midwest," Michigan Electric Auto Association President Larry Tuttle said.

"In addition to learning all about the latest EV and PHV technology and talking to people who drive EVs every day, visitors can even 'Ride and

Drive' in several vehicles."

A number of vendors who provide equipment, services and resources to the electric vehicle industry and EV owners will be on hand, including DTE Energy, Ann Arbor Automotive and Clipper Creek charging stations, Mechanical Energy Systems and many others.

Refreshments will be available. Concrete Cuisine will be on site selling gourmet food and Treat Dreams will be selling innovative ice cream and custom desserts from its mobile truck.

Event co-sponsors are Schoolcraft College and the Michigan Electric Auto Association in partnership with Detroit Area Clean Cities, Clean Energy Coalition, DTE Energy, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program and Observer & Eccentric Media.

Event organizers see the show as an educational and entertaining way to raise awareness of the general public about electric vehicles.

Visit [www.schoolcraft.edu/evshow](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/evshow) for more information.

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**CRAFTERS NEEDED**

**Date/Time:** Oct. 18  
**Location:** West Middle School, 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth  
**Details:** The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society hosts its annual juried Craft Show. Proceeds from the show provide scholarships for young people who are pursuing a career in education and mini-grants for educators in the district.  
**Contact:** For more information, contact Debbie Cortellini at debcortellini@comcast.net or call her at 734-451-1525.

**MOVING PARENTS SEMINAR**

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, June 4, 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Canton Public Library, 1200 Canton Center, Canton  
**Details:** Seniors real estate specialist and Realtor with Keller Williams Realty in Plymouth, Nancy Austin will present a seminar for adult children whose parents need to move to new quarters. Topics will include alternative retirement living, preparing their house for sale including updating, estate sales, important documents, controlling the stress level, family involvement, services available, a moving checklist and more.  
**Contact:** For further information, call Nancy Austin at 734-718-8900.

**'GHOSTS OF PLYMOUTH' WALK**

**Date/Time:** Sunday, June 29, 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Starts at the fountain in Kellogg Park, downtown Plymouth  
**Details:** Meet and greet some of the characters from Plymouth's past during the Plymouth Historical Museum's "Ghosts of Plymouth" Walk. Hear the tales of early Plymouth from the characters themselves, such as Phil Markham (inventor of the Markham Air Rifle), his mistress Blanche Shortman and his spurned wife Carrie, colorful physician Dr. Luther Peck and George Starkweather, the first white male born in Plymouth Township. Tickets are \$10 per person (\$5 for children under 10) in advance or \$15 (\$10 for children under 10) at the park and can be purchased at the museum's website using PayPal or at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street.  
**Contact:** Call 734-455-8940 for more information.

**ISSUES FORUM**

**Date/Time:** Monday, June 9, 7 p.m.

**Location:** Canton Township Hall, 1150 S. Canton Center  
**Details:** The Canton Republican Caucus hosts an issues forum consisting of factual presentations on issues affecting the residents of Canton Township, the Plymouth-Canton School District and other local communities. The two primary issues to be discussed are road repairs and the required funding and education and the related funding required. Presentations will be made by local, district, county and state level speakers.

**CRAFTERS WANTED**

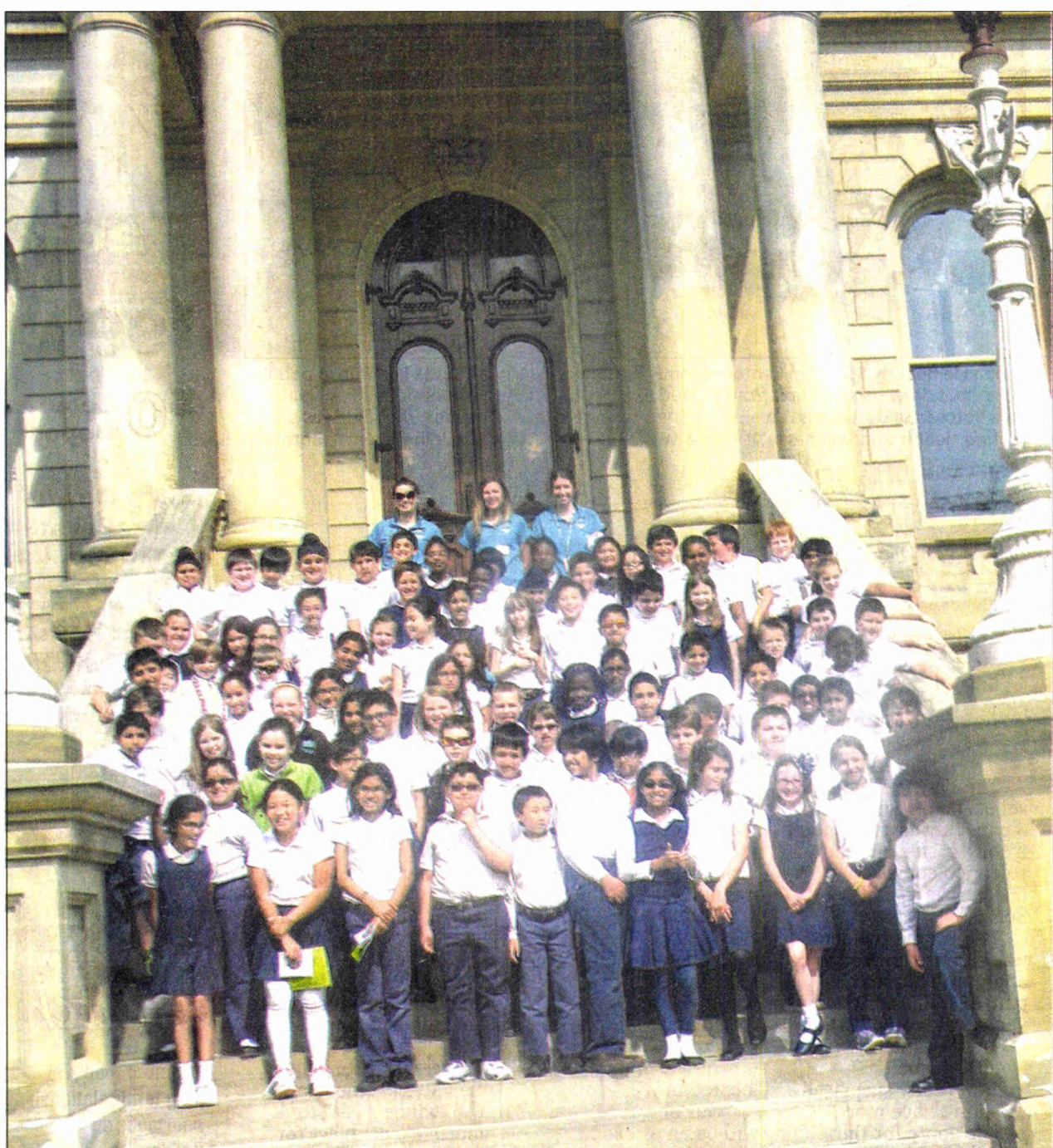
**Date/Time:** Sept. 5-7  
**Location:** Downtown Plymouth's Fall Festival  
**Details:** The Plymouth Fall Festival has openings in the Craft Show. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at [www.plymouthfallfestival.com](http://www.plymouthfallfestival.com). Deadline for Jewelry booth applications is June 30. Deadline for all other craft applications is July 15.  
**Contact:** More information can be found on the web site or email Colleen Brown at [crafs-show@plymouthfallfestival.com](mailto:crafs-show@plymouthfallfestival.com).

**MSU WINE TASTING**

**Date/Time:** Friday, June 6, 6-8:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Cantoro's Market, on Haggerty just north of Five Mile, Plymouth  
**Details:** The Western Metro Detroit Alumni Club of Michigan State University hosts a wine tasting event, a fundraiser to provide scholarships to students transferring from local colleges to MSU. Enjoy a selection of eight or more wines and hors d'oeuvres by Cantoro's. Live music will be provided by an ensemble of musicians from the College of Music and a talk will be given on the Wines Of Michigan by MSU Professor Ron Perry. Admission is \$45.  
**Contact:** To purchase tickets, visit [eventbrite.com/e/cantoro-festive-market-wine-tasting-event-tickets-11579413337](http://eventbrite.com/e/cantoro-festive-market-wine-tasting-event-tickets-11579413337). Call Tom Hess for information at 248-380-8519.

**MEDICARE/MEDICAID COUNSELING**

**Date/Time:** June 4, 1-3 p.m.  
**Location:** United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center Road, Ste. 250, Canton  
**Details:** United Home Health Services offers free individual counseling with a certified MMAP (Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program) counselor who will help you understand: Medicare/Medicaid eligibility, transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare, plan



**Government lesson**


The fourth-grade students from South Canton Charter were recently treated to a tour of the Capitol Building in Lansing. Teachers Jennifer Mizzi, Megan Kendall and Sarah Rybicki and their students toured the capitol, got to go down to the House floor and met with state Rep. Dian Slavens of Canton.

options, assistance programs, drug insurance, and Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse identification and reporting. Medicare plan enrollment and subsidy application assistance also provided.  
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**BNI MEETING**  
**Date/Time:** Each Thursday, 7-8:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Red Olive Restaurant, 1051 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth  
**Details:** The BNI Northville-The \$1 million Referral Chapter meets every Thursday morning.  
**Contact:** For more information,


visit [www.NorthvilleBNI.com](http://www.NorthvilleBNI.com)  
**FOOD PANTRY**  
**Date/Time:** Open every Tuesday, registration 2-3 p.m.  
**Location:** Abundant Life Church of God, 2100 Hannan, Canton  
**Details:** Abundant Life Church of God hosts New Dimension Outreach Food Bank for anyone who needs food. The pantry is run by people who love and

care. Registration is 2-3 p.m., free raffles are at 3 p.m. and food distribution follows the raffles. The pantry services more than 100 families per week. Users will need a photo ID and proof of address.  
**Contact:** For more information, contact Donna at 734-383-5658, Pastor Dan Smitherman at 734-664-5848 or the church at 734-722-7688.



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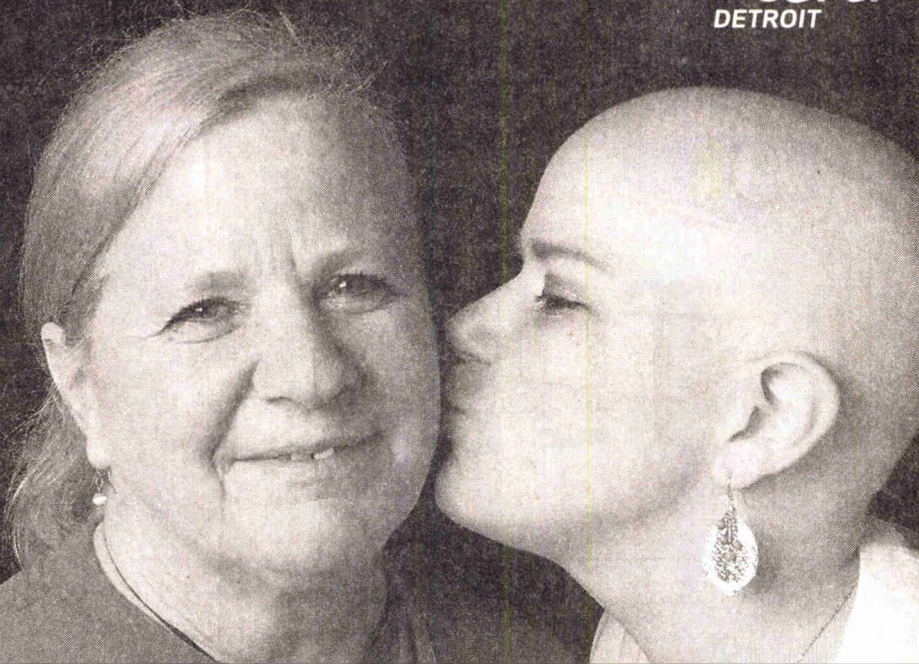
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## Running for fun



Tonda Elementary School in Canton recently hosted its inaugural Tonda Fun Run, a popular event that drew participation from 66 students throughout the school. Tonda Principal Tara Botosan said students ran either a one-mile race or a 5K. The idea, she said, was promoting health and wellness. "It was a wonderful community building event," Botosan said.

## Ex-board member is lone candidate for W-W vacancy

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday to appoint a new trustee and the selection comes down to one person — Cindy Schofield.

The Wayne resident was the only person to apply by Thursday's 4 p.m. deadline for the vacancy created by the sudden resignation May 9 of John Goci.

"I'm really surprised we didn't have more people apply for the position," school board President Shawna Walker said. "I would have hoped we would have had at least a handful."

Schofield is no stranger to Wayne-Westland Community Schools or the school board. She co-chaired the citizens committee and was a member of the citizens construction committee for the 1998 bond issue before being elected to the school board in 2000. She successfully ran for re-election in 2004 and 2008 before stepping

down in 2012.

She has also been active in Wayne Ripple Effect and its successful effort for the city of Wayne to receive a Michigan Main Street Program select-level community designation.

A lifelong resident of Wayne and Westland and a graduate of John Glenn High School, Schofield is employed by Norplex Associates, a family owned rental property management business located in Westland.

"Our one candidate will be an awesome choice because of her past experience and her knowledge of the district," Walker said. "As board president, I'm grateful she decided to step up and fill the position until the election."

Goci was in the final year of his first full term on the board when he resigned. He said "my health and my family need my attention at this time."

If appointed, Schofield would serve until the November election, when the six-year term

will be filled by voters. At that time, the board will need to decide if Schofield should serve until the end of December.

The decision stems from a move away from four-year terms beginning in July to six-year terms beginning in January; it's the result of a state law that shifted spring school elections to November general elections in even years.

In addition to filling the vacancy, the board also will be asked to approve a contract for the district's next superintendent, Michele Harmala.

The board selected Harmala, an associate superintendent for instructional services and organizational leadership in the Farmington Public Schools, to become superintendent May 22. She'll replace Greg Baracy who is retiring July 1 after almost 17 years as the district's top administrator.

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## Campers get kid's-eye view of Civil War

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Children can experience aspects of the Civil War by recreating what life was like during the war, including dressing in period clothing, getting their picture taken and participating in a chore race consisting of old-fashioned tasks from the mid-1800s. There will also be a scavenger hunt, which will entertain and educate while they search for clues to solve a puzzle.

Children will be able to chat with Civil War soldier re-enactors who can answer questions, demonstrate marching and much more. The boys will be given the opportunity to "enlist" in

the army.

Tickets purchased by July 18 are \$35 per child; after that tickets are \$40; alternatively, the purchase of a new or renewed Daisy membership to the Plymouth Historical Museum (value \$50) will allow one child to attend for free.

