

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015 • hometownlife.com



Inspire Theatre marks 10 years with variety show
ENTERTAINMENT, B9

Chamber looks ahead to digital economy

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

With accumulated information doubling at an ever-accelerating pace and new technologies coming online constantly, the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is quickly adapting as it works to promote businesses in the area.

That was the theme of a pep talk by Wes Graff, the chamber

president, to about 160 chamber members and local business people during a Wednesday breakfast at The Inn at St. John's. The annual event includes a review of the chamber's progress during the previous year, an introduction of new board members and a look ahead.

With a slide show to accent his points, Graff said the future economy will be forged in the

technological arena, with such developments as artificial intelligence, robotics, sensors, digital manufacturing and nanotechnology.

The implications for artificial intelligence are "just amazing," cars are now "rolling computers," devices for home medical diagnoses will soon be commonplace and China and India, with their huge populations combining

high technology and an emerging market, will play a "staggering" role in the economy of the future, Graff said.

STEM talent

Graff made a pitch for STEM education — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — and said demand is great for employees with high technical skills, like welding, computer-controlled

machining and engineering in general.

"We have plenty of talent here in southeast Michigan and we still don't have enough," he said.

He also praised the Michigan International Technology Center, a planned high-tech business corridor along Five Mile, in Northville and Ply-

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AAUW entertains children with 'Wonderful Wizard of Oz'

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Dorothy and her little dog Toto will be off to see the wizard when the Plymouth-Canton AAUW presents their version of L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

The play will be presented Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 5-7, at Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium. Two of the shows — Thursday evening and Saturday morning — are set aside for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, their families and friends; however, limited seating also is available to the public.

The chapter has been doing the Scout program since 2008. It started as one performance, but its popularity has led to two shows. Scouts receive a 45-minute presentation about live theater, the show and a fun patch.

This is the 55th year the chapter has presented live children's theater. Its first production was *Hansel and Gretel* and the group now has a repertoire of six to seven plays that it rotates and updates every few years.

The organization takes classics like *Snow White*, *Peter Pan* and *Cinderella* and turns them into hour-long American Association of University Women versions. Proceeds help fund scholarships.

"We've added a couple of jokes and things that kids are into," said Mary Beth Chmielewski of Westland, who is sharing directorial duties with Kaytee Bellows of Livonia. "Glenda the Good Witch has a cellphone and gets a text, telling her how to help Dorothy. We've put in a cou-



AAUW

Off to see the wizard are the Cowardly Lion (Kathy Sharp of Plymouth), the Tin Man (Laurie Kempisty of Novi), the Scarecrow (Sharon Belobradich of Plymouth) and Dorothy (Michelle Churchill of Novi).

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Plans for new hotel mark economic upswing

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A new hotel going up in Plymouth Township is a marker of the area's economic resurgence and its timing capitalizes on plans to develop a high-tech business park nearby.

The four-story, 107-room hotel, underway on Beck Road near Five Mile, is to be a Holiday Inn Express and Suites. The location is just north of Compuware Arena, in a planned development that already has a McDonald's restaurant and a three-story office building that serves as the headquarters for Stardock Inc., a computer gaming and software company.

Holiday Inn Express hotels are designed for business and leisure travelers. The Plymouth Township hotel will have standard amenities, such

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A Holiday Inn Express is under construction off of Beck Road, north of M-14 and Compuware Arena.

Passion for creativity fuels new downtown comics store

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A Plymouth couple has combined a love of art, good storytelling and old-fashioned superheroes at their new downtown store.

Blaze-Thru Comics, with new and collectible comic books and other serials, graphic novels and art, toys

and T-shirts, opened late last year on Forest. Josh and Molly Bonno, who both have a long-time interest in comic books, say their venture comes at a time of resurgent interest in comics, fueled in part by a boom in superhero movies and television shows, like *The Walking Dead*, that began as comics.

There are a lot more op-

tions, though, than middle-aged Baby Boomers who bought their last comic book for 20 cents off a rotating rack at the corner store might remember.

"People want something a little bit different," Josh Bonno, a former Canton Township public safety dispatcher, said at his store Tuesday. "It's an exciting time to be into com-

ics."

Old school, new

There are still classic superheroes — Batman, the Incredible Hulk, the Green Lantern — as well as legions of spinoffs, variations and new villains. There are also smaller publishers, like Image and Dark Horse, that offer alternatives to Marvel and DC, the giants of

the superhero world. And non-superhero-based comics, with fantasy, noirish and "slice-of-life" story lines, spice up the mix.

"There are so many titles, I don't think we could fit them all in the store," Molly Bonno said.

New comics come out week-

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Local lawmakers serve on new Asian Pacific American Caucus

Several western Wayne County lawmakers were among a group of legislators who gathered Tuesday for the first meeting of the recently formed Asian Pacific American Legislative Caucus.

The bicameral, bipartisan group is composed of members of the Michigan Legislature who identify as Asian Pacific American and members who represent districts with large concentrations of Asian Pacific American residents. Serving on the com-



Colbeck Pagan

mittee are Sen. Hoon-Yung Hoppgood, D-Taylor, whose district includes Westland; Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, whose district includes Wayne, Livonia, Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township; and Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton,

whose district includes Canton.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the new Asian Pacific American Legislative Caucus," Hoppgood said. "Asian Pacific Americans comprise the fastest growing population in Michigan and legislators need to work together on the issues affecting the entire community. I am confident that my fellow caucus members and I will be able to do just that."

The caucus will work to advance policies and initiatives to provide for

the full participation of Asian Pacific Americans in Michigan and to address the needs and concerns of the Asian American community.

"With the incredible population growth of the Asian Pacific American community in Michigan, as well as the many social and economic contributions the community has made in our state, now is a great time for lawmakers to come together and advance initiatives to address the needs of the Asian Pacific American communi-

ty," said Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit. "I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate on both sides of the aisle as the caucus moves forward."

As part of its mission, the caucus will work to educate other members of the Legislature about the contributions and concerns of the Asian Pacific American community in Michigan.

"I'm very excited about the formation of this bicameral, bipartisan caucus," said House

Democratic Floor Leader Sam Singh, D-East Lansing. "As the Asian American community continues to grow in Michigan, it's important for diverse voices to be represented in the Legislature. I look forward to seeing positive actions coming from this caucus over the upcoming session."

The caucus will work in partnership with the coalition of Asian Pacific American organizations in Michigan to develop and accomplish its goals.

HOTEL

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as a fitness center, swimming pool and meeting rooms, said Caroline Huston, corporate communications manager for Intercontinental Hotels Group, which manages the Holiday Inn brands.

A fall 2015 opening is planned, Huston said. The investment in the site is not public information, she said.

"The continued growth in our high-tech business park convinced them now is the time to put up that hotel," township Supervisor Richard Reaume said.

Business trips

The site is near the Metro West industrial parks and also near what local, county and state officials are planning as the Michigan International Technology Center, an 800-acre parcel, most of it now publicly owned, intended for advanced-technology businesses. The MITC, announced earlier this month, stretches from just west of Beck to Napier along the Five Mile Road corridor and includes land in both Plymouth and Northville townships.

"Business travelers would have to stay somewhere and that will be the closest hotel," Reaume said. The MITC is intended to

attract foreign firms looking for Detroit-area locations, Reaume said, so the area could see a lot more business trips.

"They'll spend their money here" on fuel, food and other necessities, Reaume said.

The new Holiday Inn is also expected to get a boost from USA Hockey, the governing body for amateur hockey in the U.S., which is planning to buy Compuware Arena and move its National Team Development Program there from its current home in Ann Arbor. The NTDP plays in the United States Hockey League, which has 17 teams in the Midwest.

"They'll have another hotel even closer" for out-of-town teams, Reaume said. USA Hockey is expected to bring college hockey and international tournaments, among other events, to the arena in addition to the NTDP games.

The new hotel, Reaume said, will also be put to good use during the annual Concours d'Elegance of America, hosted each July by The Inn at St. John's. The Concours is an exhibit of historic and collectible cars and other vehicles from around the world and many out-of-town exhibitors now stay at the hotel at St. John's or at the Hilton Garden Inn.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman

CHAMBER

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mouth townships, that local, Wayne County and state officials are working to promote.

"When we look to our future, we're going to see a lot of it up there," he

said.

Graff set several goals for the chamber's promotional work, including partnering with other communities, improving alliances with educational institutions, fostering an entrepreneurial spirit in the area and telling Plymouth's story. He also debuted a three-minute

promotional video on the Plymouth area that, he said, has been a year in the making.

The video was enthusiastically received.

"I think it's great," said Nathan Zautcke, who owns Security 101, an electronic security company. "I think it really sums up the community."

Also speaking Wednesday was Mike Ritter, of Supplemental Benefits Exchange, the chamber's board chairman for 2015. He introduced fellow board members and chamber staff.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman

COMICS

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ly, each Wednesday, and Blaze-Thru has them packaged in plastic with a cardboard backing, ready for collectors. "There're people who pick up every single Batman title," Josh Bonno said.

For non-regulars, though, publishers anthologyize many of the major comic books, usually five issues at a time, in graphic novel-type paperbacks.

Comics community

The Bonnos are working to coalesce a Plymouth-area comic book community through their store, promoting local artists and publishers and organizing a Blaze-Thru and Brew night at the Liberty Street Brewing Co. last month, which drew about 10 people to discuss *The Long Halloween*, a Batman serial.

They hope to have similar events in the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Josh and Molly Bonno opened Blaze-Thru late last year.

future, including some appropriate for readers under 21.

"It's an interesting way to get people to talk" around a common subject, Josh Bonno said.

The name Blaze-Thru came after an unsuccessful stretch of brainstorming about what to call their store, he said. They hadn't thought of anything that caught their ears, he said, but when Molly went on a reading binge to catch up on a serial, he remarked, "You're really blazing through those comics"

and they knew it was right.

Depth, creativity

Josh Bonno got into comic books as a pre-adolescent, at the prompting of a friend, and liked the X-Men, mutants with special powers who didn't fit into society but worked for good, and the Punisher. "The X-Men really had a lot of depth to them," he said.

He also likes creative writing, he said, and wants to promote it and get people talking about

it. Molly caught the bug from her father, Brian Howard, also of Plymouth, a serious collector and "probably our best customer," she said. His comics, kept pristine, were off-limits for the kids when she was growing up.

She still follows the superheroes, she said, but also likes deeper stories and the art that goes with them.

Running the store is a good fit for them, she said.

"I think we're allergic to anything too ordinary," she said.

Blaze-Thru Comics is at 470 Forest, No. 12, Plymouth. Store hours are 1-8 p.m. Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday, 1-7:30 p.m. Thursday, noon to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 1-7 p.m. Sunday. Closed Monday. The phone number is 734-404-5720 and the website is www.blazethru.com.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman

OZ

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ple of dance numbers. The kids seem to like it."

Co-directors

Chmielewski is making her directorial debut, while Bellows is doing a second stint as director. Her first show was *Cinderella*.

"It's a lot of fun telling people what to do," she said. "When you're on stage acting you see things that could be done. This allows the creativity to spark. It's fun to see it all come together."

Michelle Churchill of Novi is the star of the show as Dorothy. She likes fun roles, but admits it took some convincing to take on the part. She had wanted to be the Wicked Witch and thought she had a pretty good cackle, but that role went to Karen Stemberger of Plymouth.

Churchill has been with the AAUW chapter for 12 years and this is her first time playing a lead role.

"It's a tough role. I'm

'WIZARD OF OZ'

What: The 55th annual Plymouth-Canton AAUW's children's theater production

When: 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 6-7, and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. The Thursday evening and Saturday morning performances will be for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Scouts, families and friends are invited to experience a "behind-the-scenes" look at live theater by the drama students at Garden City High School at 6:15 p.m. Thursday and 10:15 a.m. Saturday, followed by the show.

Where: Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium, 6500 Middlebelt, north of Ford.

Tickets: Presale tickets cost \$6 and are available at www.aauw-pcmi.org. Tickets will be available at the door for \$7 each.

on stage the entire time and some of the lines are very similar," Chmielewski said. "It's fun; it's different being the lead. The role is less animated. The last time we did *Oz*, I was a winged monkey."

She has been watching the movie and said she

needs to watch it more. She also gets help with her lines from her children and her daughter has been researching her makeup.

'Enjoying it'

Resident baddy Sharon Belobradich of Plymouth, who has played the villain in most of the plays, is doing a reprise of her role as the Scarecrow, while Laurie Kempisty of Novi is playing the Tin Man. Kathy Sharp of Plymouth, a speech therapist in the Garden City School District, has been cast as the Cowardly Lion.

Sharp was never in a theatrical production until she joined the chapter. Initially, she played parts like trees, but when she landed the role of Happy in *Cinderella* and had lines, she was hooked. This year, she is taking over a role that a former member did. She "was fabulous," according to Sharp.

"I'm enjoying it," she said of her role. "Last year, I was a pirate. I hope being a lion this year, my granddaughter won't be afraid of me."

A week before the play opens, the cast is rehearsing on the O'Leary stage, working over the din of skill saws as Rick Bellows and Alan Study build a new house

for the production. For more than four years, the two men have helped with making props for the plays.