The target age for children is 6-12 years old; however, children under 8 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours or can be purchased using Paypal on the museum's website. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street.

For more information, call 734-455-8940 or email secretary@plymouthhistory.org.

## Facility to offer bone, joint, spine treatment

People want to be on the move. For some, that means continuing hobbies like golf, biking or walking. Others just want to be able to play with their children or grandchildren. Unfortunately, health challenges like arthritis, injuries, fractures and back problems may get in the way of the active lifestyle many hope to lead.

In anticipation of this growing need for bone, muscle, joint and spine care, the University of Michigan Health System is opening its new Comprehensive Musculoskeletal Center. The Musculoskeletal Center brings more than 250 top physicians from 10 specialties across the U-M Medical School under one umbrella. Care teams will provide

## U-M to open Northville center



The Northville Health Center, the U-M Health system's newest facility, is scheduled to open July 15. The Comprehensive Musculoskeletal Center at Northville will provide care related to arthritis, spine disease, pain management, sports medicine and fracture care.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

services at 50 different clinics located throughout Ann Arbor and southeast Michigan, with specialties ranging from rehabilitation after a sports injury to managing pain from arthritis or a back condition.

The new U-M brand will also have a major presence at the Northville Health Center, the U-M Health System's newest facility opening July 15. The Comprehensive Musculoskeletal Center at Northville will provide care related to arthritis, spine disease, pain management, sports medicine and fracture care. These services will continue to be offered at 21 other health system facilities across nine communities in southeast Michigan.

"This is a new approach to more effectively and efficiently serve patients with musculoskeletal problems in our health care system," says James Carpenter, M.D., chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the U-M Medical School and chair of the Comprehensive Musculoskeletal Center.

"We recognize that while we house some of the nation's leading doctors in high-demand musculoskeletal specialty areas, it's not always

easy for patients to find their way to the right specialist for their condition. Our Comprehensive Musculoskeletal Center will allow providers with expertise in different areas to work together in a more seamless manner that enhances care and treatment."

The new effort comes as leaders anticipate a growing need for musculoskeletal care, especially with the aging population that often faces such problems as arthritis and fractures from osteoporosis.

"We know that more patients expect and desire to lead an active lifestyle later in life and into retirement. Our goal is to provide a robust model of care that helps people maintain physical function so that they can stay healthy and independent as long as possible," says Edward Hurvitz, M.D., chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the U-M Medical School and vice chair of the Comprehensive Musculoskeletal Center.

"Many of the musculoskeletal conditions requiring treatment are age-related and the Musculoskeletal Center will help us meet this urgent and growing need for bone, joint and

spine care in our community and beyond."

The center will strengthen connections among experts across the health system and bring diagnostic and therapeutic services together, allowing for a wider range of treatment options than in a traditional physician's office. Services range from advanced therapies to minimally-invasive surgery, with everything from ultrasounds to MRIs managed within the center's facilities.

This multidisciplinary coordination will also help patients get timely and accurate diagnosis and treatment. The Musculoskeletal Center's arthritis clinic, for example, offers the expertise of rheumatologists, physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians and orthopedic surgeons who work together to diagnose a patient and determine treatment options and whether surgery is recommended.

For the patient, that may mean one appointment instead of being referred from one office to another.

For more information about the new Comprehensive Musculoskeletal Center, visit [www.uofm-health.org/medical-services/cmc](http://www.uofm-health.org/medical-services/cmc).

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# Family's secrets turn into book

Author plays detective to find out about aunt he never knew

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

Steve Luxenberg has met many people and heard many things at the talks he has given since he wrote a book about an aunt he never knew existed.

But the one that piqued his interest was a woman who told him she had met his aunt when she was 12 years old. He was skeptical, but listened as she explained that, after reading his book, *Annie's Ghost: A Journey into a Family Secret*, he realized the young woman she and her sister had met at the soda fountain at Eloise was his Aunt Annie.

"She told me, 'I called my sister and asked if she remembered and she said the one with the wooden leg,'" Luxenberg said. "She told me, 'I came tonight because I want you to know from my perspective Annie was happy.' It's nice to know she was happy in those moments."

Luxenberg was at the William P. Faust Public Library for the final author event of Michigan Humanities Council's Great Michigan Read. Luxenberg's book was the 2014 selection for the biennial program.

### Family mystery

Luxenberg, a Detroit native, delved into his family's history to unravel the mystery of why his mother identified herself as an only child and how his aunt ended up at Eloise, the name given to the sprawling Wayne County Infirmity, Psychiatric and General Hospital complex in Westland.

Most of the people in



Pauline Martin of Livonia talks with author Steve Luxenberg as he autographs her copy of "Annie's Ghost." SUE MASON

the overflow audience had read his book that he describes as part "memoir, part detective story, part history." A journalist by trade, Luxenberg became an investigator to find out why his mother said she was an only child and his aunt ended up spending most of her adult life at Eloise.

The journey began after his mother's death, when he and his siblings received a letter in 2000 from the cemetery inquiring about flowers for three graves, two of which were his grandparents.

"I was curious and the journalist in me kicked in," said Luxenberg, an associate editor at the *Washington Post*. "I started in 2005" when an agent read something he had written in the *Washington Post*. He did an "elevator pitch" and she was interested.

"I tried to stand in mom's shoes; I tried to see what happened through their eyes then, not 50 years later," he said.

### Annie's life

Luxenberg's talk was as much about the differ-

ences about mental services then and now as it was about his Aunt Annie, who had a deformed leg. She was delayed in starting school and, at 16, her leg had to be amputated and she was given a wooden leg. The idea that there was a mental issue associated with her physical problem wasn't realized until she was 18 or 19.

"The first 16 years of her life, all the attention was focused on her physical deformity. If it was today, she would have gotten counseling; she didn't get that," he said.

At age 21, Luxenberg's grandmother "gave Annie over to Eloise" and in a letter, asked that they "take care of her." His grandmother also told a social worker that "everyone is going crazy because of Annie."

Alice Andre of Westland quizzed Luxenberg about his aunt's diagnosis.

"There was no diagnosis required at the time of admission," he said. "On her death certificate, it says undifferentiated schizophrenia. I'm not sure when they attached that to her case. I think her mental health issues were overlooked because of her leg."

When the family moved out of their Detroit neighborhood, his mother reinvented her identity and "Annie lost hers." His mother became an only child, a lie that continued for years and was even perpetuated in his grandparents' obituaries.

"When Eloise closed, much more of the responsibility was put on families," Luxenberg said. "My mother didn't take care of Annie, Eloise took care of Annie."

### Thanked for book

One member of the audience thanked Luxenberg for writing the book and "letting people know there were others like Annie out there." Another asked if his father was aware of Annie.

"I thought it was impossible to be married for 35 years and not

know, but I'm leaning toward the fact that he didn't know," Luxenberg said.

Among those listening to Luxenberg was Nancy Liebau of Garden City, who praised him for all he has "done for the people who were exposed to Eloise."

"Bless you, you did a great job," she said. "(The book) read like a history book because I grew up her and went by Eloise; it was very real for me. The other part was the background and how the people felt about mental illness. It was a good read."

Pauline Martin of Livonia waited in line to have Luxenberg sign her book.

"I loved his book; I read it in five days," she said.

Having his book selected for the Great Michigan Read gave Luxenberg "so many opportunities." It also has made him more aware about the treatment of mental illness.

"In learning more and more about the treatment of mental health, I know things are so much better than things were back then," he said. "There is the stigma with mental illness and it's still with us."

"Every generation has its taboos and one way to get rid of this stigma would be to open up mental health records from 100 years ago."

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However, many people do more than just walk. For example, the patient who plays golf or tennis or works out with weights, wants to know how soon after a shoulder injection can one return to those activities.

Doctors cannot answer such questions because no studies exist that have studied the effect of waiting time and gradual return to golf or tennis to know if waiting needs to be no longer than one day or to be no less than one week.

The common sense answer of return to activity that doesn't hurt and stop any activity that brings on pain is too broad. If one commits to a tennis match or goes with a group to golf or bowl, then injection or not, there is a need to show up and play the match. Furthermore, pain comes from prior layoff and one expects aching before getting back in shape.

The approach that seems most successful is to return to strenuous activity slowly, taking at least two weeks to achieve what were pre-injury levels of performance. It is possible that sites of aching may take weeks to resolve.

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## 'The Red King's Dream' coming to Tipping Point Theatre

Tipping Point Theatre's newest production, *The Red King's Dream*, will run through June 29.

The curtain will rise on the production at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with matinees at 3 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. A special matinee performance has been added Wednesday, June 18.

The David Belke drama features actors Aral Gribble, Julia Glander, Leslie Hull and Maggie Meyer (all but Hull are members of the Actors' Equity Association) and is directed by Chantel Gaidica of Northville.

The play revolves around Stephen Tudor – his life is solitary, logical and precise. He has read and indexed thousands of works from the solitude of his apartment, visited only by two women: his boss, Ms. Rapell, and his friend, Amy. Under their watchful eye, Stephen has indexed everything from physics to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*. Still, one corner of knowledge eludes him: love. When Zoe Price moves in across the hall, Stephen's normally cloistered life is flung open to a wide range of new emotions.

Gaidica explained the play's appeal.

"David Belke does a brilliant job of moving between the world of Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass* and the real life world of protagonist, Steven Tudor," she said. "One of my favorite things about the play and our production is the blending of these two worlds,

### THE RED KING'S DREAM

**By:** David Belke  
**When:** Through June 29  
**Where:** Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady Street, Northville  
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**Director:** Chantel Gaidica  
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**Box office:** 248-347-0003  
**Information:** Visit [www.tippingpointtheatre.com](http://www.tippingpointtheatre.com) or call 248-347-0003



Gribble



Glander



Hull



Meyer

dream and reality, and the ties between the story of this man's life and the story of Alice in *Through the Looking Glass*. The two tales are constantly intertwining and revealing things about one another and it's incredibly fun to watch the characters navigate the different elements."

The theater is located at 361 E. Cady Street in Northville. Tickets are \$29 to \$32 for adults and \$27 to \$30 for students and senior citizens and are available by calling the box office at 248-347-0003.

For more information, call Lynn Wilde Concannon at 248-347-0003.

## Taking cash out of 401(k) can cause tax problems

**Q: Dear Rick: I just lost my job and was told by the company's human resources person that I have to transfer my 401(k) out of the company's plan. After reading some of your past columns, I am going to roll it over into an IRA at Fidelity. I have an outstanding loan of about \$12,000 on my 401(k) plan. The company said that when I close out the 401(k), the loan will be treated as distribution, which means I will be taxed on the money. I don't think it's fair that I should be taxed on this money, because I have no choice but to move the money. I was told the only way to avoid the tax is to pay back the loan. I don't have the money, however, I can take cash advances on my charge cards and repay the loan. Is there anything else I should do? I do have money in an IRA and my house is paid off.**

**A:** I may agree with you that it's not fair that you should be taxed on the loan when you close out your 401(k) plan. However, the first thing I learned in tax class at the University of Michigan Law School was never equate taxes and fairness – they don't go hand in hand.

Unless you repay the loan, you will be taxed. In addition, if you are under 59½, you also will have a 10-percent penalty.

I do not recommend the charge card route. When you take a cash advance, more likely than not, you're paying upward of 18½-percent interest, if not more, on that money. In addition, the interest is not tax-deductible. From a purely economic standpoint,



Rick Bloom  
MONEY MATTERS

borrowing on your charge card is not a cost-effective alternative.

However, you do have a good alternative to consider and that is a home equity loan.

Because your home is paid off, you have substantial equity and can borrow from that. The interest rate on home equity loans is a fraction of what you would pay on a cash advance from your charge card. Unlike charge card interest, home equity loan interest is tax-deductible. Economically, a home equity

loan would be the preferred alternative.

Like any other loan, it is important to shop around for a home equity loan. Not only do you want to look at the interest and how it is calculated, but also any and all costs.

In shopping for a home equity loan, consider your local bank. If you belong to a credit union, you should also discuss a loan there. Credit unions are very consumer friendly and many times have better terms on home equity loans than banks and traditional mortgage companies.

In the past, credit unions were a little difficult to deal with, but that is no longer the case. They offer the same

services as banks, but at a much lower cost. It used to be that not everyone was eligible to belong to a credit union, but that's not true today. If you want to belong to a credit union, you can.

One last note: in general, I am not a fan of 401(k) loans. There are exceptions to the rule. However, let's never forget the 401(k) is for your retirement and that money is sacred.

Good luck!

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).*



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2) Dr. Daniel McHenry, D.D.S. (left), Dr. James McHenry, D.D.S. (center) and Dr. Samuel Fandino D.D.S. (right) are committed to making sure your dental health is the best it can be.

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One thing that sets their office apart from impersonal clinic-type offices is the warm and caring office staff who give a true "family feeling" when patients visit. A frequent comment from patients is that they feel like the doctors and staff "really care about them," which has led to some patients returning to Dental Arts even after they have moved to other states.

Dental Arts offers all the expected treatment from a dental office, such as cleanings, fillings and extractions, but it is when more complex treatment is required that this office really shows its strength. These treatments can be performed in-office without routinely requiring a referral to an outside specialist and include root canals, dental implants, laser dentistry, gum surgery, veneers, Lumineers, braces and Invisalign. For apprehensive patients, oral and IV sedation are offered to help ease anxiety. As a patient at this office, one can feel confident that they are receiving both cutting-edge and comprehensive dental care.

The doctors at Dental Arts have extensive qualifications and individual strengths. Dr. James McHenry, founder of Dental Arts of Plymouth, graduated from the University of Detroit Dental School in 1980. He is dedicated

to keeping his skills current and continues with courses that include in-depth cosmetic dentistry taught by experts in their fields. He has taken courses on dental implants and has been successfully placing implants for more than 25 years. He has earned a number of certifications for his training in braces, Invisalign and teeth-aligning techniques.

Dr. Samuel Fandino graduated from U-D Dental School in 1994 at the age of 23, the youngest in his class. He continues to keep up-to-date with the latest in dental technology, focusing on the areas of root canal therapy, cosmetic dentistry and gum surgery, as well as general dentistry. Being armed with the skills to perform all these different phases of dentistry allows Dr. Fandino to customize treatment plans tailored to each patient.

Dr. Daniel McHenry, the son of Dr. James McHenry, also graduated from U-D Dental School, was inducted into the National Dental Honorary Society and is a member of the American Dental Association, as well as the Michigan and Detroit branches. He offers well-rounded dental treatment, ranging from fillings and extractions to crowns and dentures.

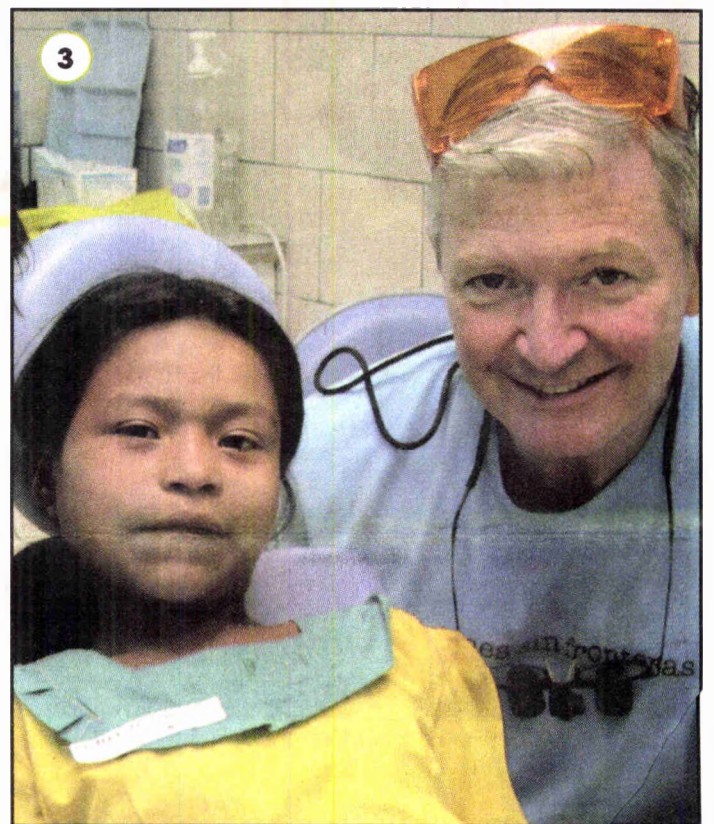
Dr. James McHenry's belief in community involvement and his passion to help others with dentistry extends internationally. He has been on 18 dental mission trips since 1988, traveling to Columbia, Peru, Guatemala and eastern Europe. Some of these places were so remote and primitive that he reported the experience felt like it was

"straight out of National Geographic."

In Guatemala, where Dr. McHenry mainly travels, he also brings a team that includes a dental hygienist. They work in small mountain and jungle villages, performing dental work with portable equipment. He does a variety of basic dental procedures for the indigenous people, including extractions, fillings and bonding for the front teeth.

When you are in for your next visit, ask Dr. McHenry about his volunteering. His story is unique and heartwarming, which is reflected in Dental Arts of Plymouth. If you have been putting

off dental work, be assured you can come to Dental Arts and receive expert, compassionate care.



3) Dr. James McHenry performs dental work on a child in Pinalito, Guatemala.


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# SPORTS

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CHANGING GEARS AT COMPUWARE

## Whalers hook new coach, GM

By **Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

Post-Vellucci era dawns with Elland, Craig in charge of OHL team

Don Elland and Mark Craig know they have big shoes to fill with the Plymouth Whalers, but both can't wait to dig in and start.

It was announced during a Friday afternoon press conference at Compuware Arena that

Elland and Craig will take over as coach and general manager, respectively, of the Peter Karmanos-owned Ontario Hockey League franchise.

Both of those jobs were filled for the past 14 seasons by Farmington Hills native

Mike Vellucci, who recently was hired as assistant general manager and director of hockey operations for another Karmanos team, the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes.

"It's not lost on me what a prestigious job this is and how

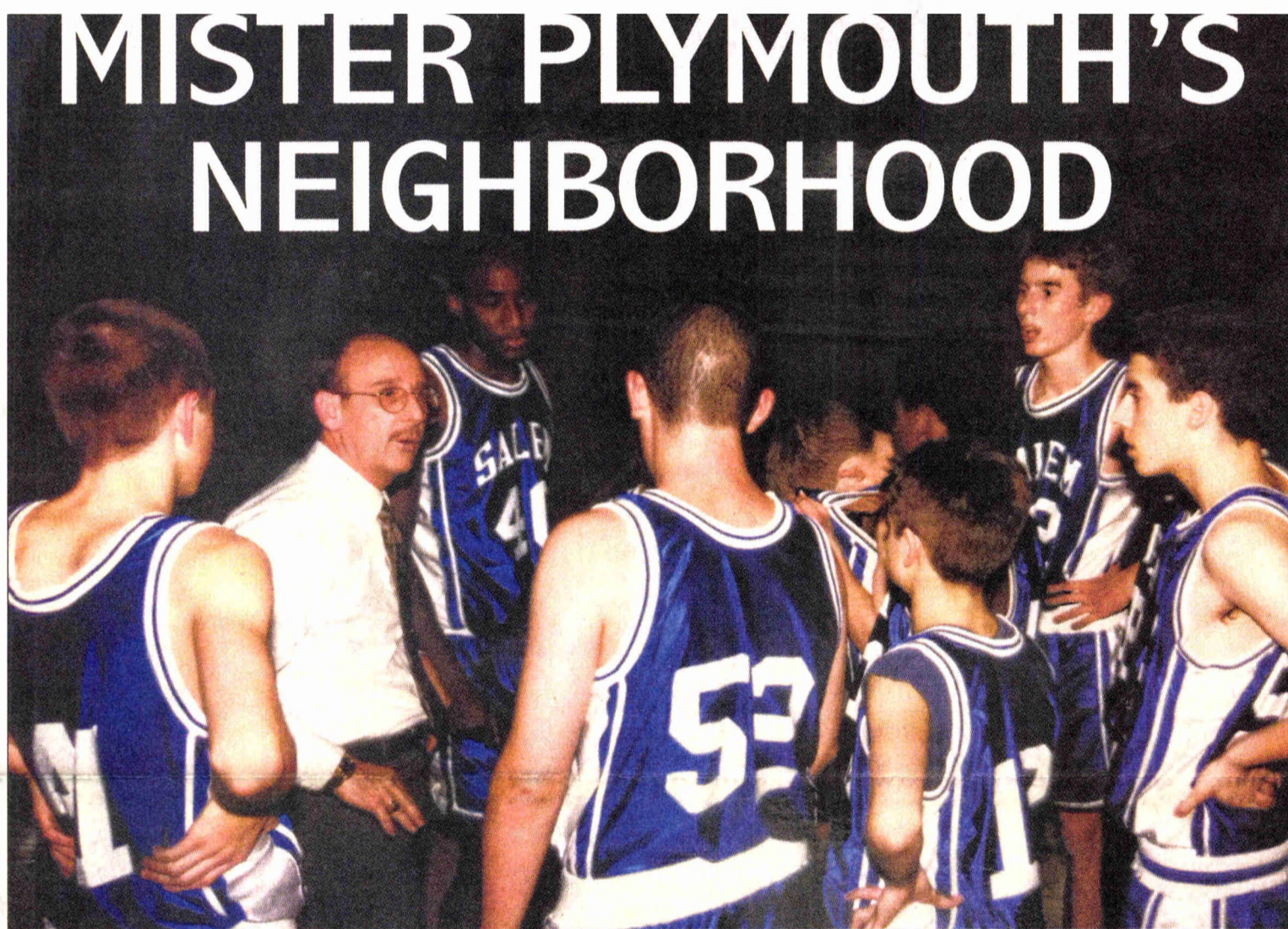
lucky I am to have it," said the 50-year-old Elland, who for a number of years was a coach in the Compuware Youth Hockey Program before joining Vellucci's staff in 2010.

"Just watching the way Mike worked, and the way he han-

dled things, I've learned so much in four years that I don't think I could have been ready for this job if I hadn't had the opportunity to work with Mike."

Elland added that Compuware Arena and Plymouth "is the only place I ever coached,

See **WHALERS**, Page B2



Coach Tom Williams talks to his 1998-99 Plymouth Salem freshman boys basketball team during a time-out. Among the players is his son, Ryan Williams.

## Retirement bash June 7 to toast Williams' 40-year contribution to coaching, teaching

By **Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

Over the last four decades, Tom Williams would do whatever it took to help kids as a teacher, coach and athletic director in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

And, according to son Ryan Williams, the girls and boys he

coached — first at Plymouth Salem High School and then West Middle School — would do the same for him.

"He has this uncanny ability to get kids to run through brick walls," said Ryan Williams, talking about his dad, who is retiring this

See **WILLIAMS**, Page B3

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

**What:** Retirement open house for West Middle School coach and athletic director Tom Williams, who is stepping down after 40 years in the Plymouth-Canton school district.

**When:** From 4:30-9 p.m. Saturday, June 7, with a "Special Tribute" taking place at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Plymouth Township Park — Shelter 2, 46640 W Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

**Farewell messages:** The family asks that if you plan on attending or would like to send a farewell message to Tom Williams please email him at Mr.Williams.Retirement@gmail.com.

D1 BOYS GOLF REGIONALS

## Wildcats qualify for finals

By **Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

Just one day after winning the KLAAs Kensington Conference boys golf championship, the Plymouth Wildcats were in another important tournament — the Division 1 state regionals.

The fact the Wildcats had to dial things up two days in a row did not have a negative impact as the team qualified for the D1 state finals for the fifth season in a row.

Plymouth did not win the regionals Wednesday at Lake Forest Golf Club, but the Wildcats finished second with a 305 team score. Winning with a 292 was Ann Arbor Skyline.

"We were solid, we struck the ball pretty well," Plymouth head coach Dan Young said. "We have yet to get the putter really going, where we're draining, dropping putts."

"... But Ann Arbor Skyline, played lights out. They had one of those kind of days. School record, they said, by the one kid (Connor Lang) that shot 69, and then a school team record. They had a great day. We ran into a buzzsaw."

Leading the charge for Plymouth were seniors Chris Kozler and Evan Chipman, each registering 74s at Lake Forest Golf Club to tie for fifth place overall.

Senior John Tatti's 76 was ninth overall; other Plymouth finishers were senior Kyle Melnick and freshman Jack Boczar (81 each, 22nd place).

Canton (fifth, 318) and Salem (seventh, 330) missed the cut for the finals, as only the top three squads advance to play Friday and Saturday at Michigan State University's Forest Akers East Course.

## Trosper qualifies

But Canton junior Donnie Trosper qualified as an individual, with a score of 71 — second best at regionals.

"Donnie played his typical strong round with a bunch of pars and three nice

See **WILDCATS**, Page B4

D1 GIRLS SOCCER DISTRICTS

## Rocks ward off late push by Chiefs

By **Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

When Salem freshman goalkeeper Skylar Brant saw Canton's Natalie Winters making one last, dangerous rush as the final seconds of Thursday's Division 1 girls soccer district semifinal, nerves started churning in her stomach.

Brant was trying to ward off the Chiefs and preserve Salem's 2-1 victory — which she did.

"I was very nervous, but I was confident in myself," said a smiling Brant following the game at Livonia Churchill.

Brant — who minutes earlier made the "save of the year" according to her coach against Winters — and her teammates

soon were able to exhale.

The talented Canton sophomore forward's desperation shot from deep in the left corner of the turf field bounced off the crossbar as the horn sounded, giving the Rocks (6-8-4) the hard-fought win over their campus rivals.

"I was just trying to keep my head in the game and stay confident, just stay focused," said Brant, then adding that "I couldn't have done it without my defense, they're great."

Salem's win sets up another clash of Park teams. Earlier Thursday, Plymouth defeated Westland John Glenn 3-0 to set up Saturday afternoon's district final

See **SOCCER**, Page B4



Tracking a 50-50 ball Thursday are Canton's Katie McGlacken (left) and Salem's Morgan Siterlet. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

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# HIGHER CALLING

PCA's Jipping follows heart as potential pro-vs.-college choice looms

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Daniel Jipping recently was named to play at Comerica Park in the annual Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game.

"Me and (Canton's) Nick Hazergian are going," said Jipping, Plymouth Christian Academy's power-hitting senior, catcher, before a recent varsity baseball game. "It's super cool (MHSBCA All-Star game), it's a great honor, hard work pays off."

"God's great blessings gave me the talent to be able to play. It should be very exciting, it should be a fun time."

But it is possible Jipping might not even be in metro Detroit when that contest is played on July 10.

Jipping, 18, is drawing heavy interest from Major League Baseball scouts ahead of the amateur draft which begins Thursday and runs through Saturday. First off, he can really hit. It also is a plus that he is a strong-armed catcher who additionally can play almost anywhere else on the diamond.

If Jipping is picked by a team — perhaps the Texas Rangers or Chicago Cubs, who have sent scouts to catch PCA games this spring — he probably would be required to join a pro rookie squad by mid-June, according to his mom, Lisa Jipping. In addition to missing the All-Star game at Comerica, he'll likely miss his own graduation party, too.

"If he's signed Daniel will leave to join a team on June 13," Lisa Jipping said. "And his graduation party is going to be June 22."

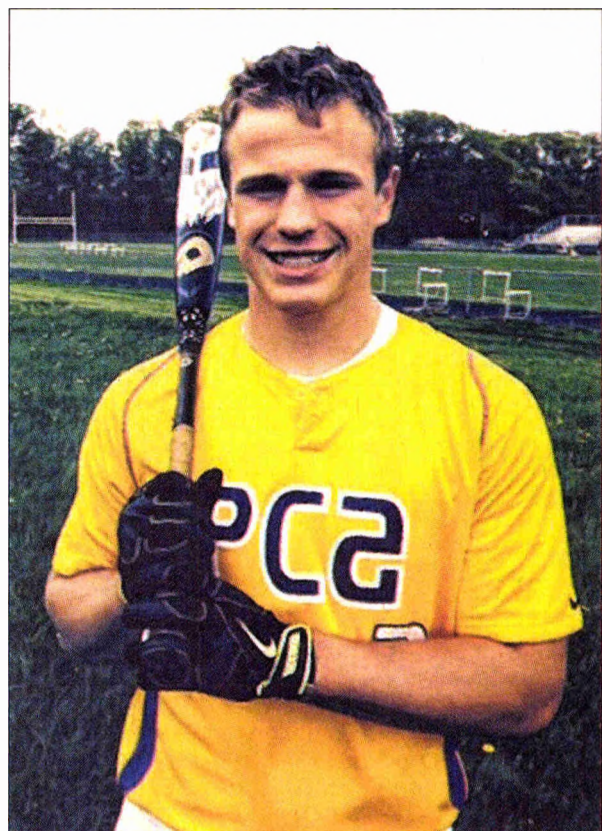
Then there is the matter of Jipping previously committing to play Division 1 baseball at Central Michigan University.

Whether Jipping becomes a Chippewa depends on what transpires during the three-day MLB draft.