"We had one, but we had a flood in our storage building and quite a few things were damaged," Chmielewski said. "The house didn't look so good."

"We've had a few things we've had to build, it's exciting to see how it's going," said Bellows who was beside them, turning a length of material into the Yellow Brick Road.

Bellows is her eighth year with the chapter. The last time the group did *Oz*, she played Dorothy. She's also been one of the Lost Boys and a lady in waiting in other productions.

"I've been in everything," she said. "It's too much fun not to participate. We have such amazing people. This couldn't happen if not for the ladies in this group."

The play includes music, but it's not a full musical, according to Chmielewski. The cast will be performing snippets of *Wizard of Oz* songs like *Ding Dong the Witch Is Dead*, and *We're off to See the Wizard*. "It helps to keep it fun," she said.

smason@hometownlife.com

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Editor: Brad Kadrich 734-624-3379 Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com	Sports: Tim Smith 734-469-4128 Email: tsmith@hometownlife.com
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PUBLIC NOTICE OF DATE CHANGE FOR AUGUST'S REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Plymouth District Library Board has changed its August 18, 2015 meeting to August 25, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Sandy Young, Administrative Assistant
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
734 453 0750

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COLBECK HOURS

Dates/Times/Locations: Monday, Feb. 2, 6-7 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth; Friday, Feb. 6, 4-5 p.m., Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road

Details: State Sen. Patrick Colbeck and District Manager Penny Crider will hold office hours in Plymouth and Wayne. Colbeck will be available to answer questions and respond to concerns any residents of his district may have. This is an opportunity for local residents to meet with Colbeck to address issues related to state government. No appointment is necessary.

Contact: For more information or to contact Colbeck, go to www.senator-patrickcolbeck.com or call 517-373-5713.

PAGAN HOURS

Dates/Times: Fourth Monday of the month, 7 p.m.; fourth Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.

Locations: Monday, Panera Bread, 41950 Ford Road, Canton; Saturday, Leo's Coney Island, 9624 Belleville Road, Belleville

Details: State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, announces the schedule for her monthly coffee hours. Pagan invites residents to join her to discuss their thoughts and ideas about how she can best represent and address the needs of her constituents. Pagan encourages interested residents to sign up for her e-newsletter, which will provide updates of her work at the Capitol and in the community.

Contact: To sign up, interested individuals should go to pagan.houseedemocrats.com. Residents can also contact Pagan in her Lansing office at 517-373-2575.

DROP-IN KNITTING

Date/Time: Every third Tuesday of the month, 1-2 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Township Friendship Station, 42375 Schoolcraft, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Community Council on Aging offers drop-in knitting and crocheting classes. If you need help finishing a project or starting a new project, then this is the place to come. Beginners are welcome. Each class has a donation of \$2. Instructor is Dori Meford.

Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

U-M ALUMNI NETWORKING

Date/Time: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

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

Details: The University of Michigan Alumni Club of Greater Northville hosts a professional networking event for seasoned and new professionals. The featured speaker will be fellow Michigan alumni Sally Schmell, owner of the Coaching Academy. She will share simple strategies to help your message resonate with others, followed by small networking/discussion groups based on career interests. A light dinner and a



Committee chair

Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price (left), R-Plymouth Township, is given the oath of office by his father Gregory at the commission's organizational meeting Jan. 8. Price also was joined by his mother Rose Stachowski; wife Jacqueline; and children Madeline and Braden. Price, in his second term, represents the 10th District, which covers Canton Township, Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Price has been appointed to serve as the new chair for the commission's Committee on Public Services for the 2015-16 term. Price, in his second term on the commission, previously served as the committee's vice chair.

drink will be provided. Cost is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

LIBRARY GARAGE SALE

Date/Time: Thursday, Jan. 29, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday, Jan. 30, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main

Details: In preparation for the upcoming building repair project, the Plymouth District Library is cleaning out the basement and will be having a garage sale. Items for sale include all types of odds and ends, small pieces of furniture and building materials. All items are priced to sell, sold "as is" and on a cash-and-carry basis.

Contact: For more information, call the library at 734-453-0750, ext. 4, or go to plymouthlibrary.org.

CRAFTERS WANTED

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 17

Location: West Middle School, 44401 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

Details: Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society of women in education, will host its 31st annual craft show to help provide scholarships for Plymouth-Canton students. There are still openings for crafters who are interested in joining the event. Join DKG along with the AAUW used book sale and reserve a booth.

Contacts: For more information, contact Debbie Cortellini at debccortelli-ni@comcast.net or call 734-451-1525.

ni@comcast.net or call 734-451-1525.

COACHES NEEDED

Date/Time: Saturdays in spring and fall

Location: Bilkie Family Field, downtown Plymouth

Details: The Miracle League of Plymouth, the league providing opportunities for special-needs players to enjoy the game of baseball, needs volunteer coaches for its spring and fall seasons.

Contact: Anyone interested in donating their time or who has questions can contact Shari Bilkie via email at shari@miracleleagueplymouth.org

OLGC GALA

Date/Time: Saturday, Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Italian-American Club of Livonia, 39200 Five Mile

Details: Our Lady of Good Counsel hosts "Women of Our Lady," the church's inaugural dinner-dance gala. Couples, families and singles are welcome to the family-style dinner, which features oven-roasted chicken and potatoes, vegetables and dip, green beans almondine and beverages. Dress code is after-5 attire; doors open at 6:30 p.m., dinner is at 7 p.m.

Contact: To register or for more information, email Marcella Corona at march1317@aol.com or call 248-305-7155.

CLOTHING BANK

Date/Time: Every fourth Saturday, 10

a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship clothing bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: Canton Christian Fellowship sponsors a clothing bank every fourth Saturday. No documentation is needed. Drop-off is available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Wednesday. Canton Christian Fellowship is located on at Joy Road, west of Haggerty.

Contact: For more information, email info@cantoncf.org

BLOOD DRIVE

Date/Time/Location: Friday, Jan. 30, Canton Municipal Complex, 1150 S. Canton Center, 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Details: January is Red Cross donor month and the American Red Cross is sponsoring a variety of blood drives. Appointments can be made, and walk-ins are welcome.

Contact: Donors can call 313-549-7052 or email Diane.Risko@redcross.org to set up an appointment.

STONEFLIES SEARCH

Date/Time: Feb. 14, 9 a.m.

Location: U-M Dearborn

Details: Friends of the Rouge is looking for volunteers Saturday, Feb. 14, who want to help look for stoneflies in the Rouge River. Valentine's Day was chosen this year as it is falls during the time organizers say stoneflies hatch from the river and go looking for love. Searchers

meet at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. No searching is done in Dearborn; volunteers carpool out in 10-12 teams to Rouge streams located around metropolitan Detroit.

Contact: Volunteers must pre-register by Jan. 30 on the FOTR website www.therouge.org or by calling 313-792-9621.

PFLAG MEETING

Date/Time: First Sunday of each month, 3-5 p.m.

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Plymouth-Canton PFLAG meets for discussion, education and sharing. Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. Made up of families, friends and straight allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT), PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and societal acceptance of LGBT people through its threefold mission of support, education and advocacy.

Contact: Email laurie.mayers@gmail.com

LIBRARY BAG SALES

Dates: Feb. 20-23; March 27-30

Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 N. Canton Center Road, Canton

Details: The Canton Public Library hosts several Bag Sales to benefit Secondhand Prose, the Friends of the Canton Public Library bookstore. Visitors can shop during the monthly sale and fill a big with books for just \$5.

HOSPICE SUPPORT

Dates/Times: First and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Pennington

Details: Compassionate Coffee Club is an open and ongoing grief support group offering support and socialization for widows and widowers moving beyond the first year of loss. The program is sponsored by Compassionate Care Hospice and is free of charge, although a drink purchase is required for use of the space.

Contact: For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement coordinator, at 888-983-9050 or email achristensen@cchnet.net.

BRAIN NEUROBICS

Date/Time: Second and third Thursday, January through May 2015, 11 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty

Details: Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology designed the 10 free courses. Keep your brain alert and active with such topics as Memory Tricks, Food for Thought and Magic of Music. Courses taught by Waltonwood Cherry Hill.

Contact: To sign up, call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.

Veterans Court, mentors in Redford, reach out to those who served

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

James Badeen served in the U.S. Army from 1976-96, primarily in military police. These days, he's the military veterans mentor coordinator for the 17th District Veterans Court of Redford.

"One of the things it is not is a court of adjudication," Badeen said of the Redford court for veterans, which got funding last year. Defendants have pleaded guilty to misdemeanor offenses rooted in their military past.

The judge, prosecutor, VA and mental health professionals agree on a plan of treatment, Badeen told Plymouth A.M. Rotary members and guests the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 27. He noted such courts have their roots some seven years back in Buffalo, N.Y., when a municipal judge saw many problems associated with military veterans in his courtroom.

Michigan now has some 22 such veterans courts, Badeen said, describing them as a grassroots effort of municipal and district judges in the United States. Redford 17th District Judge Karen Khalil was instrumental in bringing the veterans court to the area.

"A lot of great things are happening," he said. "So great to be a part of it. Wayne County is definitely leading the nation now in veterans services."

Badeen oversees mentoring efforts for that court. "Sometimes people get so broke you can't fix them," he said in describing one ex-serviceman now in a Michigan prison who was dangerous to others.

That man had served in Afghanistan and been badly injured, as well as suffering from post-



JULIE BROWN

James Badeen of the 17th District Veterans Court in Redford shares his knowledge with Plymouth A.M. Rotary members and guests.

traumatic stress disorder; no regular medication was available, so he was given opium for pain and became addicted.

"We try to get these guys back involved in the community," Badeen said. He estimated one veteran an hour each day kills himself or herself. Badeen noted addiction to prescription drugs, PTSD, one and a half million veterans being at risk for homelessness and one-third of women veterans having been sexually assaulted.

Several states, Florida, Virginia and Georgia, have begun veteran-only prisons, he said, with several more mulling that treatment option. "We just never realized how bad bad it was," he said of veterans coming home

from earlier wars, calling that an "additional cost of war."

Thousands of World War II veterans were lobotomized, Badeen said, when there was no knowledge of how to treat them.

He points with pride to the low rate of recidivism of his court. "This is not only a moral issue we have to do, it's a practical issue," said Badeen, who noted veterans often have difficulty accessing VA services.

His court program can be reached at 313-387-2792 or on the web at www.17thVetMentorsRedford.co. The email is 17vetmentors@gmail.com. Volunteers are welcome.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

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Man arrested for two armed robberies

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Canton man was arrested Jan. 23 for robbing a bank and a drug-store, both in Westland.

Officers were first dispatched on a 9-1-1 hang-up call from Chase Bank, 31311 Cherry Hill. Dispatchers were able to make contact with the bank and were informed the bank had just been robbed.

While officers were responding to the bank robbery, another 9-1-1 call reported a robbery in progress at the CVS Pharmacy at 31411 Cherry Hill.

Officers went to both locations and obtained a description of the suspect, who had implied that he

had a gun.

Checking the area, officers from the Westland Police Department and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department located a subject matching the description in front of the Village of Westland senior housing at 32001 Cherry Hill.

After speaking with the 31-year-old Canton resident, the man was arrested for the armed robbery of both the Chase Bank and the CVS Pharmacy.

The suspect's identification is being withheld pending his arraignment.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com
734-883-9039
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Pizzeria hit by break-in

Cash was stolen from Jet's Pizzeria on Ann Arbor Road early Monday after a break-in there.

Alerted by an alarm, police found the glass in the front door shattered, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said, and a footprint on a countertop inside. The cash register was open.

The owner arrived and told police that two of his other businesses had been broken into that night. Police later learned that a man had been arrested the same night in a break-in attempt in Canton Township and are investigating.

Truck burglaries

Electronics, clothing and personal items were reported stolen from the cabs of two tractor-trailer trucks while they were parked at a lot on Eckles Road last weekend, police report.

The thefts occurred between about 7 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday, the report said. There were no signs of forced entry into either cab, police said.

Police reported a similar incident that occurred the same

night at a nearby truck lot in Livonia.

Vandalism

Two windows were shattered and furniture damaged when someone threw a steel trailer-hitch ball through the window of a house on Ridge Road recently.

The vandalism occurred between Jan. 8 and Jan. 15, a police report said. The trailer-hitch ball was found in the breezeway of the house; police said it had apparently been thrown through one window, breaking the glass and scraping a hutch, then hitting a window in the door on the opposite side, breaking a pane of glass.

Nothing appeared to have been stolen from the house.

Bike theft

A man's bicycle was reported stolen Jan. 15 from the garage of a house on Pinetree Drive.

The bike had been taken between Jan. 1 and Jan. 15, a police report said, but the complainant reported being fairly certain it had been taken either Jan. 14 or Jan. 15. A garage door had been left unlocked.

— By Matt Jachman

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Cops seize knife during traffic stop

Police arrested a 20-year-old Canton man after making a traffic stop and finding he was carrying a 7-inch knife, which he claimed he was carrying to protect himself after he had been attacked, a police report said.

Police took the suspect into custody after making a traffic stop about 4:15 a.m. Jan. 21 on Haggerty Road, south of Ford. Three other people in the vehicle were released at the scene.