No matter which path he winds up taking, Jipping will be enthusiastic and all-in about it.

"It all really depends on the offer and whether I think I'm ready or not," Jipping said. "Pro, you better be ready to make it a full-time job. You're going to be facing all these different kids throwing 95 all day long, you're going to have kids as good as you."

"In college, you'll still see faster pitching, but



Plymouth Christian Academy's Daniel Jipping soon might have to choose between professional or college baseball. TIM SMITH

it's just a whole different environment."

## On the radar

He nodded and said the whole concept of playing the game he loves at a higher level is "just surreal, it's really cool that you can take a hobby or a passion of yours and just play it full time."

Jipping (.542 average, four homers, 13 intentional walks in just 11 regular season games) and the Eagles were scheduled to compete Saturday in the Class D districts hosted by Lutheran Westland.

No matter how much or how little he does with PCA, he is on the radar of professional scouts.

One of the scouts showing plenty of interest is Frank Gallagher of Texas, also one of Jipping's coaches with the Under-18 Michigan Bulls travel baseball team.

With the Bulls last summer and fall, Jipping batted in the high .300s and clouted the ball with regularity while playing catcher, third base and outfield.

"Oh, yeah, Sean (Gallagher, also a Bulls coach) and Frank helped just boatloads," Jipping said. "Sean helped me out with my swing and Frank works with the Rangers a little bit so he got me introduced to them."

"Bobby Martin helped me with my fielding, my catching, helped me make huge strides in that. They just really helped a lot."

## Giving thanks

There are other important parts of Daniel Jipping's surreal story that could lead to a pro baseball contract.

To begin with, he almost gave up on baseball following his freshman year at PCA. He

also loved playing basketball and football (he played both sports for the small, Christian school) and was ready to focus on two sports instead of three.

But that's when Eagles' assistant baseball coach Dale Slater took him under his wing.

During the recent senior night, Jipping gave a shout-out to Slater — who passed away from cancer in October 2012.

"I would like to start by thanking a coach, who is not with us tonight," Jipping said that evening. "He kept me in baseball after my freshman year, because he saw something special in me. The impact that coach Dale Slater had on my life, I will never be able to forget."

"He was always willing to work with me no matter what, he was also the first coach to actually work with me and teach me how to hit. Without him I know I would not be standing here today. He continues to inspire me to play hard every game to honor his name."

Another time, Jipping balked at trying out for the high-caliber Bulls. That he was persuaded to give it a go led to meeting the Gallaghers and getting a pro scout to see him hit and throw.

"Actually, that's the biggest thing," Jipping noted. "I was like 'I'm never going to be able to make that team.' I wasn't even going to go the tryout."

"But my mom was like 'Just try, and have fun with it.' I made the team. It was definitely just a path from the Lord."

Soon, Daniel Jipping will have a clearer idea about where his path is taking him next.

And he'll be ready.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

## WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

it's the only place I've ever wanted to coach."

Craig, 61, returns to the organization for which he worked in the 1980s. After Karmanos purchased the Windsor Spitfires in 1984, he hired Craig — then working as a coach in the Detroit Compuware system — as head coach of the Spitfires.

"I met Pete 30 years ago, we went out to the Golden Mushroom, that's where we had lunch," Craig said. "Pete talked about his vision of the hockey business. He talked about a hockey club, with arena management and hockey schools and an OHL team and a pro team and winning the Stanley Cup. Talk about visionaries."

"Thirty years ago he talked about it and you see what he's done."

As part of the organizational shuffle, Joe Stefan was bumped up to the front office (from assistant coach to assistant GM) while Dennis Moore was promoted to president and chief financial officer of the Whalers and Compuware.

Mike Henry takes over as the arena's vice president and general manager.

## Moving forward

Karmanos and Vellucci were on hand at the press conference and spoke glowingly about Elland and Craig as the Whalers embark on the 2014-15 season and take a run at a 24th-consecutive playoff appearance.

"I'm really proud of this building, I'm really proud of the team, I'm proud of the franchise and proud of the direction it's going," said Karmanos, who also spoke candidly about the need for the Whalers to start seeing improved attendance at Compuware.

It has been rumored in recent months that the OHL team might be considering relocation if business doesn't pick up next season. In 2013-14, game attendance hovered around the 2,500 mark.

"Well, to be frank



Mark Craig (left) and Don Elland were introduced Friday as the Plymouth Whalers' new general manager and coach, respectively. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

about it, it's tough running an OHL team in a major league city," Karmanos said. "Our attendance has been good, but it's not great. I look down (Highway) 401, you see the London Knights selling out every game."

"You know if you had to sell the team, you might want to move into one of those cities, rather than keep it playing here. Like I said, it's become an expensive business, it's a big business, if we could get attendance where we think it should be here I think the future is great."

Whatever the off-ice future holds for the Whalers, the on-ice future appears to be very strong with Elland and Craig.

Both were strongly endorsed by Vellucci, who will remain as team governor (involved with official league matters).

"Mark coached me in midgets 30-some years ago," Vellucci said. "I view Mark as a mentor. He's been out of the game for a while but he's never been out of distance from me because we talked quite a bit the last several years, bouncing trades or ideas off him."

"... Don Elland I've known for about the same amount of time. Don's a great guy, a good friend and an excellent hockey coach. I'm very confident he'll do a great job. He has a great hockey IQ, the players respect him."

## On the same page

Following the press conference, both Elland and Craig talked about picking up where Vellucci left off.

"Hopefully, I think that is part of the reason why they hired me is they want me to do that," Elland continued.

"They're assuming I'm going to do that. I have plans to do that. We'll have our hiccups, it's not going to be easy. But I think I can get them to continue to play the way they've played did under Mike."

"We lost three or four guys from last year's team, but we have the core coming back."

Elland — who becomes the franchise's eighth coach since it was formed in 1989 — said he will begin looking at bringing in an assistant coach to take over from Stefan. Goaltending coach Stan Matwijiw is returning.

Another bonus is getting to team up again with Craig, who was his coach in the early 1980s.

"I played for Mark when I was 16, he's probably been one of my closest friends since I was 16," Elland said. "Working with Mark won't only be easy, it will be a privilege. He is the smartest guy I know. It makes me very comfortable that he's on board."

According to Craig, the feeling is mutual.

"We had a good run together, '80-through-'83," Craig said. "I really see it that my job is to make sure he has all the tools he needs."

"My job is to be there when he's got some questions, help him assemble the right team, look at our chemistry and look at what we need on the ice and help him get that."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Enjoying a lighthearted moment during Friday's press conference at Compuware Arena (from left) Mike Vellucci, Peter Karmanos, Mark Craig and Don Elland. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

## Blazers shoot into finals

By Dan O'Meara  
Staff Writer

For much of the first half Wednesday, the Farmington girls managed to keep pace and compete with heavily favored Livonia Ladywood in a Division 2 regional lacrosse game.

When the score got a little too close for comfort, however, the Blazers buckled down and pulled away to an eventual 16-9 victory at Farmington High School.

Consecutive goals by Audrey Gagner and Katie Rogers narrowed the Ladywood lead to one goal with just over 10 minutes to play in the first half, 6-5.

At that point, Blazers coach Kris Sanders had seen enough and called a timeout.

"I just told them, 'When we get the ball, we have to work for a good shot,'" she said. "We were too quick to always want to score and not work the ball around."

"When they got to the goal, all they were thinking was 'score, score, score,' and they weren't thinking of how to do it

well. They just needed to work the system and trust in what we were doing."

The Blazers (17-4) responded well, scoring four unanswered goals in less than three minutes to regain control and double their lead.

Rachel Donabedian and Nicole Reece scored the first two, and Jessica Snyder, who led the Blazers with a game-high eight goals, got the next two.

After the third of the four Ladywood goals, Farmington coach Mike Mehall had seen enough, too, and called a timeout.

"During that first half, we were holding pretty close to them," he said. "Our girls got a little tired and the communication got lost a little bit. But I thought they still played an exceptional game."

"We tried to adjust but we have some girls in the low 'D' who had injuries — one with a major back injury. Not that you can use that as an excuse, but I think the fatigue of the game got to them a little bit."

Nonetheless, the time-

out seemed to rejuvenate the Falcons, too. They allowed just one more goal in the first half and trailed 11-5 at the intermission.

A goal by Farmington's Genevieve Schneemann was disallowed late in the first half because of a foul.

Ladywood's 11th goal came with only nine seconds remaining from Reece, who intercepted a pass in front of the net and had an easy, uncontested shot.

After scoreless first eight minutes of the second half, the Blazers netted three straight goals and extended their lead to 14-5 with 11:34 to be played.

The teams traded goals in the remaining time. Farmington's Ella Kearney and Emily Trombly managed to get close to the Ladywood net and score two goals each.

Donabedian and Megan Leone had three goals apiece and Reece two for the Blazers. Trombly also had two goals for the Falcons (6-8). Gagner, Rogers and Schneemann added one apiece.

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There's nothing quite like time with the grandkids. At left, Randa Williams holds 1-year-old Kendall Johns while Tom Williams (right) holds Natalie Johns, 3.

## WILLIAMS

Continued from Page B1

month after 40 years at West. "The way he motivates kids on the field, playing unbelievable, or playing field, it's unbelievable to see what these kids will do for him just because of how positive a person he is.

"He was not necessarily the best with X's and O's, but he knew how to motivate kids and get them to bond together."

Tom Williams — aptly described by his son as "Mr. Plymouth" — is getting another chance to do just that. Hundreds of former student-athletes are invited to stop by Plymouth Township Park from 4:30-9 p.m. Saturday for "a nicer version of a roast."

The open house will be at Pavilion 2, with former and current colleagues, players and students offering their thoughts about how much the guest of honor meant to them over the years.

There will be photos and a video tribute as well as plenty of kibitzing and reminiscing about the inspirational teacher, coach (he served at the helm of numerous basketball, volleyball, football, tennis, cross country and swim teams) and person.

### Community bond

"It's open for anyone to show up," Ryan Williams said. "We're encouraging people to send the invite to others and stroll by that day. He's going to want to see everyone."

Emceeding the festivities will be Plymouth girls basketball coach and Discovery Middle School English teacher Nick Brandon, one of Tom Williams' students and athletes at West during the early to mid-1990s.

Brandon clearly was impacted by Williams from the start. He returned to West while a college graduate student at the University of Michigan to serve as Williams' student-teacher and assistant basketball coach in 2008-09.

"What's truly amazing is that he has truly put in the community that meant so much to him for his entire career, giving back by having a long-lasting influence on the lives of just about every student, student-athlete, and colleague that have been lucky enough to work with him," wrote Brandon in an email to the *Observer*. "I can assure you that I would not be a teacher or coach in Plymouth-Canton Schools without Tom's influence, inspiration, and continued support."

"When you think about how many lives he has touched over the course of four-plus decades it really is cause for celebration and gratitude."

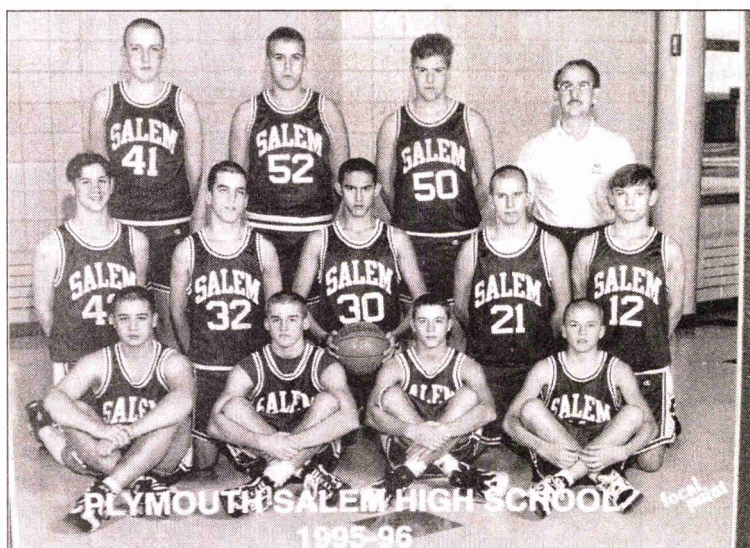
As a middle school teacher, Williams was a motivational whiz with his Mister Rogers-like cardigan sweater, big glasses and classroom podium. "We always say sixth grade is the perfect age to teach because he's a little corny and the kids still laugh at his jokes," Ryan Williams said. "But he is very playful, he's tough but fair in the classroom."

"He's a very empathetic, very sensitive person and really knows how to relate (to) kids really well, by far, hands down, teaching and coaching is what he was meant to do."

Tom Williams, now 61, could have coached a while longer,



In this 1970s photo, Tom Williams instructs a young tennis player. Tennis was one of the sports Williams coached over a four-decade span.



Tom Williams coached the undefeated 1995-96 Plymouth Salem freshman boys basketball team.

too, make no mistake about that, stressed his son.

"He's a machine," Ryan said. "If he wanted to go longer he definitely could. But I think 40 was a nice round number. He's getting grandkids now with some of his original students, and I think he's like 'OK.'"

"And coaching's a big part of his identity ... when he gave up coaching that was a big hit for him."

### Plymouth personified

Tom Williams' personal life has the word "Plymouth" stamped all over it, never to be erased.

He grew up in that city and graduated in 1970 from the original Plymouth High School (now Central Middle School), the final graduating class before then-Plymouth Salem High School was built (it now is known simply as Salem).

Around that time, Tom met his future wife, Randa Strautz, at Fall Festival in Kellogg Park.

"My mom was in the first graduating class from Salem

where it currently is out at the Park, in '71," Ryan noted.

In 1974, Tom graduated with a bachelor of science degree from Eastern Michigan University and subsequently started teaching sixth grade at West.

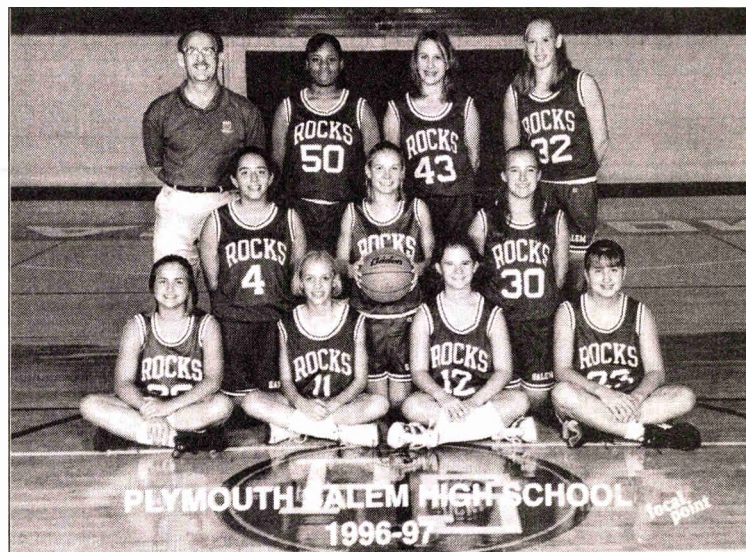
As the 1970s flowed into the '80s, Williams started coaching girls basketball and volleyball teams at West. In 1978, he began a stint as Plymouth Salem tennis coach.