According to the police report, the traffic stop was made after the vehicle crossed a pavement marker line on the road. During the investigation, it was learned the suspect had the knife. He told police he had recently been assaulted and wanted to protect himself.

The suspect initially lied about his name and said he had no address because he was homeless, the report said. He was cited for possession of a dangerous weapon and giving false information to a police officer.

Rehab walkaway

A suspect who walked away from a Canton recovery center was picked up by Canton police and turned over to authorities in Monroe County, where he was wanted for a probation violation involving possession of heroin, a police report said.

Police received a call about 3 p.m. Sunday from Oakdale Recovery Center on Michigan Avenue, near Sheldon, that the 27-year-old Monroe man had walked away, despite a warrant against him.

Police caught up with the suspect as he was walking eastbound on Michigan Avenue. He initially denied he was the suspect, but finally confirmed his identity.

Police arranged to turn the man over to Monroe County authorities at a restaurant off I-275.

Walmart theft

Police arrested a 54-year-old Inkster woman, but a male suspect escaped, following a retail fraud incident that occurred shortly before 9 p.m. Friday at the Walmart on Michigan Avenue, near Belleville Road, a police report said.

Store employees told police they watched the female suspect, accompanied by a male companion, put merchandise such as a power washer and a vacuum cleaner in a shopping cart and push it beyond the checkout area.

Workers detained the woman, but her male companion was reported to have fled in a white Dodge Charger, the police report said. Another female also may have left the scene with the man.

A police report indicated the merchandise was worth \$566. Police learned the detained female suspect had multiple warrants for her arrest.

Police also found marijuana in one of her pockets during a search at the Canton police station, the report said. The suspect allegedly told police she had smoked crack cocaine the day before.

She began complaining of back pain and was taken to a medical facility for treatment before she was brought back to the police station. She was facing new charges; she already had a criminal record including larceny, forgery and identity theft.

Probation arrest

A 21-year-old woman on probation for traffic violations out of Westland was arrested Friday afternoon by Canton police following a traffic stop near Michigan Avenue and Sheldon, a police report said.

Police initiated the traffic stop about 1:15 p.m. after noticing that the 2006 Jeep the woman was driving had an expired license plate tab.

Police arranged to meet with Westland authorities near Michigan Avenue and Lotz to turn over custody of the suspect.

Credit card fraud

A 25-year-old Canton woman notified police Jan. 21 to report she had received an email from a company for an order, bought with a credit card, though she hadn't made the purchase.

The woman wanted to document the incident with police. She said she had never placed an order with the company and wasn't sure who might have used a credit card in her name.

Thief stunned

A man chased by Livonia Police last week after taking a package from a home's front porch in the 30400 block of Grandon ended with police attempting to stop him using a stun gun.

Livonia police were called to a home on Grandon, where the caller said they saw a suspicious male walking around the neighborhood with a shovel. The witness said they then saw the man select a package that had been left on a porch of a home in the area.

Police then began chasing the man through the area, and one yelled at him to stop and the man stumbled. One officer drew a stun gun and was prepared to use it before ordering the man to stop. He did not, and the officer used the stun gun.

He was arrested and taken to the police station for processing.

— By Darrell Clem

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Ashley's set for annual Belgian Beer Festival

The country that has more recognized beer styles than any other country in the world will be the center of attention when Ashley's Beer and Grill in Westland holds its fifth annual Ashley's Belgian Beer Festival, Thursday Feb. 5, through Sunday, Feb. 15.

The 11-day event will feature one of the broadest collections of Belgian beers in draft and bottle ever done in this region. The festival is particularly distinctive as it will only have Belgian-made beers and only from boutique brewers. There also will be special Belgian cuisine and activities planned throughout with brewers and Belgian beer experts coming in from around the world.

"It is rare even in Belgium to have this many of their beers at one place. Festival guests will have a unique experience to learn from experts about Belgium's centuries-old brewing traditions and why that country's craft beers are considered among the best in the world," said Roy More, co-owner of Ashley's.

Ashley's will again have private happy hour gatherings with Belgian brewers and importers. Brewer happy hours include four sample pours of the brewer's beers and complimentary appetizers. They run 5-7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and can be bought at the time of the events.

The festival's featured brewer opening weekend will be Xavier Van Honsbrouck of Brouwerij Van Honsbrouck and his brewmaster Hans Mehuys, who will be at the

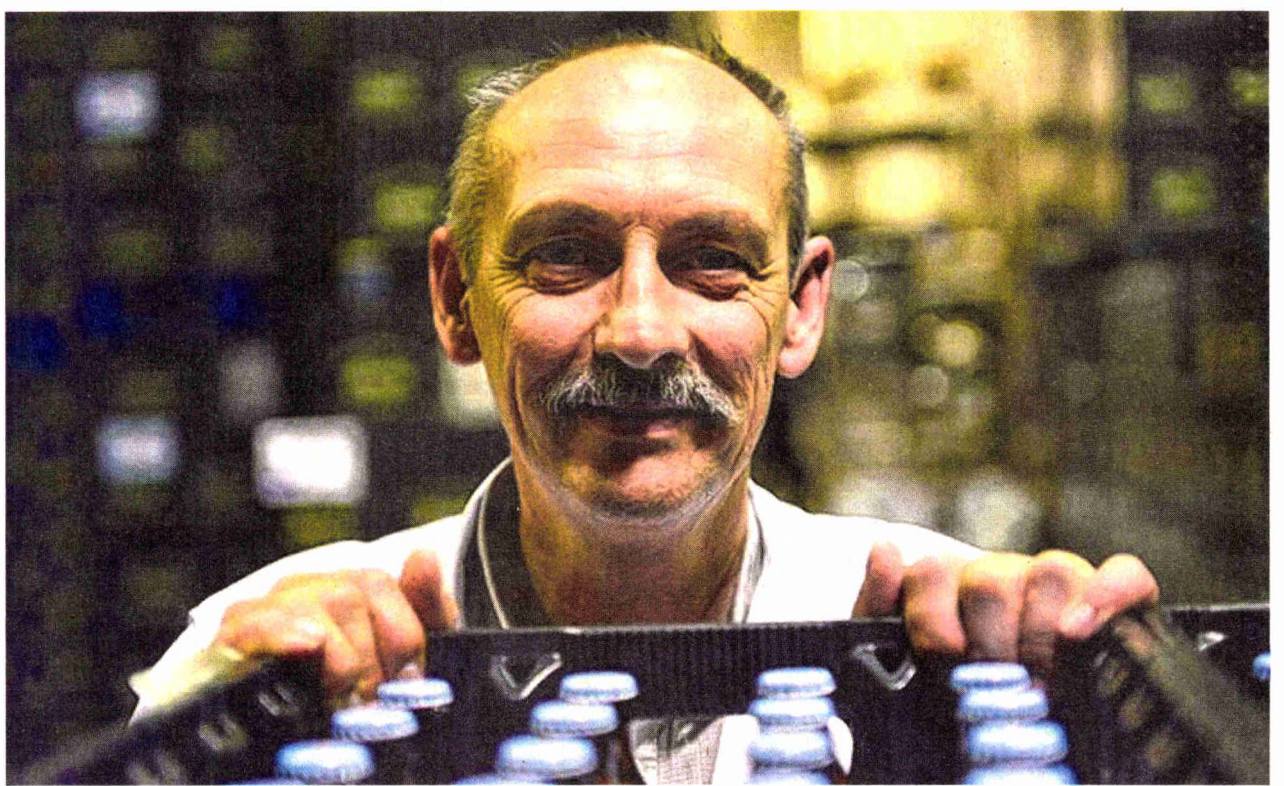
happy hour 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5. There also will be a Van Honsbrouck beer paired dinner 5-10 p.m., with personal table visits by either the owner or brewmaster, and a bottle signing 6-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, as well as a home brewers Q&A with Brouwerij Van Honsbrouck and sampling 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8.

This year, in partnership with the Consulate General of Belgium, Flanders Investment and Trade and the Belgian brewers, the first Saturday is its own full festival featuring more than 200 bottles of Belgian beers from more than 80 different breweries.

Guests will get to sample the full range of Belgian beers, from vertical tastings of rare Trappist beers, to true abbey beers, Flemish red ales, traditional gueuze, lambics and more. Several brewers are coming from Belgium, along with their importers from across the country.

"We are excited to be part of this year's festival; it's a great opportunity for Americans to not only taste some amazing beers from Belgium, but also to learn about Belgian food and beverage culture," said Heidi Hoover, trade director.

"The North American Belgian Beer Festival is the largest celebration of authentic Belgian beers in the United States," said Steve Villani of Global Beer Network, a major importer of Belgian beers. "Brewers from across Belgium – arguably the best brewing country in the world – will be in attendance to offer samples and edu-



Hans Mehuys, who has been wielding the mash stick at the Van Honsbrouck brewery for over a quarter of a century, will join fifth-generation owner Xavier Van Honsbrouck in kicking off the Belgian Beer Festival on Feb. 5 at Ashley's in Westland.

cate consumers on some of the best ales the world has to offer."

Space is limited and tickets are required. Tickets include beer sample tokens, festival Belgian beer glass, pin and program. NABBF first admission VIP tickets cost \$35 and allow guests in at 1 p.m. General admission is at 2 p.m. and tickets cost \$25. Additional tokens will be available at the festival for \$3 each or four for \$10. Tickets are available online at www.nabbf.org registration.

Ashley's Beer and Grill is at 7525 N. Wayne Road, just north of Warren Road. For event information, call 734-525-1667.



BROUWERIJ VAN HONSBROUCK
Xavier Van Honsbrouck will be the guest of honor at the happy hour 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5.

Clinic has new doctor in town

Dr. Elizabeth Baise-Bergeron and staff are celebrating the grand opening under new management of Sport and Spine Performance Institute, which provides chiropractic care, as well as massage therapy.

Baise-Bergeron said she's "excited about providing existing patients with on-going care, as well as accepting new patients into the clinic."

Baise-Bergeron was diagnosed with scoliosis (a curvature of the spine) at the age of 12. She was told to see an orthopedic surgeon for treatment. The orthopedic surgeon told her that she would require surgery on her scoliosis eventually.

Facing surgery, she sought out alternative treatments. It is because



Baise-Bergeron

of this that she began an interest in chiropractic care. Once she began receiving chiropractic adjustments, the curvature in her spine stopped increasing. Surgery was no longer an option for her and she has been getting adjusted ever since. This inspired her to become a chiropractor and help others.

Baise-Bergeron said she believes "chiropractic care should be the first step in treating injuries or pain, because chiropractic care favorably impacts health and well-being." She said she "takes her time with

patients and provides them with a detailed report on their specific condition."

With the multitude of chiropractors in Plymouth, Sport and Spine Performance offers clients an open floor plan, which includes multiple adjustment tables and traction tables. Clients enjoy the open atmosphere and friendly demeanor of the doctor and the staff.

The practice accepts most major insurances and the staff will verify patients' chiropractic benefits.

Sport and Spine Performance is located at 1365 S. Main in Plymouth. For more information, email Sportandspineperformance@gmail.com or call 734-927-4411.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bridal show

A Moment Forever will be at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth on Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Whimsical Occasions Bridal Show.

The retailer will be displaying its affordable Chiavari chairs, linens, invitations and more.

Automotive leadership

Dr. Theodore G. Duclos, president of Freudenberg-NOK Sealing Technologies, was recently named a 2015 Automotive Leadership Award winner by the *Detroit Free Press*.

Duclos was honored in the Labor & Manufacturing Leadership category for his work to push traditional manufacturing to the next level of lean thinking with Single Cavity Molding.

"I am humbled and honored to receive this award," Duclos said. "Innovative manufactur-



Duclos

ing technologies, and the companies and people who pursue them, are crucial to the on-going success of American industry. It is great to see them receive the recognition they deserve."

Duclos joined Freudenberg-NOK in 1996 and was promoted to president of the organization last year.

Career fair

The Washtenaw Community College Advanced Manufacturing Career Fair takes place 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11.