Later, he began coaching Rocks' freshman girls and boys basketball teams for long, successful tenures. It was double duty for much of that span.

"In 1985 he started girls basketball, it was (from) '88 for boys basketball," Ryan Williams went on. "His last year with the girls was '99 and with boys he was coaching up until four or five years ago."

For a handful of those seasons, he was an assistant varsity boys basketball coach for Bob Brodie.

"The girls volleyball at the middle school level, he started doing that in '81 and was still



There will be many team photos circulating at the June 7 retirement open house for longtime coach Tom Williams, including this one of Plymouth Salem's 1996-97 freshman girls basketball squad.



Most recently, Williams (standing, left) coached the girls basketball team at West Middle School.

*"We could never go anywhere in Plymouth to even eat or do anything out in public without him being stopped constantly by former students and players."*

### RYAN WILLIAMS

Tom Williams' son

coaching this season."

Williams never had a hotter streak as a coach than during the mid-1990s with the Plymouth Salem freshman boys basketball team. That year, the Rocks went 19-0 and continued the hot streak the following season on the JV with a 20-0 mark.

These players eventually comprise the Rocks' 1998-99 varsity team that reached the state quarterfinals at the helm of coach Bob Brodie.

During summers, Tom Williams teamed up with the late Fred Thomann to coach Amateur Athletic Union girls basketball squads.

Oh, and Tom and Randa found the time to have two children: Ryan and Shelley, the latter now a second-grade teacher at Hoben Elementary School in Canton.

There are grandkids, too. Shelley and husband Nate Johns have two daughters, Natalie (age 3) and Kendall (age 1).

"My dad inspired me to go into the field of education," Shelley Johns said. "Now, (with) 11 years as a teacher at Hoben, I understand the time and dedication he put into his career. I can only hope to make half of the impact he has in our community."

### Looking back

Both Williams kids were taught by their dad as sixth-graders; Ryan later was coached by him, too — during his time on the Plymouth Salem freshman and varsity basketball teams.

Shelley also played freshman girls basketball for, yep, her dad. But she ended up joining the high school dance team.

"We had him in sixth grade, we were on his teaching team," Ryan said. "And then my sister played girls basketball as a freshman at Salem."

"He'd go straight from girls basketball (in the fall) and go to boys basketball and I think there was a gap in there where he was able to do volleyball, as well."

Ryan Williams recalled what it was like growing up in Plymouth having a community of Plymouth of sorts as a father. From his younger eyes, it wasn't always understood why his dad received that kind of attention.

Years later, of course, it is crystal clear.

"We could never go anywhere in Plymouth to even eat or do anything out in public without him being stopped constantly by former students and players," Williams said. "When you're younger, you quite don't understand what that means."

"But as you get older and you kind of put things in perspective, that's a really cool thing to look back and realize how important your dad was and how instrumental he was in a lot of people's lives."

That is the case now more than ever.

tsmith@hometownlife.com





Racing after the ball Thursday is Plymouth Christian Academy's Martha Mullett (No. 2) during the Eagles' district game against Lutheran South.

D4 GIRLS SOCCER DISTRICTS

# Eagles on upswing in state tourney

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls soccer team finally is healthy.

Not surprisingly, the Eagles are peaking at the right time as evidenced by a pair of lopsided victories during last week's Division 4 districts.

After winning 6-1 over West Bloomfield Frankel Jewish Academy on Tuesday, PCA rolled Thursday to an 8-0 romp over Newport Lutheran South.

With the wins, the Eagles (6-9 overall) advanced to Saturday's division final at PCA against Ann Arbor Greenhills. Results of that game were not available as of press time.

"We are playing the best soccer we have played all season," PCA head coach Nathan Yates said. "For the

first time this season all active players are healthy and have no injuries.

"... While Greenhills has won our previous meetings this season, I believe wholeheartedly that we can come out victorious.

"It's a home game for us so that will be to our advantage because we always play better at home."

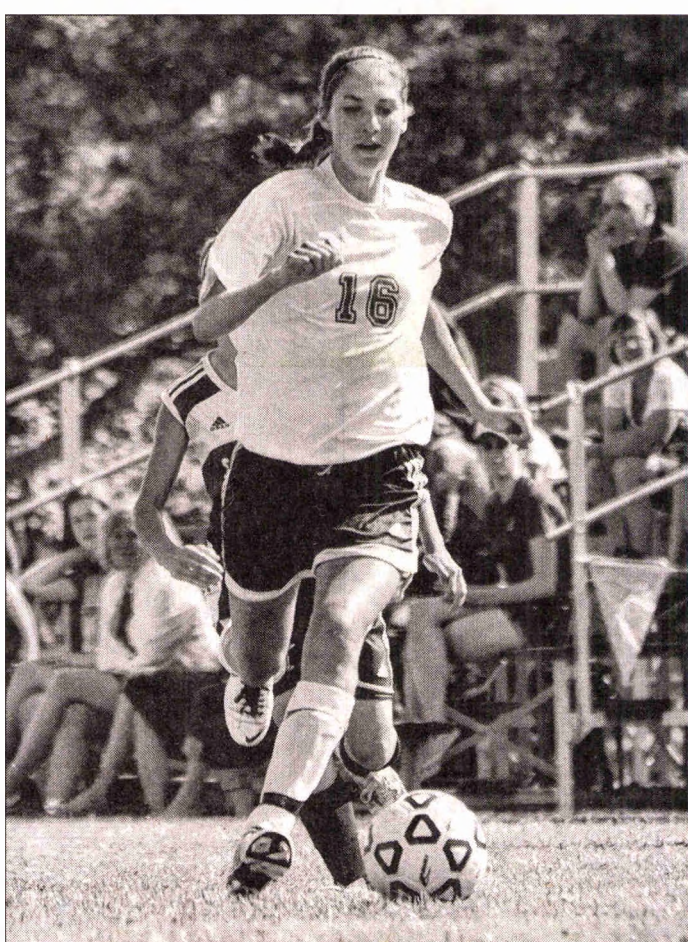
Against Lutheran South, seniors Martha Mullett (two goals, one assist) and Katelyn Barkell (two goals) led the attack.

Chipping in with two tallies was junior Sarah Durham while freshman Jesse Paulson contributed one goal and four assists.

Earning the shutout was freshman Aliyah Pries.

In the win over Frankel Jewish Academy, Mullett and Durham paced the offense with two goals each.

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Jessica Paulson of PCA dribbles the ball during Thursday's Division 4 district soccer game.

COLLEGE SPORTS

## Madonna softball, baseball players reaps national awards

The National Fastpitch Coaches Association announced its 2014 Louisville Slugger All-Region teams and Madonna University's Emma Cook and Bree Crampton were among those selected to the Great Lakes Region second team following a vote of the member coaches in the region.

Cook (Marysville) led the Crusaders with a .429 average and 54 hits while posting a .500 on-base percentage. Her on-base percentage is the highest for a single-season in program history, while her .429 average is the second highest for a single-season.

Crampton (Anchor Bay), a junior,

was named the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's Pitcher of the Year after recording a 20-7 record with a 1.85 earned run average in 162.1 innings of work.

Both Cook and Crampton earned All-WHAC first-team honors earlier this spring.

Meanwhile, five MU players were among 297 named as National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics 2014 Daktronics Softball Scholar-Athletes.

Among the honorees include senior Kristen Drabek (Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central), who is major in early childhood development; Crampton,

marketing; junior Karleigh Creighton (North Farmington), journalism and public relations; junior Katie Fenech (Northville), nursing; and junior Kasey Trierweiler (Grand Ledge), accounting.

### Baseball scholars

Three Madonna baseball players were also named as 2014 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes including redshirt senior Tyler Schofield (Windsor, Ontario Brennan), business; senior Ryan Lech (L'Anse Creuse North), criminal justice; and redshirt sophomore Evan Piechota (Livonia Stevenson), nutrition.

## WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

birdies," Chiefs head coach Tom Alles said. "He hit the ball beautifully all day. I know he was upset that he made his lone two bogeys on the inward nine to keep him from shooting, what would have been, his first bogey-free round of the year.

"I think the East Course at Forest Akers will suit Donnie's game well at the State Finals."

Noah Lindbauer was Canton's second-best finisher, with his 81 score good for 22nd place. Tied for 35th with 83s were Hunter Schlamp and Suhas Sotluri.

In 50th was Chris Dooley (88).

For Salem, Brady Cole had a solid day, placing 14th with a 78. In 22nd was Nick Danis (81), followed by Franco Papp (40th, 85), Connor Cole (44th, 86) and Jake Lenders (61st, 91).

Alles said the back nine proved problematic for the Chiefs.

"All of the boys handled the front in pretty good shape," Alles said. "I think there are a few holes on the back that each player would like to replay to avenge loose shots which resulted in bogeys or doubles."

But he was pleased with the way his team performed overall, finishing six shots below the team's 18-hole average of 324.

"I am proud of the effort the boys displayed," he noted. "They were focused and played hard the entire day."

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## BOYS GOLF RESULTS

MHSAA REGIONAL BOYS GOLF RESULTS DIVISION 1-REGIONAL 5 May 28 at Lake Forest G.C.

**TEAM STANDINGS (top 3 advance to state finals):** 1. Ann Arbor Skyline, 292 strokes; 2. Plymouth, 305; 3. Saline, 310; 4. Ann Arbor Huron, 312; 5. Canton, 318; 6. Gibraltar Carlson, 326; 7. Salem, 330; 8. Monroe, 332; 9. Temperance Bedford, 336; 10. Wyandotte Roosevelt, 341; 11. Garden City, 345; 12. Brownstown Woodhaven, 351.

**Individual medalist:** Connor Lang (Skyline), 69 (18 holes).

### TEAM-BY-TEAM SCORING

**Skyline (292):** 1. Connor Lang, 69; 3. Shane Anderson, 72; 5. Ian Marshall, 74; 13. Rahul Ramanathan, 77; 54. Arjun Lama, 89.

**Plymouth (305):** 5. (tie) Chris Kozler and Evan Chipman, 74 each; 9. John Tatti, 76; 22. (tie) Jack Boczar and Kyle Melnick, 81 each.

**Saline (310):** 5. Ian Martin, 74; 9. Connor Learman, 76; 17. James Alcock, 79; 22. Alex Derksen, 81; 54. Spencer Dersen, 89.

**A.A. Huron (312):** 4. Brandon Petzak, 73; 17. (tie) Danny Langa and Ken Dairiki, 79 each; 22. Nick Darlington, 81; 47. Jack Petersen, 87.

**Canton (318):** 2. Donnie Trospier, 71; 22. Noah Lindbauer, 81; 35. (tie) Hunter Schlamp and Suhas Potluri, 83 each; 50. Chris Dooley, 88.

**Carlson (326):** 14. Brendan Meadows, 78; 17. Aaron Herman, 79; 22. Patrick Hesson, 81; 50. Brendan Mason, 88; 58. Nathan Skuratovich, 90.

**Salem (330):** 14. Brady Cole, 78; 22. Nick Danis, 81; 40. Franco Papp, 85; 44. Connor Cole, 86; 61. Jake Lenders, 91.

**Monroe (332):** 9. Tyler Kellems, 76; 22. David Weaver, 81; 47. Josh Goodman, 87; 50. Aaron Blitz, 88; 61. Kyle Cassidy, 91.

**Bedford (336):** 9. Tyler Ingalls, 76; 39. Jake Csurgo, 84; 47. Jason Goring, 87; 54. Brandon Eff, 89; 65. Connor Chantiny, 94.

**Wyandotte (341):** 21. Josh Hinderliter, 80; 31. Dylan Mullian, 82; 35. Joe Moszynski, 83; 66. (tie) Brent Calhoun and Jeff Armatis, 96 each.

**Garden City (345):** 31. Justin Swisher, 82; 40. Jarid Latham, 85; 50. Chad Berger, 88; 58. Joe Pummill, 90; 69. Justin Bastion, 97.

**Woodhaven (351):** 22. Trevor Monaco, 81; 40. Matt Miller, 85; 54. Brenden Hoy, 89; 66. Alex Tobiczky, 96; 70. Morgan Campbell, 100.

**Individual qualifiers (top 3 advance to state finals):** 2. Donnie Trospier (Canton), 71; 4. Brandon Petzak (Huron), 73; 9. Tyler Kellems (Monroe), 76; 14. Sam Kidd (Ann Arbor Pioneer), 78; 31. (tie) Brenden Pultorak (Dearborn Edsel Ford) and Jeff Wicks (Dexter), 82 each; 35. Matt Wiebelhaus (Livonia Franklin), 83; 40. Greg Bo (Franklin), 85; 44. (tie) Dillon Supica (A.A. Pioneer) and Kip Schimmoeiler (Ypsilanti Lincoln), 86; 58. James Sheridan (Dearborn), 90; 61. Chris Massa (Livonia Churchill), 91; 64. Chad Macorkindale (Churchill), 92; 71. Austin Smith (Southgate Anderson), 104; 72. Matt Cooper (Southgate), 109.

## SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

between the Rocks and Wildcats.

"The games are never over until they're over," Salem head coach Scott Duhl said. "Especially when you got a talented player like Natalie on the ball for them, who was causing us fits all night.

"But overall, I thought we did a really good job of keeping them in front of us, late. Really in the last 7-8 minutes that was the one chance they had, of course it's the scariest, because it's in the last five seconds."