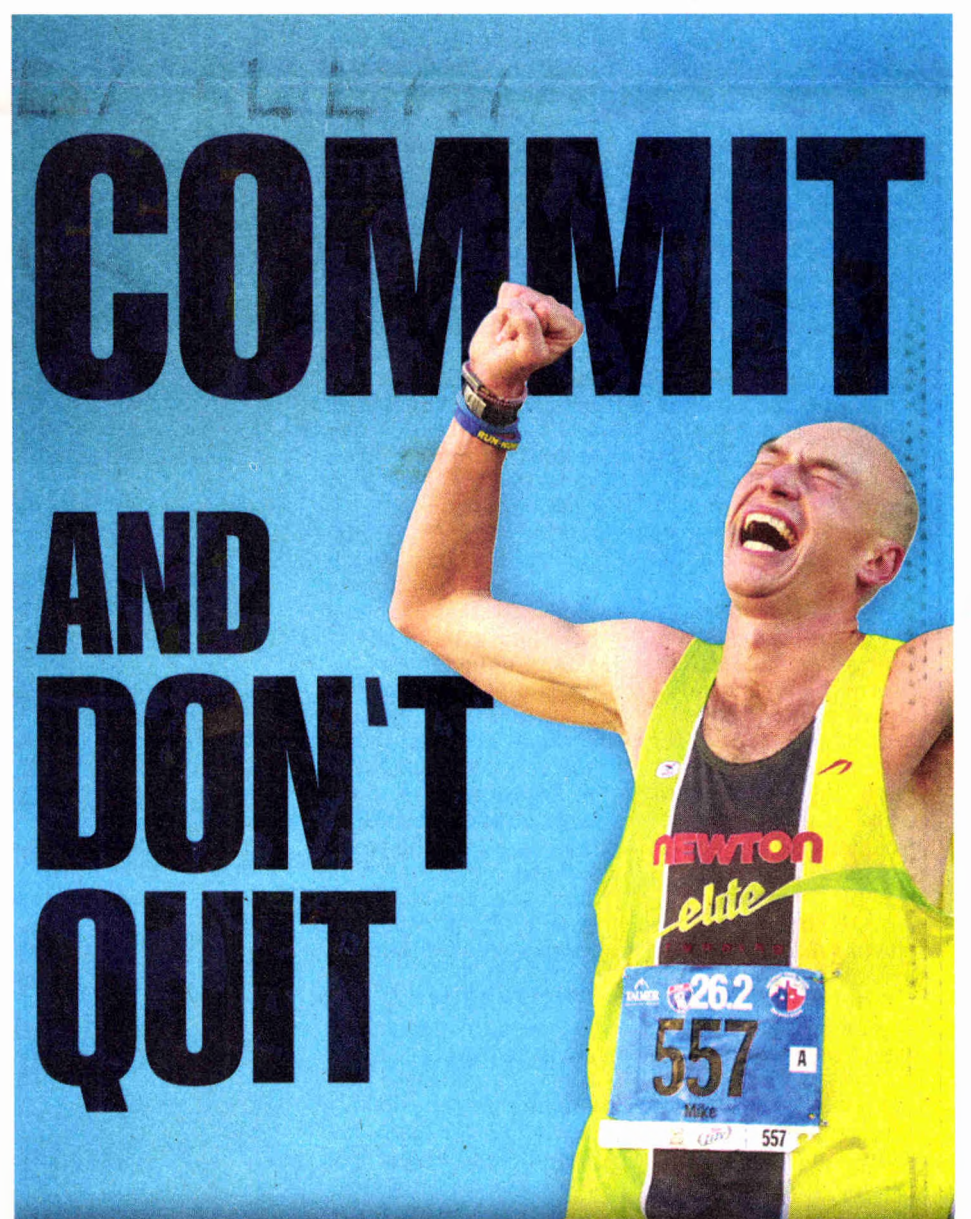
The fair is designed to connect job seekers with potential employers, a career fair specific to the advanced manufacturing industry.

Hiring managers from a wide variety of companies will be in

attendance, including Norgren Automation Solutions, Sensitile Systems, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Impact Management Services, Automated Control Systems, Mahindra GenZe, Rockwell Automation, Genoa Employment Solutions, Employment Plus and Manpower Inc. of Southeast Michigan.

Employers will be looking to find applicants to fill the following positions: automotive technicians, test engineers, field technicians, machine operators, machinists, electrical and mechanical assemblers, robot engineers, tool makers, electrical engineers and AutoCAD production technicians.

The career fair is open to WCC students, alumni and community members seeking to find positions related to advanced manufacturing. Student and job seeker registration is at wccnet.edu/careerfair.



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COURTESY DAWN ALBERTSON HANSEN

Starkweather School, circa November 1975.

Starkweather School part of Plymouth Old Village history

By Daniel Sabo
Correspondent

I was mopping up behind the lunch counter of S.S. Kresge, across from Kellogg Park, in spring 1977. I walked my old fifth-grade teacher – later principal of Starkweather School – John Howe.

He came to me and asked, “Dan, we are having a 50th anniversary celebration and are inviting the whole town. How would you like to read the same speech that your grandfather Karl did at the cornerstone laying ceremony 50 years ago?” I gulped and said OK.

Never thought that 38 years later the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district would not want its grand old lady of elementary schools – or would approve bulldozers for her.

Long wait

I visited the Board of Education offices to inform the board and superintendent about mementos in the copper box set in the cornerstone May 2, 1927, by my grandfather and board president Henderson. I suggested it be recovered for the museum, since the board voted the previous month to dispose of her.

After waiting nearly four months for an answer, I learned the sale had not yet closed and likely would not for some time. So I attended the regular board meeting Jan. 13 and read a statement denoting 16 historic sites within Old Village, including Starkweather School, which warrant placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

I indicated why I felt it wrong to sell to a developer whose intention was to demolish the building and offered many ideas for how the property could be used. I urged members of the board to reconsider. I expressed why I felt this was a local, county, state and federal issue.

Five generations

This perspective came from having attended Starkweather Elementary school for six years, from 1965-71. My mother attended from 1927-33. I was a fifth-generation

resident of Old Village, knowledgeable about local history from a young age.

The day after the school board meeting, I attended a community forum in Lower Town at Crawford’s Kitchen, called by the potential buyer, Curtis Building Co. The buyer asked for community support for the housing project. No promises were offered, other than the building possibly being saved by either said buyer, or a third party buyer, pending inspection.

It was suggested at the meeting that the building is filled with environmental hazards, including asbestos. Yet Sam Hudson in his book *Michigan’s Tenth Largest* states that in 1979, the school board heard a report showing that throughout P-CCS, only Central Middle School had a significant amount.

P-CCS should long ago have applied for inclusion of the building on the National Register of Historic Places, plus applied for federal assistance to make any needed improvements, maintenance and/or remediation. Sadly for the past several years, P-CCS has done a very poor job of maintaining this historic and beloved building.

Much-needed school

Russell Wingard and my grandfather Karl Starkweather were two among many in Old Village whom were instrumental in getting a much-needed first elementary school in town built there, instead of downtown.

Parents wanted a school near their children. The school board later named it after his grandfather, George, who among other things was an early Plymouth school teacher in the 1840s when he was 16.

George’s father William built a school house near Starkweather Avenue and Main Street in the 1830s. George was also a school board member and trustee, who had family ties to local abolitionists and conductors on the Underground Railroad and who was a community and business leader who wore many hats, including village president, township supervisor and state repre-



George and Amelia Starkweather, circa 1901. Starkweather School was named after George.



Helen Meyer, teacher, arranges the display of Starkweather’s history for Sunday’s rededication of the 50-year-old school building. (Staff photo by Gary Cuddey)

Starkweather observes 50th year on Sunday

Plymouth Observer – May 5, 1977



The Plymouth Observer recognized Starkweather’s 50th anniversary May 5, 1977.

sentative.

Getting the school built was a hard fought battle. Fliers were distributed, community support came for the

school, bonds were voter approved Nov. 22, 1926, to provide the means for construction. At that time, the cost according to the *Plymouth Mail* was



Karl Starkweather offers remarks May 2, 1927, with then school board President John Henderson, at the event that saw the laying of the cornerstone for Starkweather School.

\$200,000 – in today’s money, about \$2.7 million. As you can see from the photographs, there was a lot of community support.

Business support

Some local businesses support this housing project; one even stated so at the meeting. The more homes, more business idea. There, however, needs to be logical balance between maintaining economic activity, without harming overall historic significance.

There are Old Village families (and customers) I have spoken with, some going back more than a century, that are not happy about the project for many reasons. Local business owners need to give equal consideration to their feelings as well.

Cramming more housing into the already small

and concentrated historic village footprint will create more traffic, require additional parking. Eventually, existing structures and residences will suffer. I have seen it happen since the 1970s.

Turning over historic public property that was purchased and built with funds approved by voters to private firms for either demolition or major re-purposing for private use should also be decided by a vote of the people of Plymouth, since 89 years ago it was voter approved and voter maintained since.

Old Village is a true historic little gem. It should be protected for future generations, because once gone, it is gone forever.

More information on local history can be found at facebook.com/dbsabo.

W-W's Children's Drama Club presents 'Annie Kids'

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The story of Little Orphan Annie will come alive on the stage of Stockmeyer Auditorium in Wayne this weekend as the Wayne-Westland Community School District's Children's Drama Club presents *Annie Kids*.

A new member to the club, Alexis Robertson of Wildwood Elementary will don the red wig to star in the title role, while Jeremy Falsetti of Adams Upper Elementary will play Daddy Warbucks.

"I wanted this role because I watched the movie and liked the acting," said Jeremy, who is in his second Drama Club production. "I sing *New York City* and *Tomorrow*. My singing voice, to me I don't like, but Miss McKolay liked it."

Teacher Anne McKolay has been directing children's productions for seven years. She started staging shows with students at Schweitzer Elementary and then opened it up to other students in the district. This year, 50 students are involved in the production.

Preparations for the 40-minute show started in October to accommodate earlier than normal play dates. With the auditorium booked through the end of the school year, January was the only time it was available for the show.

"It seems like it's been a long time, but it's gone really quick," she said.

After doing *Peter Pan*, which had a lot of scenery and props, last year, McKolay has gotten smart. David Green has been making props and many do double duty. Walls and a large window dominate the stage and are on casters so they can be flipped around. One side is gray and dingy for the orphanage, while the other side is bright and white for Daddy Warbucks' house. McKolay has also



Annie (Alexis Robertson) dances with Grace (Megan Blair).

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Katie Lyle and other cast members perform "Maybe."

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Mrs. Pugh (Kalin Baldwin) hurries through the scene.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Annie (Alexis Roberts) and Duffy (Leah Hart) push Molly (Gracie Barber) in a laundry cart.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

gotten help from Emerson Middle School in Livonia, where she has borrowed props and costumes. The furniture pieces will stay on stage with a hand-painted backdrop coming down

in front during the play. Like Falsetti, Robertson had a specific role in mind - Annie. She had been wanting to do theater for several years and when she saw the flier for the play, she decided

to audition. "I was surprised I got the role," Robertson said. "A whole lot of other

CHILDREN'S DRAMA CLUB

What: *Annie Kids*
When: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30, and 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31
Location: Stockmeyer Auditorium at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St.
Tickets: \$3 at the door
Director: Anne McKolay, with Leigh Goying as music director
Featuring: Students from Schweitzer, P.D. Graham, Wildwood and Walker-Winter elementary, Adams and Marshall upper elementary and Franklin Middle schools

girls had auditioned. I didn't expect it." She has practiced the songs and has even had voice lessons to get ready for opening night. She is trying to be like Annie in the movie, but is putting a bit of her spin on the character.

"The hardest part has been memorizing the lines," she said. "I have a lot of lines and I'm on stage a lot."

Angelina Williams may have the most stylish role of the production, playing Lily. She wears a black dress with black gloves and a jewel-encrusted cuff bracelet. Like Robertson, she's a first-timer and is enjoying the experience.

"My friends are in the show and I like acting, singing and dress up," she said. "It's been fun."

For Falsetti, the hardest part of the production has been the seventh scene, set in Warbucks' mansion.

"I get stuck there," he said. "Either I don't remember my lines or I don't pay attention to who's going where."

He's not worried, though. "The last day, it usually comes together," he said.

smason@hometownlife.com
734-674-2332
Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

Specs Howard scholarships honor school's 45th year

Specs Howard School of Media Arts, a Michigan-owned school, is honoring its 45th anniversary by making 45 scholarships available, each valued at \$4,500, to individuals seeking training in technology driven courses including broadcast media arts, graphic design and digital media arts.

The scholarship is known as the "2015 Michigan Business Scholarship." Last year's scholarship program was an overwhelming success and school officials said there's "no better way to honor the 45th anniversary than to give away 45 scholarships."

Specs Howard recognizes the need for many metro Detroit businesses to enhance and develop the technical skill set of their current employees and wants to assist these businesses by offering scholarships in the amount of \$4,500 per award toward tuition for any Specs Howard program.

This scholarship program was created to assist individual employers and their employees and at the same time continue to develop and technically enhance the strength of the Michigan workforce.

"Michigan has some of the hardest-working employees and employers have been looking to us for years to help update their skill sets for today's technologies," President Lisa Zahodne said. "In today's environment, many companies are forced to farm out certain areas of their business to third party vendors simply because their employees do not

have the necessary knowledge. Employers will now have an opportunity to train their own staff so that they can keep the business in house. When current staff come back with enhanced skills, they can take the business quickly and more efficiently forward. Specs Howard is proud to play a part in this."

Employees must complete and submit an application, as well as a letter of request stating why they feel they are qualified for the scholarship and how it will impact their future. They must also submit a letter of recommendation, on company letterhead, from their employer stating how the training will benefit the organization.

Applications are available online at <http://info.specshoward.edu/mi-business-2015>. Candidates will be selected based on the letters of recommendation, as well as the employees' letter of request. All candidates will need to meet the standard admissions requirements.

Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and the opportunity will end when all are awarded.

"We can think of no better way to celebrate our 45th anniversary than by providing 45 future students with these scholarships," Zahodne said. "It is such a generous thing for Specs Howard to do. Anyone who knows Specs Howard knows he is a wonderful man. It is awesome to be a part of a company that believes in giving back to the local community."