### Tip of the cap

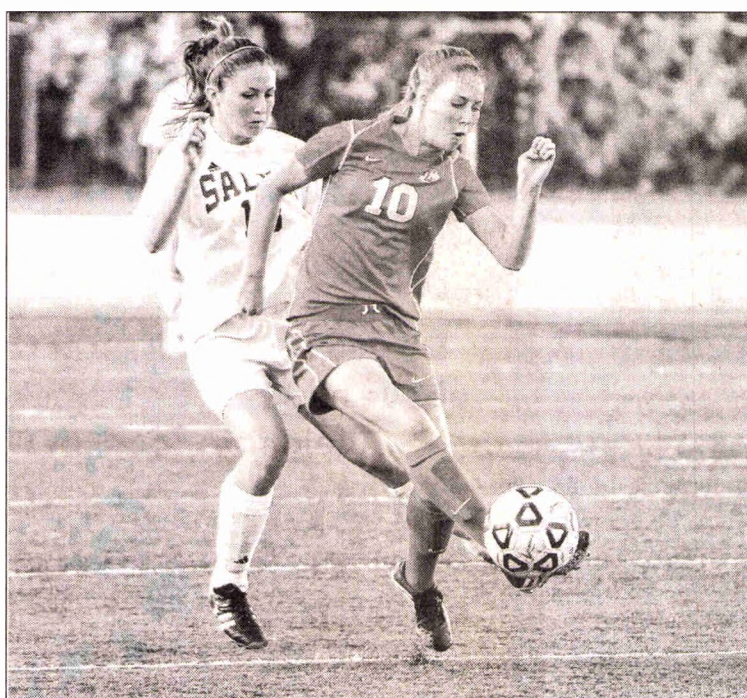
Canton head coach Jeannine Reddy, whose team dropped to 12-6-1, "pushed everyone up" for the final bid to force overtime.

"I put two in the back and hoped for the best," Reddy said. "But they packed it in and they won. I give a lot of credit to Scott, he does a really good job with the team."

Perhaps one reason why Brant was nervous was how close Winters had come to tying the contest with about 12 minutes left in the second half.

Winters drove a rising shot from nearly 30 yards in front of Brant that the goalkeeper sprung up to bat away in acrobatic fashion.

"I'm telling you, the save of the year across the state was made tonight on Natalie Winters," Duhl said. "Skylar dives full-out, upper-90, Natalie Winters rips a shot to the upper



Canton sophomore forward Natalie Winters (No. 10) tries to maintain possession of the ball despite defensive pressure from Salem's Katie Binsfield during Thursday's district semifinal. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

corner and she dives and pushes it wide.

"Quite frankly, I've never seen, at this level, a goalkeeper make a save like that. I couldn't have been happier with her. She was brilliant tonight."

Brant, sophomore Abby Ozeranic (who blanked Churchill in Tuesday's pre-district game against Churchill) and senior Aly Mann give Duhl plenty of goalkeeping options.

"We really are fortunate to have three pretty good goalkeepers," Duhl said.

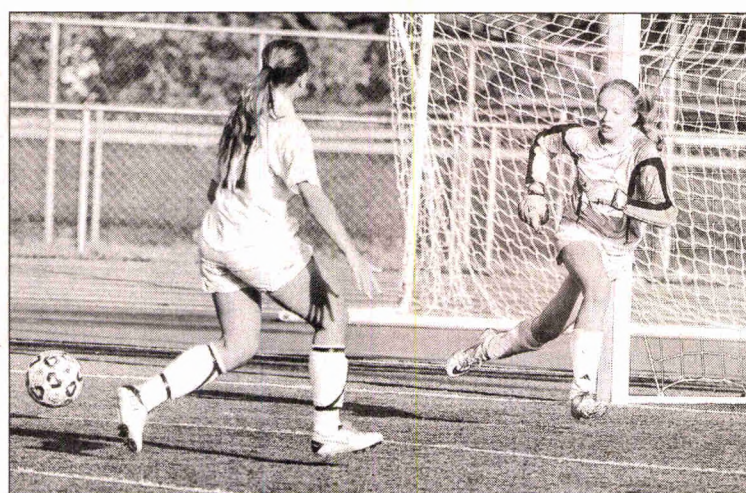
Some spectacular work at the opposite end by Canton goalie Jenna Nutter was the

only reason Winters had those chances to get the equalizer.

In the 10th minute of the second half, Salem senior defender Olivia Kaye took a direct kick from about 25 yards away that nearly made it 3-1.

It was a low boot through a maze of players in front of Nutter, who saw the ball at the last second and dove toward the left post to stop it. The rebound was popped in, but officials waved off the apparent tally.

The Rocks actually trailed 1-0 in the first minute of the game, when the ball bounced in off a Salem defender. Credited with the own goal was Natalie



Salem freshman goalkeeper Skylar Brant (right) glides out to field a bouncing ball while teammate Hannah Giaier (No. 11) provides defensive help. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Winters.

### Back-to-back

That deficit was wiped out within a 44-second span.

With 29:16 remaining in the first half, Emma Camp found the range with a left-footed kick. Setting up the goal was Kaitlyn Pelech.

"A great job by Emma Camp," Duhl said. "I've been challenging her lately at training, about she's due for a goal. I think this is her first goal of the season, and here's a player who is accustomed to scoring goals."

"She came off a knee surgery early on in the season and she's fighting her way back."

Salem struck again with 28:32 remaining when Caroline Simko served the ball from the left side into the goal-mouth area.

Morgan Siterlet headed the ball inside the left post.

"And then Morgan Siterlet off a cross from Caroline, just two great goals," Duhl said. "We thought it kind of just shocked Canton."

"They had all the momentum and just like that we scored two goals."

That would be all the scoring for the game, although Reddy said there were plenty of chances — especially in the wide-open, up-and-down second half.

"Both teams had really good opportunities," Reddy said. "It could have been 5-5."

In the Plymouth-John Glenn game, senior goalkeeper Kylie Robb was perfect and the Wildcats received two goals by Kathryn Gordon and one by Erin Winters.

Plymouth (11-6) built a 3-0 halftime lead and coasted from there to the victory.

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## Therapy dog makes patients, staff smile at St. Mary Mercy Hospital

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Maya Belle and Ray Rauen have been turning heads at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, for nearly three years.

"It shocks the heck out of some people when we walk by. They don't notice me. They notice Maya — 'oh, there is a dog.' I'll walk by (a patient room) slowly and listen. Sometimes they'll say 'Was that a dog?' Or they'll point and I'll ask if they want us to visit."

"They light up and talk about their dogs or the dogs they've had," Rauen said. "There was a patient in ICU that had to wear a full-face oxygen mask. He would pet Maya and try to talk through the mask. One time we came by and there was a sign up that said 'No visitors except Maya.' It cracked me up. He got well and went to another floor and we chased him there. He moved again and we chased him to that spot. St. Mary's has a follow-up program when people who go home, to make sure they are doing well. They said he had a big picture of Maya on his refrigerator. He said that was what made him get well in the hospital."

Since Maya Belle, a therapy dog, and Rauen, her "dad," began volunteering at St. Mary Mercy together, they have comforted countless patients and their families, made numerous friends among staff members, gained a following on Facebook and have become frequent attendees at hospital events.

Along the way they've earned two awards. Maya Belle made hospital history when she became the only canine to earn the L.O.V.E. award in 2012, a year after she started volunteering at St. Mary Mercy. The monthly



Shirley and Ray Rauen of Livonia with therapy dog, Maya Belle, at the American Heart Association Start! Heart Walk at the hospital.

honor recognizes employees or volunteers who are committed to the hospital's core values of reverence, justice, stewardship, integrity and a commitment to the poor.

The hospital honored the pair again, last week. It created the Bow WOW award specifically for Maya Belle and Rauen after they received more than 18 nominations for the L.O.V.E. award while logging more than 2,300 volunteer hours over three years.

"St. Mary is great about the flexibility we have. We can come in whenever we want. We are allowed almost everywhere ... waiting rooms, patient rooms, ICU. It makes it a great place to be a therapy

team. People need it. I've had doctors say, 'Hey, can you stop by and see this little boy or that little girl? They're crying. Can you distract them?' Or we'll get paged — 'Maya the therapy dog to room so and so.'"

### Confident canine

Rauen describes the four-year-old German shepherd-Labrador retriever mix as "mellow" with the perfect mix of personality, smarts and obedience for the job.

But her talents weren't immediately apparent.

Rauen and his wife, Shirley, decided to rescue a dog after their family cat died four years ago. They found Maya



Maya wears a vest with a detachable sign. This one marks safety awareness.

Belle, then five months, at the Michigan Humane Society. She was shy and "looked so down-trodden," Rauen recalled. The couple took her home and Rauen enrolled her in six weeks of obedience and leash training, followed by 16 weeks of off-leash training. Trainers told him she would make a good therapy dog, so Rauen had her evaluated when she was 14 months old. She passed her tests and was registered through Therapy Dogs International.

"I started at a Lutheran nursing home. I'd visit once a week for an hour and in the meantime got an invite to a school to show what therapy dogs are all about," said Rauen, who owns a machine shop. He worked for a few months at Botsford Hospital and then started volunteering at St. Mary Mercy.

### Social butterfly

"There are other dogs in the hospital that do the same thing we do. But I choose to be there more than most." In addition to

visiting with patients, the pair attends hospital events, such as fundraisers, ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new facilities, or wellness programs.

"We show up and learn about the hospital," he said. "I do sewing, also. I've sewn all kinds of vests (for Maya Belle) with replaceable panels that snap on. The panels sport reminders about breast cancer awareness, peripheral artery disease awareness or numerous other health concerns. It's like a walking billboard."

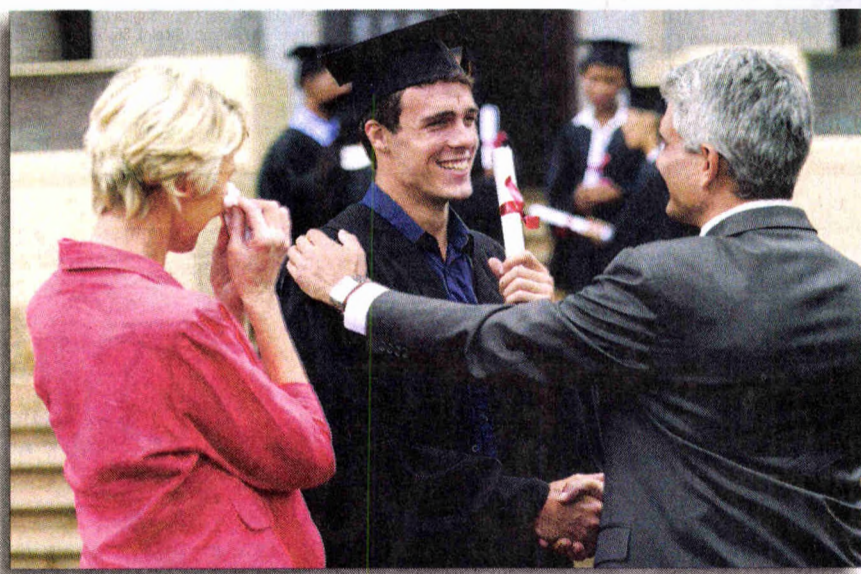
What does Maya Belle think of her work and her awards?

"People ask me how Maya likes it. I tell them Maya won't talk about it because of HIPAA (privacy rule)," Rauen said. "She loves car rides. We show up at the hospital and there are the people she enjoys seeing, and you can just see her wagging her butt."

For more information on the pet therapy program at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, contact the volunteer office at 734-655-2912.

## Salute This Year's Graduate!

Send a message to your "special" Class of 2014 graduate with an ad in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.



On June 22, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will publish special "Salute to Grads" page. Be sure to include your 2014 graduate in these pages

### See requirements below:

Color photo, no more than seven lines of copy (includes name of grad and school graduating from)

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All ads must be prepaid: we accept all major credit cards and checks by phone  
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**WHO'S YOUR TIGER?**

Contest is open to kids up to 18 years old.



# CHURCH WOMEN PACK GIFT BOXES FOR OVERSEAS TROOPS

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia will share a little bit of home with overseas troops this summer. Members will create "Miracle Boxes" on June 21 for the Auburn Hills-based organization, The Desert Angel. The group, founded by Louise Blain of Linden, began sending boxes filled with toiletries, socks, food and other essentials to soldiers "in harm's way" just after 9/11.

"We try to send them to troops on foreign soil because our guys in the States can purchase these items," said Blain, who later named the care package project in memory of Joseph Miracle, a soldier from Ortonville who died in Afghanistan. "I didn't know him, but I went to his viewing. It spoke to my heart."

The Miracle Box project touched Caren Cunningham's heart, too. The St. Matthew's member struck up a conversation with a woman who was sewing a quilt at Art is in Market in Laurel Park Place.

"She told me about Desert Angel and gave me a card. I called Louise Blain. Her energy is contagious," Cunningham said. Although the organization also sends quilts to troops and items to military dogs overseas, Cunningham suggested the United Methodist Women's group at St. Matthew's take on the Miracle Box project as a charitable activity.

"Every year we do a giving project and choose an organization in the area," said Ann Stando, a member of United Methodist Women. "This was a good chance to do something for people who are serving our country."

Stando is organizing donations for the boxes and shopping for items with donated cash. Anyone interested in pitching in at the packing event, which runs from 10 a.m. to noon at the church, 30900 Six Mile, or in donating items or money to the cause can call Stando at 248-474-9311. Volunteers will pack boxes and fill out customs forms at the event.



Members of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia show the display they've created about their "Miracle Box" packing party on June 21.

## Cards, candies

"You feel like you are making a difference," said Cunningham, who is making red felt prayer cloths with Bible verses for each box.

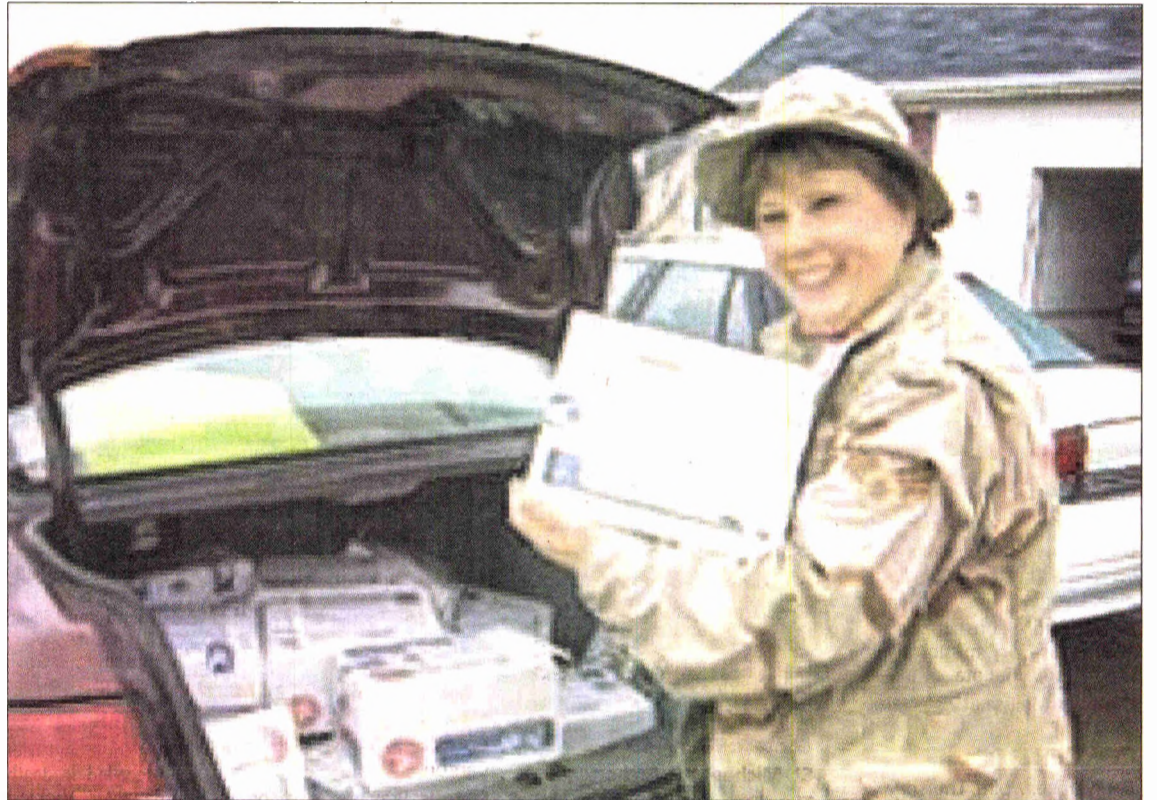
Blain will supply the boxes and troop addresses. She said volunteers also may include hand-written letters or cards in each box.