Salvation Army hosts 'Love Thy Neighbor' campaign in February

At Christmas, the Plymouth Salvation Army's focus is helping families enjoy the holidays.

After the holidays, though, the corps still sees families, but the focus changes a bit to working adults and seniors, many of whom are looking for supplemental food and personal care items.

That's where the Plymouth Salvation Army's "Love Thy Neighbor" drive comes in. "Love Thy Neighbor" is a Valentine's Day drive the corps will run

throughout February to collect donations of personal care and hygiene items to help those who need it.

"Many of these folks are working and just need a bit of help to meet their bills," said Laurie Aren, the PSA's director of family and community ministries. "Rising out-of-pocket health care costs, salary reductions and other expenses can really take its toll on budgets. Also, many seniors got a small cost of living increase, but not enough to match the rising costs

of personal care items.

"We need to be sure that we take care of each other and donating personal care items is a great way to do this," she added.

The corps is accepting donations of deodorant and shaving items for men and women; toilet paper, body soap; dish soap; detergent; shampoo and conditioner; Hamburger Helper; canned chicken; and tuna. Donations can be dropped off between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9

a.m. to noon Saturday.

The corps' demographics are changing, Aren pointed out, with more and more working adults and seniors from Plymouth, Canton, Belleville and Northville reaching out for help.

"With the help of this generous community, we can continue to meet the ever-changing needs," Aren said.

The Plymouth Salvation Army is located at 9451 S. Main in Plymouth. For more information, call 734-453-5464.

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LC-000072887 #42.5

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Publish: January 29, 2015

LC-000072841 #42.2

OUR VIEW

FAIR AND BALANCED

Canton Township officials did right thing with road money lottery

Credit Phil LaJoy and the rest of the Canton Township board and administration with solving what could have been a sticky situation with a little game-show theatrics that eliminated possible political undertones.

With some \$1.5 million in road funding coming from Wayne County, Canton officials looked for – and found – a fair way to determine how to divide it. Canton officials asked homeowner associations to submit street-repair wish lists.

Some 20 associations submitted projects ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000, pushing the dollar amount beyond the \$1.5 million and causing LaJoy and other officials to hold a lottery to determine the winners. In true *Wheel of Fortune* style, LaJoy drew bingo balls from a coffee can and matched them to num-

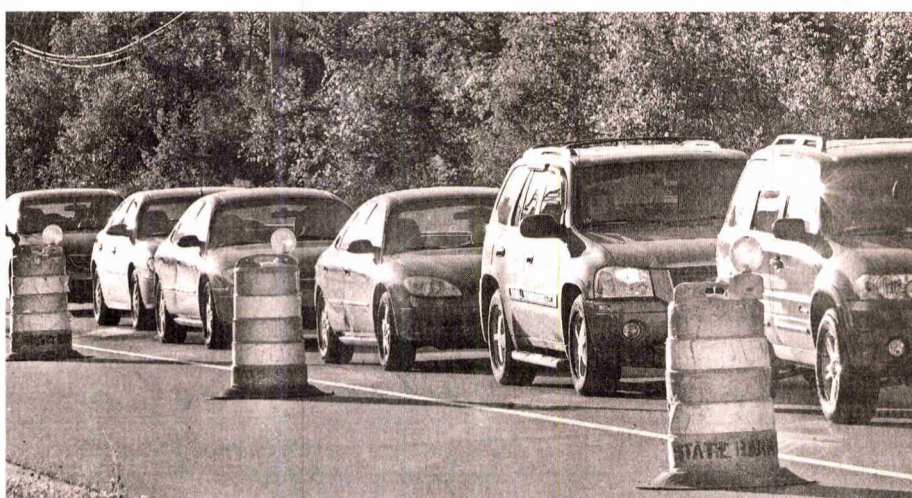
bers that already had been assigned to neighborhood groups.

Homeowner associations had to agree to pay 20 percent of the street repairs to qualify for the money, with the Wayne County dollars covering the rest. Amy Hughesdon, township operations coordinator, described most of the projects as cosmetic, such as replacing crumbling concrete and fixing damaged catch basins.

That's to be expected; as LaJoy pointed out, \$1.5 million is not a lot of money when you're talking about fixing roads.

Still, LaJoy and his administration – as he does with most issues – found a way to split it up that was fair and without the taint of political gamesmanship.

Everybody wins – especially the 13 neighborhoods that will now benefit.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thirteen Canton neighborhoods will share \$1.5 million for road repairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No recall evidence

Guest columnist Sandra Groth wrote she is one of the organizers of the effort to recall four elected officials of Plymouth Township. She submitted very weak criteria for putting the township through an expensive and divisive recall.

She stated that "If the officials don't want to do the job that they were elected to do – and if they don't want to serve at the will of the citizens – they don't belong there." I was amazed how this sentence is not supported by the evidence.

Ms. Groth presented no evidence that the four township officials targeted by her group are not doing the job to which they were elected by the people. We have police protection, fire protection, emergency health assistance (which our family is thankful for), improving recreational facilities, a balanced budget, excellent trash service, a very successful Hazardous Disposal Day and no scandal of any kind.

Last winter, those officials were able to come up with the funds to plow the record-breaking snow from the streets. The people were able to reach the main roads, school buses were in service in the subdivisions, fire trucks could get through and that nasty trash was hauled away. It seems to me that they and the other three trustees are doing the job they were elected to do.

The statement "If they don't want to serve at the will of the citizens, they don't belong there," is another unsupported statement. They were elected by the citizens to direct and administer the needs of Plymouth Township. This they have done.

Ms. Groth was a candidate for trustee in 2014, but was not successful in convincing the citizens that she was better timber to carry out the responsibilities that must be done by

an elected officeholder. To her credit, she states in the guest column, "Plymouth Township is a pretty darn good place to live."

The organizers of the recall group call themselves "Concerned Citizens." They are creating a smokescreen in an attempt by a promoter to get Plymouth Township involved in building a Plymouth Art and Recreational Complex jointly with the city of Plymouth.

The township of Plymouth and the city of Plymouth tried at least two joint ventures – joint police and fire departments – and both were dissolved.

The *Plymouth Observer* reported in January the city of Plymouth approved to hire outside help to resolve the issue of money owed to the township for legacy costs of several million dollars for retirement and health costs for the firefighters.

Since the city has failed to fulfill its former obligations to the township, why would the township want to enter into additional financial agreements with the city?

The "Concerned Citizens" are willing to cause chaos in the township by ousting four officials who, with the other three trustees, have done a good job.

William G. Cole
Plymouth

Enhancing lives

Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex would preserve and enlarge the only public place in Plymouth city that has a swimming pool, football, baseball and soccer fields, plus track.

Central Middle School's history goes back to 1835. More than a dozen currently "homeless" art, music and recreational entities, including the Plymouth YMCA, are strong supporters of PARC.

It would be in the geographic heart of the community. Plymouth-Canton's school

board should vote to preserve and build upon these assets, if they are truly to vote for what is best for the children and families of the Plymouth-Canton community.

Vote for "sound minds in sound bodies." Vote for history and culture. Vote for PARC, which has already met your asking price. What price would you put on the number of children whose lives would be enhanced and well served for present and future generations?

Angela Farrow
Plymouth

SOTU response

The Islamic Society of North America issued the following statement Tuesday after President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address:

We commend the president for his values-based address on the various issues affecting everyday Americans and showing his vision on where he wants our country to go.

His statements on the respect for human dignity through his prohibition of torture along with further constraints on the use of drones, shows some positive progress on issues that have undermined our standing in the world. ISNA is a founding member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and has issued public statements condemning the unfettered use of drones.

What we find alarming however, was the reaction of audience seated in the House of Representatives chamber after the president remarked, "It's why we continue to reject offensive stereotypes of Muslims – the vast majority of whom share our commitment to peace." The audience, which was made up of senators, congressmen, members of the supreme court and other senior officials of government of both political parties, reacted in silence.

Just moments before, they

applauded the president's statements on rejecting anti-Semitism and then after the statement about Muslims, they applauded his statements condemning the persecution of LGBT, women, political prisoners and religious minorities.

The silence in the chamber has shown that the specter of Islamophobia is a problem that continues to plague our country. ISNA, along with its interfaith partners in the Shoulder-to-Shoulder Campaign, have worked tirelessly since 2010 to address anti-Muslim bigotry and Islamophobia. We hope in this new year we will be able to decrease this troubling trend and create avenues of mutual understanding and dignity.

President Obama also reiterated his promise to work toward shutting down the prison facilities in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. We hope the president can bring this goal into fruition despite the several years of resistance from congress.

On surveillance, we look forward to the forthcoming report and hope that it will lead to actual substantive safeguards and transparency that respect the civil liberties of all Americans.

While we see much potential and promise in his address, it must be accompanied with meaningful action that is consistent with the values of our country.

Edgar Hopida
ISNA

End marriage discrimination

Our Republican Attorney General Bill Schulte's, long, bitter and useless fight against gay marriage is about to end. Rather than being the chief police officer for all of Michigan, Schuette's self-defined mission seems to be to carry out the extreme social agenda of the conservative Republicans.

If this were simply a case of Schuette appealing a portion of the Republican Party, this is one thing. The issue is not Schuette's constipated ideology, rather needless expense on taxpayers' dime.

If Schuette wants to make his Custer's last stand or George Wallace standing in the school house door, let him do it on his dime.

The Supreme Court will likely eliminate all gay marriage bans as unconstitutional and not covered by the equal protection clause of the our Constitution. When these laws are struck down, and we predict they will by a 6-3 or 7-2 vote, will Schuette refund money to the taxpayers that he has wasted to prevent marriage equality?

We look forward to ending marriage discrimination and Michigan fully supporting marriage equality.

Gerald Maxey
Farmington Hills

Minimum wage debate

Nothing can be more gifting to others than to raise one's pay, especially when the cold sets in. This year, numerous protests have prompted more violence within the nation, but about 25 percent of those protests, according to various sources, have been linked to hiking the minimum wage nationwide.

You and I can do something about this. We can stop the poverty increase and increase the federal minimum wage. We can petition Congress to change their point of view, join those who are currently in the situation or donate to those who are suffering from this. I pledge to start today. Will you join me? If we don't change how Congress can help others, we may all be soon surrounded by beggars.

Elgan Wu
Raise the Minimum Wage member

STAFF COLUMN

Road to dream job stopped right here

Around Labor Day 1996, I was attending a picnic event at the *Eccentric Newspapers* headquarters in Birmingham.

Company managers were cooking hot dogs and burgers for the staff and I was talking to a few of my new colleagues. I had been with the Oxford/Lake Orion/Clarkston *Eccentric* for just a couple of weeks. Someone said they'd been with the company 10 years and I, jokingly, said, "If I'm here that long, shoot me."

I figured at the time it was the stepping stone to bigger and better things, maybe that dream job covering the De-



Brad Kadrich

troit Tigers for one of the dailies in town. Surely it wouldn't take me 10 years, I was thinking.

Nearly two decades later, I'm still here, writing my final column for the *Observer Newspapers*.

It's been a great ride, starting with my time as the sports editor in three of the most sports-crazy towns I've ever seen. I moved to Ply-

mouth as the *Plymouth Observer* editor in November 1999, right about the same time the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band was winning a national championship.

I've seen a lot happen in Plymouth Township and (the last six years) in Canton. No need to rehash most of it; some has been good (the sprayscape at Plymouth Township Park, multiple festivals in the city of Plymouth, IKEA in Canton) and some has been bad (the fire department issues in Plymouth Township, Ford Road traffic in Canton).

More than the events, though, have been the people. I have encountered some of the most amazing people, from mothers dealing with children with cancer to a young South American boy who came to town to have his club feet corrected and left here walking tall.

Paul Sincock is the guy I'd want managing my city and, if Dan Dwyer ever runs for president, I'm voting for him. Say what you want about

Ron Edwards (and people say plenty), but since I had my first of three cardiac ablations four years ago, the man has never finished a conversation without asking about my health. He has a good heart.

I've gained a new appreciation for the arts thanks to the people I've met here. Jill Breen Engel is working hard to bring a new arts complex to Canton's Cherry Hill Village. And Jennifer Tobin has a passion for theater and the arts that transcends anything I've ever felt. Her enthusiasm is absolutely contagious.

One of the most amazing people I've met is Deb Madonna. From her compassionate heart and never-say-die attitude sprang the Miracle League of Plymouth. Because she believes in something, you automatically know it's a worthy cause.

One day she had this idea to help special-needs kids enjoy playing America's pastime and seemingly the next day Bilkie Family Field was up and running.

The Plymouth-Canton school district has been mine to cover the last few years and it's been a joy. The marching band, the drama programs, Diana Woodward and the culinary arts kids, Jay Obsniuk and the FIRST Robotics teams, the teachers, the administrators ... all have been a joy to cover.

There's no way to mention everyone who has had an influence on me – good or bad – in the last 18 years. To anyone I left out, you have my profound apologies. All of you have my undying gratitude for making Plymouth (and, for the last few years, Canton) my second home.