"We're always looking for more troop addresses," Blain said. "It's our privilege to give."

With summer approaching, troops especially need neck coolers. She said they can be purchased at stores but often are homemade and consist of absorbent beads or crystals encased in cotton material. Other needed items include dry beverage mixes and "pocket food," such as protein bars and hard candies.

"No chocolate because it's too hot. We want to think healthy," Blain said.

For a list of acceptable Miracle Box items, visit [thedesertangel.org](http://thedesertangel.org).



Louise Blain of Desert Angel gets ready to mail Miracle Boxes to soldiers.

# Working women unite: Putting JVS's Women to Work program into perspective

By Julie Yolles  
Social Scene Columnist

It has been more than 30 years since JVS started the Women to Work Program which helps women acclimate back into the work force, usually following

some type of hardship, by offering assistance in resume writing, job search strategies, interviewing and networking skills. JVS created the Trade Secrets benefit six years ago to help fund this very important program. The event has grown so big that this year, Trade Secrets was held at Knollwood Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, with a sellout crowd of 400-plus women and a few good men, bringing in more than \$159,000.

FirstMerit Michigan Chair & CEO Sandra Pierce was this year's honoree and keynote speaker. She was candid and honest about women in the workplace, including her industry, banking, where she said only 17.5 percent of women hold executive positions.

"It's up to every one of us to take control of our own life," Pierce told the audience. "We choose our own attitude. Change in our lives is inevitable; growth is intentional. We need to have the courage in our lives to do what Myriam Cohen (JVS Women to Work Award recipient) did."

Next up for JVS is the 17th annual Strictly Business Networking and Awards Luncheon, June 12 at The Henry in Dearborn. Ford COO Mark Fields will be the keynote speaker. Shinola will



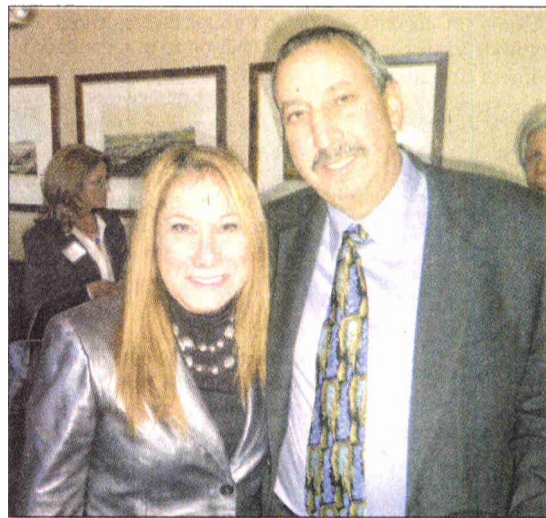
Trade Secrets event co-chair Mindi Fynke of Farmington Hills (left) and honoree and keynote speaker Sandra Pierce, FirstMerit Michigan chair and CEO PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES, SOCIAL SCENE COLUMNIST



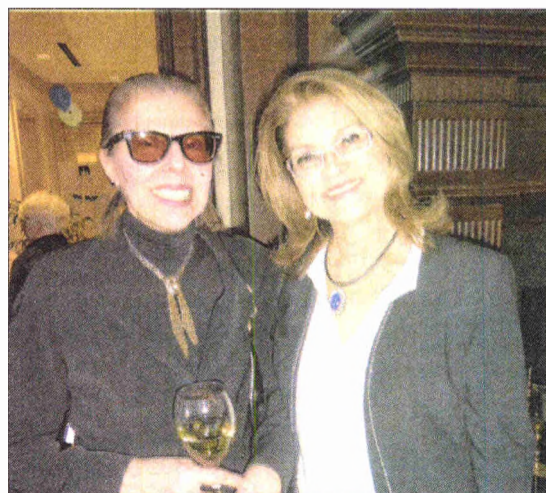
Farmington Hills residents Shayna Silverman, event co-chair (left), and Sher Kaplan, raffle coordinator

receive the JVS 2014 Business Leadership award and Cooper Street Cookies will receive the JVS 2014 Rising Entrepreneur Award. Tickets are \$150. [www.jvsdet.org](http://www.jvsdet.org).

Contact Julie Yolles, Social Scene columnist, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 1073 N. Old Woodward, Birmingham, MI 48009; [socialscenejulie@gmail.com](mailto:socialscenejulie@gmail.com); or leave a message at 248-642-9465.



Heidi Budaj of West Bloomfield and Sandy Kaplan of Farmington Hills



Stacy Ansen of Bingham Farms (left) and Annette Berenholz of Farmington Hills



Colleen Peters of Bloomfield Township, (left) Lisa Lis of Farmington Hills, JVS interim president and CEO Leah Rosenbaum and JVS executive board member Beth Gotthelf of Birmingham

# Animal welfare benefit, cat workshop set

## Medical aid

Frankie's Friends, a foundation that assists families with pet medical bills, will raise funds Tuesday, June 10, at all eight BD's Mongolian BBQ locations.

Fifteen percent of all sales from both lunch and dinner that day will go toward the foundation. Patrons are encouraged to bring a photo of their pet and get involved in the raffles and contests during dinner, 6-10 p.m.

Frankie's Friends assists families that demonstrate substantial financial need and whose pets, with medical treatment, have a good prognosis for long-term recovery to a normal quality of life.

The organization was founded in 1999 as the Veterinary Cancer Foundation.

In 2008, the foundation's name was changed to Frankie's Friends to honor the spirit and vitality of Frankie, a greyhound from Tampa, Fla.

For more information about Frankie's Friends, visit [frankiesfriends.com](http://frankiesfriends.com).

## Feral cats

Sign up for the Michigan Humane Society's feral cat workshop, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 4, at the MHS administrative office, 30300 Telegraph in Bingham Farms.

The workshop, required for those interested in becoming a feral cat colony caretaker and participating in the MHS Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, will explain the TNR process.

To register, visit [www.michiganhumane.org/feral](http://www.michiganhumane.org/feral) or call 248-283-1000, Ext. 127. Space is limited and an RSVP is required.





# MILESTONES

## BIRTH

### MARA ISABELLA STROMGREN

Mara Isabella Stromgren was born April 4, 2014, in Kansas City, Mo.

Proud parents are Anastasia and Benjamin Stromgren of Shawnee, Kan.

Grandparents are Gary and Cindie Stuchlik of Livonia and Karen and Leroy Stromgren of Osage City, Kan.

Great-grandparents are John and Helen Koff of Livonia and Albert and Letha Smith of Overbrook, Kan.



Mara Isabella Stromgren

## WEDDING

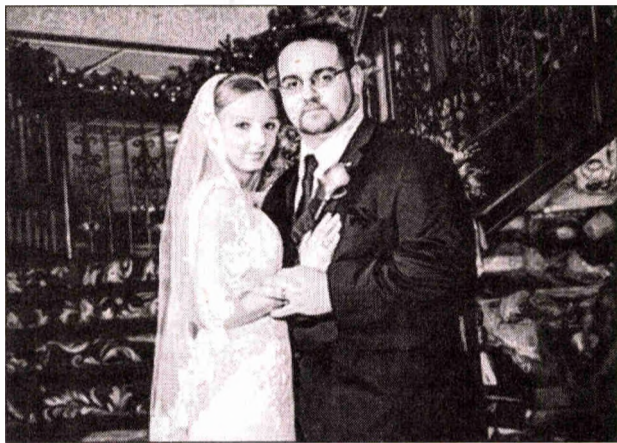
### DOBOS-MORELLO

Ashley Nicole Dobos and Anthony Joseph Morello, both of Westland, were married Dec. 13, 2013, at Crystal Gardens Chapel, Southgate. Pastor David Hildebrandt officiated.

Their parents are Michael and Jody Dobos and Anthony Sr. and Sherry Morello.

The bride graduated in 2005 from John Glenn High School and in 2009 from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She is employed at Wayne Westland Credit Union. The groom graduated in 2005 from John Glenn High School and is employed as store manager at Hungry Howie's Pizza in Taylor.

Courtney Dobos, the bride's sister, served as



Ashley Nicole Dobos and Anthony Joseph Morello

maid of honor. Attendants were Crystal Davis, groom's sister, and Amelia Nash, the bride's childhood friend.

Jason Davis, the groom's brother-in-law, was best man. Jeff Opoka and Vince Wiggins, both the groom's childhood

friends, served as attendants.

A reception was held at Crystal Garden Banquet Center in Southgate.

The couple took a Caribbean cruise for their honeymoon.

They have made their home in Westland.

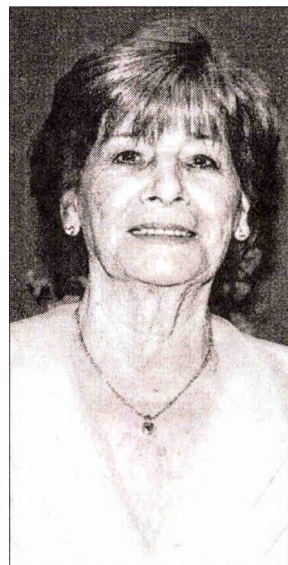
## BIRTHDAY

### CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

Phyllis Mooradian of Livonia will mark her 90th birthday on June 11.

She was born Phyllis Zerilli in 1924 along with her twin brother, Joseph, in Detroit. Growing up, she had three sisters and three brothers, of which two are still living.

Phyllis met and married Robert Mooradian in 1942. Ten years and three sons later, the couple moved to Livonia where their daughter was born in 1957. Phyllis raised their four children while her husband worked and went to night school. She was involved in the PTA, community activities, and building an enormous group of lifelong friends who were welcome at the Mooradian house for bunco games, pool and dance parties. Neighborhood kids gathered at her home to eat lunch and swim in the family's built-in



Phyllis Mooradian of Livonia will celebrate her 90th birthday on June 11.

pool. When the Good Humor truck drove by, children would run to the Mooradian house because Phyllis often bought ice cream for her children and their friends in the neighborhood.

After her children went to college, Phyllis

she took up painting, ceramics, jogging, and aerobic dance. According to Barbara Mooradian, her mother loves celebrations and always is the life of the party. She said Phyllis makes every occasion special and festive through tradition, a great sense of style, themed décor, and a keen eye for detail and beauty. She is the driving force in getting her friends and the "pool girls" — women who used to do water aerobics in her backyard pool — together for lunch.

She enjoys crossword puzzles, reading, and watching a "good" movie, even foreign language films with subtitles.

She and her husband of 71 years live in their third house in Livonia. They have six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Phyllis plans to celebrate her birthday at home with friends and family.

# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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## RELIGION CALENDAR

### JUNE CAR WASH

**Time/Date:** Noon, June 14  
**Location:** Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

**Details:** Donations support "Faith in Action" mission team trip to South Dakota  
**Contact:** Melissa at 734-466-8694

### CONCERT

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday, June 12

**Location:** St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, in Redford  
**Details:** The Konevets Quartet of St. Petersburg, Russia, will perform sacred music. Admission is free

**Contact:** the Rev. Timothy Barna at 313-937-2120 or the Rev. Roman Star at 313-538-1142

### DAY CAMP

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 16-20

**Location:** Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 W. Six Mile, Livonia

**Details:** Holy Cross and Emmanuel Lutheran churches sponsor the camp for children, age 5 through sixth grade. Get registration forms and information packets at Emmanuel, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia, or from the church's website, www.emmanuel-livonia.org. Registration is \$60 per child

**Contact:** Judy Cook at 248-442-8822

### FUNDRAISER

**Time/Date:** Doors open at 7 p.m.; program at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 7

**Location:** South Redford Administration Building, 26141 Schoolcraft, Redford

**Details:** "An Evening with Mark Twain" will benefit Redford Interfaith Relief; tickets \$10  
**Contact:** 313-387-9802 or 313-387-2750

### RUMMAGE SALE

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, June 6, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 7

**Location:** Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster Road, Livonia  
**Details:** All items half price from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday

**Contact:** unityoflivonia.org

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Time/Date:** 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday, June 22-Wednesday, June 25; registration will start at 5 p.m. followed by a light supper and the program

**Location:** First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland, 3 Town Square, Wayne

**Details:** The theme is "Neighbors around the World." Youngsters will visit Australia, Zimbabwe, Japan, the United Kingdom and Mexico through life lessons. There also will be Bible time, music and recreation  
**Contact:** 734-721-4801

### ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

#### Men's Bible study

**Time/Date:** Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

**Location:** Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

**Contact:** John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

#### Our Lady of Loretto

**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

**Location:** Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

**Details:** Scripture study

**Contact:** 313-534-9000

#### St. Michael the Archangel

**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday.

**Location:** School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Details:** Catholic author Gary Michuta leads a study of Acts of the Apostles.

**Contact:** 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniastmichael.org

#### Ward Presbyterian

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Mondays

**Location:** Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville Township

**Details:** Learner's Bible study is held

**Contact:** 248-374-5920

#### FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL

**Time/Date:** 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

**Location:** Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Free meal  
**Contact:** 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

#### MOMS

**Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**

**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

**Location:** 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

**Details:** Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

**Contact:** Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

#### Dunning Park Bible Chapel

**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

**Location:** 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

**Details:** MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

**Contact:** Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

#### PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

**Time/Date:** 1 p.m. Sunday

**Location:** Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

**Details:** All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

**Contact:** 313-563-0162

#### PRAYER

**Nardin Park United Methodist Church**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday

**Location:** 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together

**Contact:** 248-476-8860

#### St. Edith Church

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday

**Location:** 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back

**Details:** Music, singing, prayer

**Contact:** Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

#### St. Michael Lutheran Church

**Time/Date:** 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

**Location:** 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

**Details:** Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

**Contact:** 734-459-3333 for additional information

#### SINGLES

##### Detroit World Outreach

**Time/Date:** 4-6 p.m. Sunday

**Location:** 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

**Details:** Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

**Contact:** The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

##### First Presbyterian Church

**Time/Date:** 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.

**Location:** 200 E. Main St., Northville

**Details:** Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

**Contact:** 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

##### Steve's Family Restaurant

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

**Location:** 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

**Details:** Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

**Contact:** 313-534-0399

##### Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m. Sunday

**Location:** 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township

**Details:** Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship, coffee, doughnuts, conversation.

**Contact:** 248-374-5920

##### SONG CIRCLE

**Congregation Beth Ahm**

**Time/Date:** Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

**Location:** 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

**Details:** Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

**Contact:** 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

##### SUPPORT

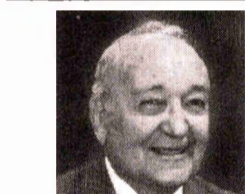
**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to noon Saturday

**Location:** 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

**Details:** A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available

**Contact:** 734-421-8451



### FINNEGAN, JERRY

Age 81, passed away Saturday, May 24, 2014, with his loving wife and daughters at his side. He was born April 16, 1933, to Joseph and Marian Finnegan. He and his wife, Sharlene, were born and raised in Plymouth and were married June 21, 1954. He barbered for 43 years at Carson's Barber Shop. He was known for his smile and friendliness. He is preceded in death by his oldest daughter, Vickie in 2012. He is survived by daughters, Brenda (Gordon) Coram, Shannon and Jenifer (Mike) Gibbons and two grandsons. He was a member of Jehovah's Witnesses. Memorial Service will be at a later date.

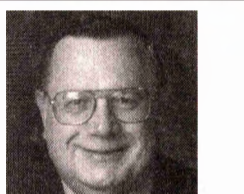


### JENNINGS, PATRICIA DALY

Passed away on May 23, 2014, after a lengthy illness. Born in Chicago on October 26, 1926, to Sally (nee Gladys) Haven and LeGrand Francis Daly, Pat moved to Birmingham as a teenager, attending Kingswood and Baldwin High School. Her father, a graduate of the first industrial chemistry class at Cornell University, established the Paramount Rubber Company in Detroit, where he developed bullet-proof plastics and patented a pilot's helmet for the U. S. government. In 1956, Sally Daly and thirty other charter members established the Village Women's Club, of which Pat was a long-time member since 1975. While attending the University of Southern California, Pat worked part-time at MGM Studios for her uncle, oscar-winning set designer Thomas Little, who staged over 450 films during the 1930's, 40's, and 50's. She returned home after two years to finish college at the University of Michigan. Pat married John Joseph Jennings III in 1954, raising three children in Grosse Pointe Farms and Rochester. Moving back to the Birmingham-Bloomfield area when Joe retired, Pat reunited with old friends and made many new ones. An avid gardener, decorator, and bridge player, Pat is survived by daughter Victoria Jennings Ross (Mrs. Dennis E.) of Brookline, Massachusetts, and son John Joseph Jennings IV, of Pleasant Ridge; and five grandchildren: Carrie, Douglas, and Philip Ross, of Brookline, and Wesley and Joseph Hunt of Bound Brook, New Jersey. Pat is predeceased by husband John Joseph Jennings III and daughter Laurie Jennings Hunt. A Memorial Service for her will be held nancyellen879@att.net. at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Saturday, June 14, 2:00 p.m. Please make donations in Pat's name to The Village Club Preservation Fund, Bloomfield Hills.

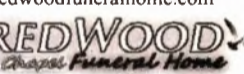
### LAMBERT/LaBEAN, AUDREY

Age 58 passed away on May 25, 2014. Loving mother of Michael, Nicholas and Heather. Daughter of Hazel and the late Walter B. Lambert. Dear sister of Walter, Debbie, Pat, Sandie, Blain, and Cathie. Dearest grandmother of seven. Audrey, known to family and friends as Jeannie was born November 8, 1955 and was raised in Livonia. Her final resting place will be in South Branch, Michigan.



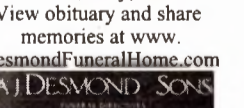
### TOPOLEWSKI, NORBERT J.

Age 72. Cherished husband of Patricia. Dearest brother of Richard (Kathryn) and Elaine (Donald) Rokos. Loving uncle of Mark, Michael, Thomas, Emilie, Meagan, Allison, Colin, Ian, Adam and Brian. Also survived by many other loving family and friends. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel, 36100 Five Mile Rd., Livonia (E. of Levan) Saturday 2-9 p.m., Sunday 2-9 p.m. with Scripture Service at 7 p.m. Funeral Monday at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Rd., Livonia (N. of 6 Mile Rd.) In state 9:30 a.m., Mass 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Manresa Jesuit Retreat House and/or Angela Hospice. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com



### ZELAZNY, MARCELLA M., "MARCY" (NEE: BRADLEY)

May 29, 2014. Loving and devoted wife of the late J. Donald. Dear mother of Donald J., D.D.S. (Michelle), Debra Wilson (William Jewell), Trudy Hoer (James) and Dan (Kara). Cherished grandmother of Pamela, Rachel, Lucy, Belle, Johnny, Andrew, Mac, Tessa, and Nora. Dearest sister of Peggy Roethermel (Harold), Helen Verner (the late George), John Bradley (Sharon), and Leo Bradley. Family will receive friends Tuesday 4-8 p.m. with Prayers and Reflections at 7:30 p.m. at A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks Road (Between Maple and Big Beaver), 248-362-2500. Funeral Mass Wednesday 11 a.m. at St. Mary of the Hills Catholic Church, 2675 John R, Rochester Hills. Visitation at church begins Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorials to 5 West Hospice Unit-Troy Beaumont Hospital, 44201 Dequindre Rd., Troy, MI 48085. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



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A loving tribute



## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### Upcoming

#### Blood drive

» 6:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Monday, June 2 and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 3, in Fisher Center Auditorium, Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield. Schedule an appointment at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter the code PROVSFLD or call Abby at 248-849-3067.

» 9 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. Friday, June 6, in the Community Room inside the Administration & Education Center located on the campus of Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter "botsford" as the sponsor code to register. Or call Amy Bowes, Botsford's Employee Services Department, at 248-888-2610.

#### Lunch workshop

Learn how eating a nutritionally balanced lunch can help you stay healthy, 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills. Cost: \$5. Includes recipes, samples, nutritional advice, and a \$5 Busch's coupon. Tickets available from Busch's Guest Services Counter or by phoning 248-427-7400. Seating is limited. Registration required.

#### Maternity department tour

Tour the maternity department at Oakwood Hospital-Dearborn, from 5-6:30 p.m. June 11, 18101 Oakwood Blvd. in Dearborn. No registration required, but guests should call 313-593-7694 to verify date and time. Parking is available in the South visitor's parking deck; meet at the Welcome Desk near the chapel in the main building before 5 p.m.

#### Movement disorders

Learn more about movement disorders, including Parkinson's disease, 10 a.m. Saturday, June 21, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Henry Ford Health System specialists will discuss treatment options, clinical research trials, and community health resources available for patients living with movement disorders. The free event also will include a Q&A session with a panel of medical experts. Register by calling 800-436-7936. Learn more about the Henry Ford Movement Disorders Center at [www.henryford.com/neuro](http://www.henryford.com/neuro).

#### Stay awake series

Sleep specialist, Mark Villeneuve, M.D.

will discuss sleep architecture and sleep patterns during a seminar about sleep disorders and growing older, 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19, in the North Auditorium at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan, Livonia. Representatives from companies that produce continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machines also will show the latest technology and masks options available. The session is free but registration is required. Call 734-655-4640 or visit [stmarymercy.org](http://stmarymercy.org).

#### Walk with a Doc

David Sternberg, M.D., a board-certified minimally invasive thoracic surgeon, will talk about lung and esophageal health, noon, June 12, at Heritage Park Nature Center, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Sternberg will cover what affects the health of the lungs, esophagus, and throat; signs of problems; how the problem is diagnosed; treatment remedies; and how to stay healthy. Register by calling Botsford at 877-477-Doc1 (3621), option #1

#### Ongoing

#### Anorexics and Bulimics Anonymous

12-step program and weekly group to help those suffering with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, bingeing and purging, and exercise compulsion is held 7-8 p.m., Tuesday, at the Friendship Circle, 6892 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. The program helps those with eating and exercise disorders find recovery. An AB-ANON meeting group is available for families and loved ones, 7-8 p.m., Wednesday, also at the Friendship Circle. For more information, contact Mindy at 248-672-9776.

#### Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. To join or for more information, visit [www.ymcadowetroit.org](http://www.ymcadowetroit.org).

#### Breast cancer support

Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-655-1100 or visit [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org).

#### Blood pressure

Garden City Hospital offers free blood pressure testing, cholesterol (\$5), and lipid panel (\$10) testing, 10 a.m. to noon the first Tuesday of each month in the

## Gilda's Club honors Botsford Cancer Center



Nicholle Mehr (center) of the Botsford Cancer Center accepts the Program Support Award from Thomas Callan, board chair of Gilda's Club Metro Detroit, and Laura Varon Brown, Gilda's Club executive director. Families affected by cancer access Gilda's Club programs at the Botsford Cancer Center in Farmington Hills. Programs include the Life After Treatment support group, Yoga Workshop, and the Breast Cancer & You support group. Almost 1,000 individuals have attended these programs during the last two years. Gilda's Club, located in Royal Oak, and Botsford Cancer Center have had a strong relationship since 2009 when the center opened on the campus of Botsford Hospital.

main lobby of the hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. No registration is required. Senior citizens can have their blood pressure tested monthly, free of charge, at 8:30 a.m. the first and third Tuesday and second and fourth Thursdays of each month at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, at Wayne Road in Westland; 10:15 a.m. every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City; and every second Tuesday at the Redford Community Center. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

#### Choir therapy

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan extend an invitation to individuals with any kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Call Len McCulloch at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22, or visit [www.therapychoirs.org](http://www.therapychoirs.org) for additional information.

#### Bipolar support

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway

north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings open to families. Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

#### Caregivers support

St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at 734-895-1426 for more information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

#### CPAP/BIPAP

The Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan offers a free CPAP/BIPAP mask fitting clinic, 5-6 p.m. each Wednesday at 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. Most insurances cover new supplies. No appointment needed. For more information, call 734-458-7251.

#### CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who want to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need

CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. First aid classes are also available. Classes are offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Preregistration required at [www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar](http://www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar) or call 248-937-3314.

#### Diabetes support

An adult diabetes support group sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club meets 2-3:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will facilitate. Discussion topics will focus on understanding diabetes and self-management strategies. Call 734-454-0859.

#### Food addicts

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous is a recovery program for people having trouble controlling the way they eat. It's based on the 12 steps of AA. Open to all and free. Weekly meetings are held 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon, Canton. 248-320-6842; [www.foodaddicts.org](http://www.foodaddicts.org)

#### Health programs, support

The Garden City Hospital Health Enhancement Center offers classes designed to strengthen your heart after a cardiac event. It also offers an array of fitness classes, such as yoga, tai chi, Zumba, hula and Polynesian aerobics to keep you moving or to help you relax. For more information, call 734-458-3242.

GCH Community Education offers classes in CPR (adult and infant), first aid, and diabetes self-management education. The hospital hosts various support groups including Nar-Anon, Alzheimer's, Alcoholics Anonymous, Focus on Living and Diabetes, which are held monthly. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

#### Hearing Loss Association

The Western Wayne Chapter provides information, education and support for those with hearing loss, their families and friends. Meetings are 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. Contact [afack@comcast.net](mailto:afack@comcast.net) or 734-664-3297.

#### Incest survivors

"LIVE," a self-help group for women who were victims of incest as children, meets 7-9 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at St. Paul of the Cross, 23333 Schoolcraft, Redford. Call Antoinette at 313-971-4747.

## Hey, That's Not A Lucky Clover ...Dealing with Plants that Make Us Itch

### Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Dr. Kay  
Family Practice

You just spent a wonderful day hiking in the woods, when you notice you're developing a streaky rash with red bumps. Family Practice Physician and GCH Health Expert, Dr. Deborah Kay, gets to the root of poisonous foliage.

**Q:** We recently moved to a new home in a more rural area. There is plenty of room for my kids and dog to play and run around outdoors, but I am concerned about poison ivy and other plants that may be harmful. What should I look out for?

**A:** While poison ivy, oak, and sumac grow primarily in wooded or marshy areas throughout Michigan, it's not uncommon to find them in the suburbs or cities. These plants are not actually poisonous, but contain a long-lasting oil called urushiol that causes an itchy, blistering rash after it makes contact with skin.

A rash from poison ivy, oak, or sumac looks like patches or streaks of red, raised blisters, which won't spread unless the urushiol is still making contact on the skin. To avoid contact, keep your skin covered by wearing a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, gloves, and closed shoes if you're in an area where these plants may be lurking. You can also use a lotion containing bentoquatam, which acts as a barrier between urushiol and your skin.

Urushiol begins to stick to your skin within minutes of contact. If you know you have had contact with poison ivy, oak, or sumac, immediately wash the area with lukewarm water and soap. If water is unavailable, rubbing alcohol or alcohol wipes can remove urushiol. Keep the affected area cool, dry, and clean.

If someone in your household has poison ivy, oak, or sumac, you can't "catch" it from them, even if you have contact with the blisters. Only direct contact with urushiol causes the rash. Conversely, pets can carry urushiol on their fur and transmit the oil to humans. Make sure to give pets that have come into contact with urushiol a bath. Wear gloves to minimize exposure.

Contact your doctor if the rash develops close to your eyes or is widespread over your body. If needed, oral medications can be prescribed to help with swelling and itching. Go to the ER if you experience nausea, fever, shortness of breath, extreme soreness at the rash site, or swollen lymph nodes.

Never burn poison ivy, oak, or sumac. The smoke can be extremely dangerous, often resulting in hospitalization, and can irritate the eyes, nose, and respiratory tract. Instead, dress appropriately and dig out the plants, getting as much of the root as possible. Put the plants in a plastic trash bag and dispose of them. Be careful, urushiol remains active even on dead plants.

Do you have a health or medical question for one of the GCH Health Experts? Visit [GCH.org](http://GCH.org) or call 877.717.WELL.

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