When I hired in back in 1996, I figured it was the first step toward my dream job. Turns out, for the last 18 years, this has been my dream job. And all of you helped make it so.

In five days, Brad Kadrich will be the former editor of the *Plymouth and Canton Observers*. Until Monday, Feb. 1, he can be reached via email at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

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LOCAL PLAYER MAKES GOOD



Plymouth Whalers defenseman Tyler Sensky signs an autograph for seventh-grader Marissa Getschman during a recent postgame skate.

MANDY GETSCHMAN | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

OBSERVERLAND
WRESTLING
TOURNAMENT

Plymouth set to defend 2014 mat title

John Glenn seen as tourney favorite

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Several intriguing questions will be answered at Saturday's 24th annual Observerland Wrestling Tournament, which is set to begin at 9 a.m. in the Livonia Churchill gymnasium.

Can 2014 champion and first-time winner Plymouth repeat?

Will perennial power Novi Detroit Catholic Central bring its 'A' team?

Do the surging Rockets from Westland John Glenn have enough fuel to outlast the talent-stocked roster of teams that attend the event every January?

John Glenn head coach Bill Polk isn't sure about the first two questions, but he's pretty confident about the third.

"I think we should win it," said Polk, whose team has rocketed to a 21-3 record. "If CC's 'A' team is there, they'll probably be the favorite, but I still think we have a shot at beating them. We'll see."

Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey views the Rockets as the favorite. But he expects his team to be in the hunt.

"We should do all right at Observerland," Guernsey said. "I don't think we will have the firepower to win it, but we definitely should finish near the top. Michael Jordan, Dylan Dwyer and Hussein Youssef all have very good chances of winning the tournament."

"Collin Reed and Isiah Berry have been wrestling very well lately and should contend. Sterling and Spencer Schiffrer should also place and could make the finals if they have good days."

Fourteen teams competed in last year's tournament, a slightly lower number than normal.

"I think one reason teams choose not to attend is that there are so many big tournaments this time of year and the same teams are at each one," Polk said. "You don't want to wrestle against the same guys every week."

See WRESTLING, Page B2

HOME-GROWN

Compuware's always been place to be for Canton's Sensky, now a Whalers defenseman

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Things are coming full circle for Plymouth Whalers defenseman Tyler Sensky and he doesn't mind one bit.

After a recent Ontario Hockey League game at Compuware Arena, the 17-year-old Canton native skated with hockey-loving youngsters as part of Kids Day festivities.

It wouldn't have been surprising if Sensky had a flashback to when he was 6 or 7 years old, a member of the Whalers fan club joyously mingling with players like Ryan Ramsay or John Vigilante — incidentally, a current assistant coach with Plymouth.

"It was probably my biggest dream as a kid (to play for the Whalers)," the quiet-but-personable Sensky said. "I mean, I came here, watched almost every game, was part of the fan club."

"I grew up watching some of the best players go through here, so playing at this high of level for the team I watched is an amazing feat."

Fan from the start

Sensky — in his first full season playing for the very team he cheered for as a kid — has been behind the Whalers right from the start of his life, whether he knew it then or not.

"I was here for the first game that they played here (1997-98)," he said. "I was a baby; my mom brought me. We'd always come from then on out. So I started to remember games when I was probably 4."

"My favorite Whaler probably would be Ryan Ramsay. I always thought of him as a great guy, hard-working out there, a captain for us. Always was my favorite player."

See SENSKY, Page B3



Always comfortable on the Compuware Arena ice, Tyler Sensky of the Whalers skates with fans following a recent game. Sensky was a member of the Whalers fan club when he was a youngster.

MANDY GETSCHMAN | PLYMOUTH WHALERS



Getting set to snap a shot on the Regina goal is PCS Penguins forward Shannon Schuit, who scored twice Tuesday.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

PREP GIRLS HOCKEY

Penguins break the ice in 4-1 win

Victory is confidence booster for team, players

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For long stretches Tuesday night, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins varsity girls hockey team skated circles around Regina at Arctic Edge Arena.

Penalty shots were directed at Regina goaltender Alex LaRue for, past her, nothing but, for a her. Throw in the little fact that

Regina scored the lone goal of the first period and the slumping Penguins — trying to stop a three-game losing streak — might have thought "here we go again." PCS trailed after one period despite a 17-2 edge in shots.

But then PCS forward Shannon Schuit scored at 4:20 of the second period, cutting in from the left wing. Schuit was rejected by LaRue on her first try, but she stuffed in her own rebound.

Eventually, the Penguins went in front on a goal by captain Megan Brace with about 10

minutes left in the final period and PCS went on to a 4-1 Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League victory.

"We've been struggling to score goals for the last couple weeks," PCS head coach Jenna Donnelly said. "So it was finally nice to get one. We keep preaching you get one and eventually it's going to start coming."

"We had to adjust a little here and there and we were able to capitalize."

The Penguins (6-6) had to

See PENGUINS, Page B2

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SOCCER

Duhl taking on new coaching challenge

He steps down from Salem girls soccer helm

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Scott Duhl is leaving Salem's varsity girls soccer team — again — less than a year after a dramatic community outpouring of support helped him get reinstated.

But this isn't a case of Duhl willingly walking away from the Rocks, he emphasized during a telephone interview Tuesday.

Duhl, also a longtime coach with the Michigan Wolves-Hawks Soccer Club, resigned because he was given the opportunity to take over the coveted Hawks U18 Academy team.

It had nothing to do with the 2014 saga where he was unjustly fired and then re-hired as Salem's girls coach.

"I wasn't actually trying to step away, espe-

cially with the stuff that went on last year," Duhl said. "... I felt like I owed it not only to the players, but some of the community for going to bat for me (to continue this season).

"But the end goal is either to be a director in the club or potentially coach a college team. This is pretty much a no-brainer in terms of a bigger role."

Salem's recently hired athletic director, Brian Samulski, concurred that Duhl left the girls program on the best of terms. Duhl still is the Salem boys soccer coach.

"I would like to thank Scott for all his time and effort he put into the girls soccer program at Salem," noted Samulski, in an e-mail to the *Observer*. "He had a great impact on the girls he coached and will be missed. I wish him the best of luck with his



Duhl

Academy team."

Duhl's new team is part of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy, an elite program "to try to improve the environment that the kids are in, get them kind of training together. It's also another tool to identify top players for national teams."

Duhl also will coach three other Wolves (boys) and Hawks (girls) club teams that train in Livonia and Wixom.

So with time demands needed to adequately coach four club teams, adding the Rocks to the mix would have been too much to take on.

"I could be there like half-time, or part-time," Duhl said. "It wouldn't be fair to the girls for me to do that."

Duhl did say he will miss Salem, too.

"I think this is the first year where talent-wise, Salem could potentially have the most talent at the Park," Duhl said. "... I'm just hoping they can have a good year."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

PENGUINS

Continued from Page B1

grind it out even after taking the lead, however. Brace had just put PCS in front when she tapped in a puck from the Regina goal crease, after line-mate Lizzy O'Donohue hit the post with an attempt.

But right off the ensuing faceoff, Regina's Haley Brach broke in on Penguins goalie Kaitlyn Isom, who came through with a clutch save at a key moment.

Although PCS outshot Regina 44-8, Isom played well after the first shot she saw in the game (taken by Isabelle Thibault) got past her.

"She made a couple huge saves that would have changed the difference of the game had they gone in," Donnelly said. "She looked strong. ... It's hard when you haven't played in a month to come in and get back into the game."

The Penguins added some breathing room at 8:50, when Schuit scored her second of the game.

Brianna Waggoner skated around the Regina net and sent a perfect centering pass to Schuit, whose low shot found the mark. Also assisting was Gabby Godre.

"I'm not sure, both of them were kind of fluky," Schuit said about which goal she liked better. "It's



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Celebrating after scoring the tie-breaking goal Tuesday night is captain Megan Brace (right) of the PCS Penguins. Helping her celebrate is Lizzy O'Donohue.

nice."
"(Schuit) has been on a dry spell," Donnelly said. "I think she's gone the last six or seven games without a goal. She started so strong, I think she had 13 in the first five and she hasn't scored since until tonight."

"So we kept telling her to keep shooting, all you need is that one goal and eventually they'll start going in."

Schuit then set up the final goal of the night, scored at 11:36 on a backhandler from the slot by Michelle Cirino.

"She's a little fireball; she just goes," Donnelly said about Cirino. "There's never a day where she's not going. I thought she had an in-

credible game today. "She scored a goal for us and we expect big things out of her."

Donnelly added that the team got a lift out of Brace getting a goal. Brace missed all of December due to an injury.

"Seeing her score that goal was good for her, it will be a confidence-booster," the coach said. "I think the whole team felt it, too."

The Penguins now gear up for Senior Night at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Arctic Edge. But who the opponent will be is yet to be determined.

According to Donnelly, originally scheduled Port Huron might leave the league. If that happens, PCS will host Northville.

WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

Livonia Franklin head coach Dave Chiola expects a wide-open race if the Shamrocks don't bring their top squad.

"If CC brings their 'A' team, they will be the clear-cut favorites," Chiola said. "Otherwise there will be many teams that will vie for the top spot, including John Glenn and Plymouth. Churchill will make some noise, along with Salem. I haven't seen some of the teams yet this year, but every team usually has one or two individuals that do well."

"It's been one of my favorite tournaments since we started it over 20 years ago. The coaches and kids all know each other really well, so there's a lot of heated competition. I think we'll have some kids that will do pretty well; we'll have some other kids that will see how much they need to improve. With the exception of the Wayne County tournament and KLAA, we see a lot of rematches at this point

of the year."

Farmington Harrison seniors Michael Volyanyuk and Dan Allor can be expected to do well in this year's tournament.

Volyanyuk was the 112-pound champion last year and will be among the favorites at 119. He is 25-0 with 18 pins and is ranked in the state by michigangrappler.com.

"I think 119 pounds is going to be one of the toughest weight classes at the tournament," Harrison coach Jon Herstein said. "As a returning champion, I am sure Mike is looking forward to the challenge."

Allor, who finished third at 130 last year, boasts a 24-2 record that includes 10 pins and also is state-ranked at 135.

"Dan is a strong wrestler who continues to improve every week," Herstein said. "He is capable of winning this tournament."

Harrison seniors Ryan Boynton (17-7) and Mar-keith Hunt (17-6) also will be competitive at 140 and 215, respectively.

Others who could do well are Austin Crutchfield (125), Dominic Shepherd (160) and Di-

vine Filemu (171).

"Austin has a great workout partner in Mike Volyanyuk," Herstein said. "Dominic is coming back from being sick, but has been coming on as of late."

"Divine has made tremendous progress as the season has gone on. As a freshman who is 14-9, he could be someone who sneaks up on people in his weight class."

Farmington seniors Jesse Jones (130), Chase Walkowiak (112) and Manny Sanchez (285) and junior Dan Manier (103) will be contenders at their respective weights.

"All have high expectations and should do well barring injuries," Falcons coach Al Beyar said. "The *Observer* tournament always produces all-state wrestlers and it's a good prelude to the upcoming state competition."

Jones (29-3) was the runner-up at 130 last year; Walkowiak (16-8) was fourth at 103. Manier takes a 29-1 record into the tournament, Sanchez a 19-7 record.

ewright@hometownlife.com

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Slumping Whalers can't weather Storm in 3-0 loss

Blue-collar effort not enough for Plymouth as scoring disappears

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Time is quickly running out on the Plymouth Whalers in their quest to get back in the Ontario Hockey League playoff race, especially if they continue with their recent two steps forward, two steps back routine.

Plymouth head coach Don Elland is fully aware of that as he sat glumly in his office at Compuware Arena following his team's 3-0 loss to Guelph. On the heels of Friday's 5-1 defeat at Niagara, all of a sudden a two-game winning streak segued into a two-game slide.

"We know that every game is our most important game of the year," Elland said. "We're talking about how we have to play playoff hockey the rest of the year. They know how important it is, so I'm sure there is a little bit of added pressure."

"But that's the spot we've got ourselves in and that's the spot we got to dig ourselves out of."

With 23 games remaining, the Whalers (15-26-2-1, 33 points) fell 11 points behind Saginaw (21-23-1-1, 44 points) for the eighth and final playoff spot in the OHL Western Conference. Saginaw lost 3-1 Saturday to Barrie.

Elland didn't mince words about how the Whalers are having a tough time lighting

the lamp, but he credited his team for how they battled the Storm (26-17-2-1, 55 points) for 60 minutes before 2,481 fans.

"We worked hard and I thought we deserved better tonight," Elland said. "We didn't deserve better last night (against the IceDogs), they were way better than us. I thought tonight we deserved a better fate than losing 3-0."

Goaltending clinic

Plymouth goaltender and Carolina Hurricanes prospect Alex Nedeljkovic and his Guelph counterpart, Justin Nichols, traded stops during the scoreless opening period.

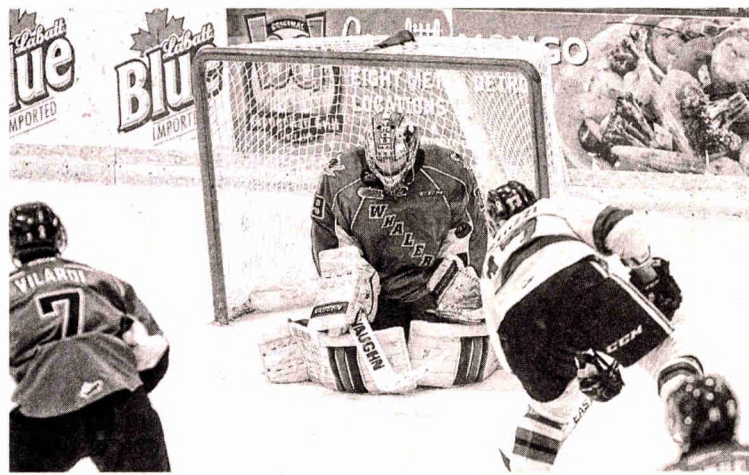
Nedeljkovic was stellar early on as the Whalers killed off a penalty, making nine stops — several on the doorstep — over the first half of the period. He made 15 saves in the period, while Nichols turned aside all 12 Plymouth shots.

With about four minutes to go in the first, Nedeljkovic got a leg on a one-timer taken from the left circle by forward Jason Dickinson.

Plymouth had plenty of near misses at the offensive end. Early in the second period, defenseman and Canton native Tyler Sensky made a bid for his first career OHL goal. His shot from the right circle squeaked between Nichols' goalie pads, but the puck did not cross the line.

Guelph then broke the 0-0 tie with 14:08 to play in the second, when Dickinson and winger Givani Smith skated up the gut on a two-on-one rush.

From between the circles, Dickinson sent a short pass over to Smith, who cruised in on Nedeljkovic and slipped a



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Guelph's Tyler Bertuzzi (right) is stopped Saturday night on this scoring attempt by Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic at Compuware Arena.

backhand into the Plymouth net.

Then with about 13 minutes remaining, Whalers forward Vincent Scognamiglio had a scoring chance handed to him when the Storm turned the puck over in their zone. Scognamiglio's one-timer was kicked away by Nichols, who stopped all 29 Plymouth shots.

Nedeljkovic (32 saves) also was stellar to that point, getting in front of a dangerous attempt by winger Tyler Bertuzzi and later snuffing forward Luke Burghardt's wrap-around bid.

Taking advantage

Sensky, making the most of extra playing time given him following the loss of defenseman Sean Callaghan to a shoulder injury Friday night, then gave Compuware fans a chance to get out of their seats.

About two minutes into the

third period, Sensky put a serious body check on forward Marc Stevens. The hit bowled over Stevens along the boards near Plymouth's bench.

"(Sensky), the game has slowed down for him," Elland said. "He's got confidence, he's playing the way he should play. He's playing with a little bit of an edge and he's keeping the game simple."

The back-breaker for the Whalers came with 11:47 remaining. Forward Tyler Hill's long wrist shot from just inside the Plymouth blue line floated over Nedeljkovic's shoulder to make it 2-0.

It appeared the goalie was screened on the shot, but Elland noted he wasn't able to get a good look at the play from his vantage point.

"Guys were standing up and I couldn't see," Elland said. "I don't know if it was tipped or not. Whether it was tipped or

not, you're not going to win games if you don't score goals."

Bertuzzi sealed the win for Guelph at 18:44 with an empty-netter. He stripped the puck from a Plymouth player in the Whalers' zone and hit the target from the left circle, while falling to the ice. It was Bertuzzi's 30th goal of the season.

Stay the course

Meanwhile, pucks might not be going into the opponent's net right now, but Plymouth forward Cullen Mercer said the team is still confident that it can contend for the final playoff spot.

"It's pretty good. We've been playing a lot better lately here since the trade deadline," Mercer said about the level of the team's confidence. "We've really come together and turned it on."

"A couple losses, but we played good today. So we just got to focus on the positives and keep building off that."

The Whalers will look to get back on track Thursday at Saginaw. They'll then host Belleville and Windsor at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, respectively.

"We just got to stay the course," Elland said. "I don't know how many games we have left, 20, 21, 23. We've got to play hard every game and hopefully the breaks will start going our way."

"Let's face it, we don't make excuses here, but we haven't had a ton of breaks this year. Maybe the last 20 games we'll start getting some breaks."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

Wildcats clinch KLAAs South

Plymouth's hockey team continued a stingy string Saturday against opponents' power-play chances.

The Wildcats fought off a five-minute shorthanded situation in overtime to preserve a 1-1 tie against Cranbrook at the Arctic Edge Arena. This shorthanded effort was Plymouth's 24th consecutive successful penalty kill that prevented one of the state's powerhouses from scoring the winning goal.

"No doubt it was a group effort," Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said. "All four lines were involved in the game and all defensemen were called upon and did their job."

Plymouth's overall record stands at 11-3-1. With the team's 8-1 conference record and Salem's 3-3 tie Saturday with Brighton, the Wildcats clinched the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division title.

Senior goalie Erik VandenBosch was stellar all night with 33 saves, including several while his team was shorthanded in overtime. In his last two games, he faced Hancock and Cranbrook, two of the top teams in Division 3, and stopped 57 of 59 shots.

"He followed up a great game against Hancock, where he bailed us out in the third period so we could get a win, and I thought he was even better (Saturday)," Vento said. "In that five-minute stretch in overtime, he showed why I think he is one of the best high school goalies in the state."

VandenBosch said he expected the Cranes to come out strong.

"We had to come out strong as well and we stayed with them through the whole game, battling through everything they threw at us," he said.

The teams exchanged goals late in the second period. Cranbrook forward Sean O'Leary broke free and fired a wrist shot under the crossbar to give the Cranes a 1-0 lead with 1:17 left in the period.

Plymouth responded with a give-and-go play by senior forwards Simon Nesich and Drew Brace resulting with Nesich's sixth goal of the season with 10 seconds left in the period.

Each team had a power-play chance in the third period, plus Plymouth had a wild flurry in front of the Cranbrook goal with a couple of pokes at a loose puck in the final minute of regulation, but Cranes goaltender Nolan Rogow was up to the task.

The Wildcats have been solid defensively this month, giving up only seven goals in seven games. Vento praised his team's tenacity in the defensive zone.

"Guys are outworking the opponent and sacrificing their body to get the job done," Vento said. "When you have great goaltending and outstanding penalty killing, it gives you an opportunity to win."

SENSKY

Continued from Page B1

Now, there certainly must be some little hockey fans holding Sensky in that same high regard.

"I love meeting fans, getting to know them," said Sensky, the youngest of Brenda and Scott Sensky's two children and a Canton High School student. "I actually did some of the summer camps and did parades for the Whalers."

"Seeing the kids that went to the camps and now they're back out here skating with us, it's always great to talk to them again and see what they've been up to."

On the radar

There is no doubt about what Sensky has been up to this season. He is making new fans — young and old — with every shift, every game for the Whalers.

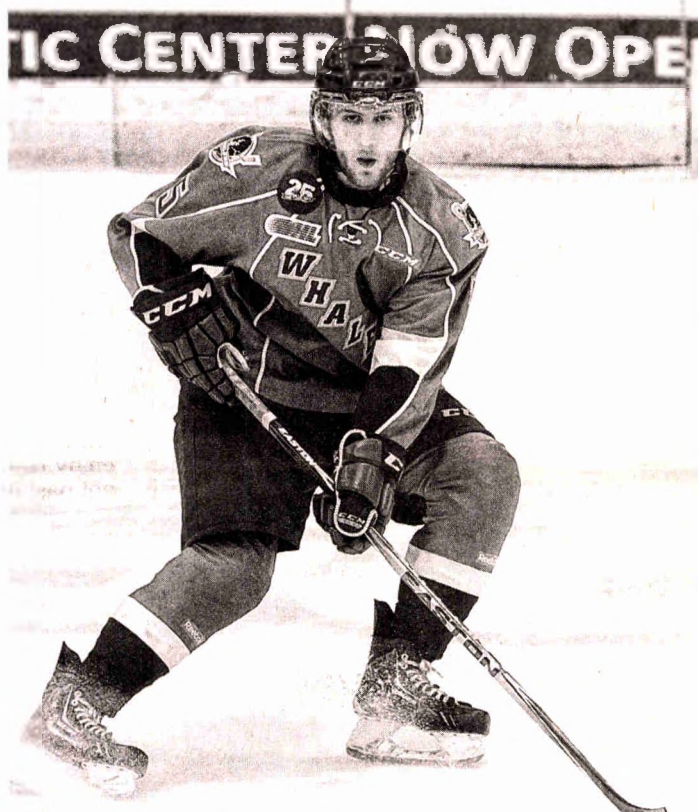
Certainly, he's always had one in Whalers first-year head coach Don Elland, who also coached Sensky with the Compuware U16 team in 2012-13.

"A couple years ago when I was filling in for a coach the last couple months of the season, Tyler was a defenseman on that team," Elland said. "I thought he was an underrated defenseman. They had a lot of high-end, offensive-skilled defensemen."

"He was a solid, stay-at-home defenseman with a really smart understanding of the game."

Elland, then an assistant coach for Mike Vellucci, recommended to the long-time Plymouth coach-GM that he draft Sensky in the 2013 OHL Priority Selection.

"We were looking for a defenseman," Elland said. "I don't know which round, eighth or ninth round, and Mike asked me what my thoughts were and I went to bat for Tyler."



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Competing during a recent Plymouth Whalers game is defenseman Tyler Sensky, who was a fan of the OHL team from a very young age.

"I believed in him and I got to work with him for two months. I knew he could play in our league."

In Hockeytown

Vellucci picked Sensky in the 12th round. Nearly two years later, with the 5-11, 190-pound Sensky having more than 40 OHL games under his belt, Elland hasn't changed his original assessment.

"Every team needs good, solid two-way defensemen that will play five-on-five, kill penalties," Elland said. "Not only that, I'd be shocked if a year or two from now he's not an assistant captain on this team because he's a great leader. He's a great kid."

Sensky made his OHL

debut during the 2013-14 season, coming over from the Honeybaked U18 team at mid-season and appearing in six contests.

One of those games was in the cold, snow and rain at Comerica Park, as part of the Hockeytown Winter Classic.

"Playing at Comerica was definitely probably my biggest achievement and high-light playing for the Whalers," Sensky said, adding that beating London in a shootout was icing on the cake. "I still can't believe how lucky I was to play outdoors with the team."

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime chance, especially at Comerica."

His ascendant career has been pretty sweet, too, especially since he's been home

for virtually all of it. He's played for the Farmington Hills Fire, which later became the Suburban Stars.

"That was travel; I was about 8 or 9," Sensky said. "And then I went to Compuware (youth hockey program) for five years."

There are many players who have graduated from the Compuware youth program to the Whalers, such as Farmington Hills native Alex Aleari (now playing in the American Hockey League).

Canton's James Wisniewski has carved out an impressive NHL career.

Living the dream

But few have embraced the local connection as warmly as Sensky has. It's simply been a dream come true to be able to play high-level hockey in his hometown.

Canton is home to a tradition of outstanding high school football, but Sensky never really gravitated to that sport. It's always been about pucks.

"A funny picture we have in my family (archive) is my dad gave me a football and a hockey stick," he said, smiling. "I just started hitting the football around with a hockey stick. I never really caught on to football, but I loved hockey."

Meanwhile, Sensky has to pinch himself to remember where he is now and where he used to be. He's still hanging out at Compuware Arena.

"When I learned I skate, I did it at Compuware," Sensky said, looking out onto the ice during the recent postgame Kids Skate. "Half the ice would be for hockey players and half the ice would be for kids learning to skate."

"And I'd always go down to the other end to play hockey when I was done with my lesson. It was fun."

That hasn't changed for Sensky in the past decade.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Salem skates to 3-3 tie against Brighton

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem and Brighton played to a 3-3 varsity boys hockey tie Saturday in a game that featured shifts in momentum and lead changes.

The Rocks trailed 2-0 in the first period at the Kensington Valley Ice House, but rallied with two goals in the second and went up 3-2 in the third.

But Salem gave up the equalizer midway through the final period.

"Overall, I thought we did a good job of limiting Brighton's quality and second chance opportunities," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "Dillon (Phillips) made some timely saves."

Phillips stopped 32 of Brighton's 35 shots. His counterpart, Jimmy Milletics made 15 stops.

Scoring for the Rocks (8-5-3 overall, 4-2-3 in the KLAAs South Division) were Marty Mills, Noah Willer and Noah Saad (who also had an assist).

A sputtering power play cost the Rocks a chance to beat Brighton.

"We failed to convert on a five-on-three opportunity," Ossenmacher said. "To win a game against a team the caliber of Brighton, you need to capitalize on those type of opportunities."

With Salem's tie, Plymouth (12-3-1, 8-1-0) clinched the division.

"We need to continue learning how to play with a lead," Ossenmacher said. "We have led in every game but

two this year.

"Learning to win is a process and we've had some bumps in the road in recent games."

"I am confident as we mature as a team it will come. Playing good teams night in and night out only helps that process."

The Rocks will do just that at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at Arctic Edge in Canton, when they face Plymouth.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

KLA A CENTRAL DIVISION BOWLING

Rocks pin loss on division foes

Rocks maintain lead at top of KLA A Central; Canton defeats Plymouth

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

State title hopefuls Salem and Canton have bigger fish to fry this season than late January dual matches against division foes.

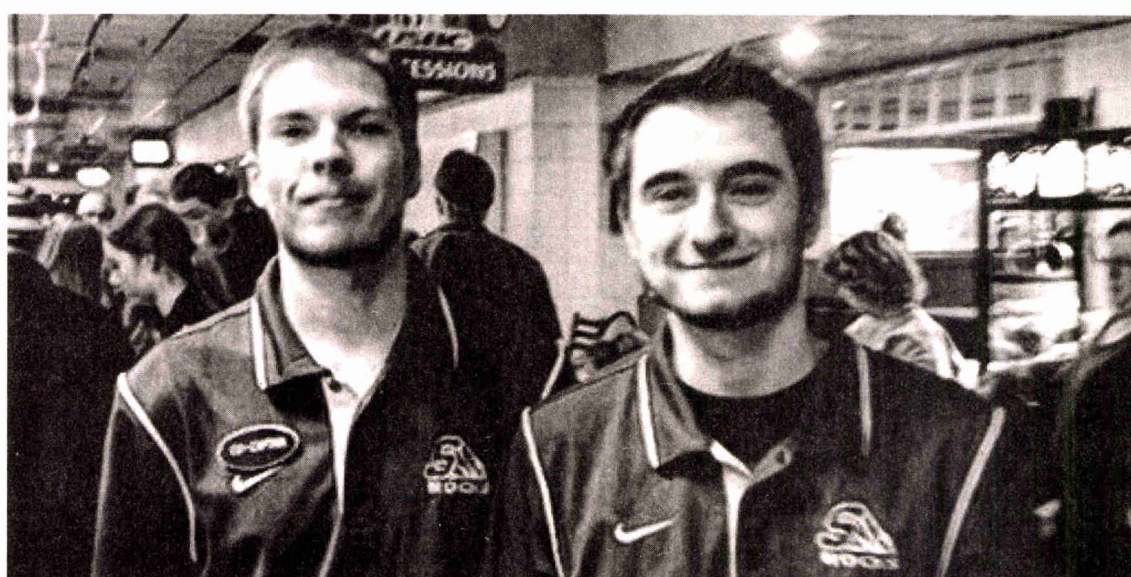
But those varsity boys bowling teams — along with Westland John Glenn — still got busy Monday at Super Bowl in Canton, trying to knock down plenty of pins while knocking their respective rivals down a peg or two in the KLA A Central Division standings.

Undefeated Salem (11-0 overall, 7-0 in the KLA A Central) needed some magic in the 10th frame of the second regular match to rally for a 15.5-14.5 victory over the always-tough Rockets in one of the afternoon's match-ups.

"We actually were in the closest match we've been in since I've been a coach, which is six years," Salem co-coach Glenn Clark said. "After the Bakers, we were down 6-4 and then we came back.

"In the second game, we were down by 43 pins. So we either had to get four bowlers out of the five to win and also win the game by 43 pins or more. And we did both."

Clark said the match came down to the final bowler, senior co-captain Tyler Ridgeway (199-213-412).



Salem senior co-captains (from left) Tony Przytulski and Tyler Ridgeway helped the Rocks defeat Westland John Glenn on Monday at Super Bowl in Canton.

"He threw a double and we won the match," Clark said.

Late push

Ridgeway said it was a huge comeback win for Salem.

"We just really needed it, we were really behind on John Glenn," Ridgeway said.

"They're a good team; we were right with them. It's an even match. We needed a little push and I gave our team that and it just gave us the hope and the drive we needed."

Others joining in for Salem included Brendan Kwopis (210-187-397), Mitchell Rucinek (175-196-371), senior co-captain Tony Przytulski (169-185-354) and Zach Gonyea (177-175-352).

"It was a team effort, defi-

nitely the whole team pulled together in that last game," Clark said. "We carried the lead throughout the game and then in the eighth and ninth frames, we started to have a few split problems.

"We let them back into it a little bit. But in the 10th frame, they all came to play and got the job done."

Although Przytulski noted he struggled for the most part Monday, he and his teammates persevered enough to rally.

"That was a tough one," Przytulski said. "I was struggling a little bit. But I ... did my best and stuck with it."

In the Canton-Plymouth dual, the Chiefs (8-2, 5-2) dominated from start to finish, earning a 28-2 victory.

"It's been a good year so far," Canton head coach Karl Brubaker said. "The match today was good. We were missing one of our better bowlers today, Mitch Zelenak was sick today.

"But I have good kids and someone else stepped in. Teddy Lang stepped in and so did my freshman, D.J. Jablonski."

Leading the Chiefs with a 210-266-476 scoreline was Tyler Pozan, while Josh Criscenti (222-173-395) and Jacob Peltz (223-160-383) both had solid showings.

Canton senior captain Aaron Madsen rolled 225 in his only game.

Top bowlers for Plymouth (4-6, 2-5) were Bryce Smith (253-158-411), Kevin Shimko

(178-171-349) and Jordan Orzech (202-142-344).

"We got a young team. We're still struggling," Plymouth head coach Scott Kapke said. "We had a good win last week against Novi. Some growing pains, for sure."

Girls recap

Also at Super Bowl, KLA A Central girls teams squared off. Only Canton left with a victory among Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams.

The Chiefs (6-4, 4-3) bested Plymouth, 24-6, paced by another outstanding performance by senior Meghan Macunovich (231-215-446).

Chipping in for Canton were Megan Peldo (176-152-328) and Maranda McMaster (166-134-300).

For the Wildcats (1-9, 0-7), the leading scorer was Nicole Marshall, with a 172-127-299 tally. Lauren Vincent registered a 145-129-274 series and Elizabeth Nicholson had a 248 series.

Salem (2-8, 1-6) dropped a 24-6 decision to perennial state powerhouse John Glenn (11-0, 7-0), despite good showings from Rachel Lopez (180-178-358), Brynna Samuels (169-175-344) and Leah Boucha (331 series).

"The girls were very tough," Clark said. "For an over-matched team, they did very well. They competed, they won a Baker game. I couldn't be more proud of our girls."

"They went up against a buzz-saw today and they bowled really well."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Crusaders women derailed in overtime

The Madonna University women's basketball team had its 10-game Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference win streak abruptly come to an end Saturday courtesy of host Lawrence Tech, which pulled out an 86-82 overtime triumph at Ridler Fieldhouse.

The No. 22-ranked Crusaders, who slipped to 13-7 overall and 12-2 in the WHAC, missed a pair of layups during the final 16 seconds of regulation play that could have clinched the victory.

Allison Kitchen's offensive rebound put-back with 38 seconds remaining sent the game into OT tied at 69-all and the Blue Devils went on to outscore MU 17-13 during the five-minute extra session.

The teams were tied at 36-all at halftime. The Blue Devils outrebounded Madonna by a whopping 48-29 margin.

Haley Walkowski came off the bench to score 19 points for Lawrence Tech, which evened its record at 9-9 overall and 7-7 in the WHAC.

Hali Butler added 18 points and 16 rebounds, while Alex Ruster contributed 15 points and nine boards.

Madonna junior guard Michele Hayes (Southfield-Lathrup), a transfer from Oakland University, finished with a game-high 28 points (on 11-of-28 shooting). The Inkster native also had five assists.

Rachel Melcher (Birmingham Marian) added 16 points and nine rebounds, while Justice Dean (Garden City) contributed 14 points. Lindsey Hernden and Lizzy Otten each scored 11.

MU shot 28-of-68 from the floor (41 percent), including



Madonna's Lizzy Otten (right) scored 11 points in Saturday's 86-82 overtime loss at Lawrence Tech.

10-of-23 from beyond the arc, to go with 16-of-22 from the foul line (73 percent).

The Blue Devils were 32-of-59 from the floor (54.2 percent) and 17-of-28 from the foul line (54.2 percent).

MADONNA 70, LAWRENCE TECH 65: Senior guard Shaun Duncan scored 16 points to lead four players in double figures Saturday

as visiting Madonna University (9-13, 5-9) held off Lawrence Tech (4-18, 1-13) during the second half for a WHAC men's basketball victory.

Senior center Donald Owens came off the bench to add 12 points and six rebounds as MU won its second straight. Chris Dierker (Salem) and Khalil Malone added 11 and 10 points, respec-

tively.

Jon Harden scored 16 points and Robbie Geoghegan added 13 off the bench for the Blue Devils, who trailed 31-20 at halftime.

The Crusaders shot 49 percent from the field (25-of-51) and 70 percent from the foul line (14-of-20). They outrebounded Lawrence Tech, 40-28.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Dierker gives MU cagers big lift

Chris Dierker came to the rescue late as the Madonna University men's basketball team snapped its three-game losing streak Wednesday night at home with a 72-66 win over Concordia University.

The Crusaders, who improved to 8-13 overall and 4-9 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, had nine of 10 players score led by the 6-foot-7 Dierker, who came off the bench to contribute 13 points.

The red shirt freshman from Salem High scored a layup and converted a free throw after being fouled with 4:27 remaining to give MU a 58-57 advantage. And it was his three-pointer with 3:11 left followed by a layup with 2:52 remaining that put the Crusaders ahead to stay, 63-59.

Dierker also came up with a big steal which led to a Shaun Duncan layup with 1:14 remaining that sealed the victory.

Sophomore Dan Hall also added 13 points on 6-of-8 shooting from the floor, while Duncan, the senior guard, contributed eight points and a team-best eight rebounds.

MU led 31-23 at halftime and shot 48.1 percent from the floor (25-of-52) despite hitting only 5-of-17 three-point attempts.

Josh Fugate led Concordia (11-8, 10-4) with 23 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Joe Remstad added 14 points and eight rebounds.

Madonna returns to WHAC play beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday at Marygrove College.

MADONNA 85, CONCORDIA 62: Second leading scorer Rachel Melcher went without a point for the first time in her career, but it didn't matter as No. 22-ranked Madonna University (13-6, 12-1) cruised to a WHAC women's basketball win at Wednesday home over Concordia University (3-17, 2-12).

Junior transfer Michele Hayes (Oakland University), named WHAC Player of the Week for the third time this season, led the way once again with 23 points, four assists and five rebounds as the Crusaders remained one game behind unbeaten and No. 2-ranked Davenport (19-0, 13-0) in the conference standings.

Freshman guard Lindsey Hernden (Romeo) added 12 points, and sophomore forward Erin Menard (Churchill) chipped in 11 points and a team-best nine rebounds.

The Crusaders, who led 44-22 at halftime, also got eight points each off the bench from Sabrina Kent and Lizzy Otten to win their sixth straight.

The Cardinals got 13 points off the bench from Leah Charrette, while Kari Borowick and Michelle Murnen added 10 and 11, respectively.

MU returns to conference action beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday at Marygrove College.



Dierker

JAY NICHOLS | LAWRENCE TECH ATHLETICS

Detroit Red Wings Alumni play for charity March 21

The Detroit Red Wings Alumni will play the United Cerebral Palsy Pucksters in a charity hockey game at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Viking Ice Arena in Hazel Park.

The event will benefit UCP/Detroit. All proceeds will be used to assist people with disabilities and their families in the metropolitan area.

The event begins at 4 p.m. with a sled-hockey exhibition featuring the Michigan Sled Dogs and will be followed by the Red Wings

Alumni-UCP Pucksters game. An afterglow pizza party will follow the game.

Admission is \$10 per person or \$30 per family (maximum five members). Children 5 and under will be admitted free. The afterglow pizza party is a \$10 donation.

There will be a silent auction at the game. Everyone can participate in a 50/50 drawing or play "Chuck-A-Puck" to win prizes. The doors open at 3:30 p.m. to begin bidding on items.

UCP/Detroit is a local

nonprofit advocacy organization representing the needs of all people with disabilities and their families in metropolitan Detroit.

Eighty-five percent of every dollar raised from UCP special events is used for programs and services that benefit directly the people it serves.

The Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association, which is the oldest such organization in the NHL, plays around 30 games a year to benefit worthy charities.

The alumni roster in-

cludes such names as John Ogradnick, Jimmy Carson, Craig Wolanan, Petr Klima, Danny Newman, Brent Feddyk, Pat Peake and fan favorite Mickey Redmond.

The Red Wing Alumni have raised more than \$230,000 over the past 14 years for the disability community.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by contacting Tamara Kincaid at 248-557-5070, ext. 117, or tkincaid@ucpdetroit.org. For more information, go to skatewithoutlimits.org.

Home Builder Association taps new leaders for 2015

Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan (HBA) has announced its leadership team for 2015. The 2015 Executive Committee includes:

» President — **Norman Finkelstein**, Norwood Homes, Ltd., Farmington Hills

» First Vice President — **James**

Clarke, Robertson Brothers Company, Bloomfield Hills

» Treasurer — **William Phillips**, Windham Development, Inc., Bloomfield Hills

» Secretary — **Lawrence Cohen**, Cohen-Homes.com, LLC, Franklin

» Immediate Past President — **Paul Aragona**, Aragona Properties, Clinton Township

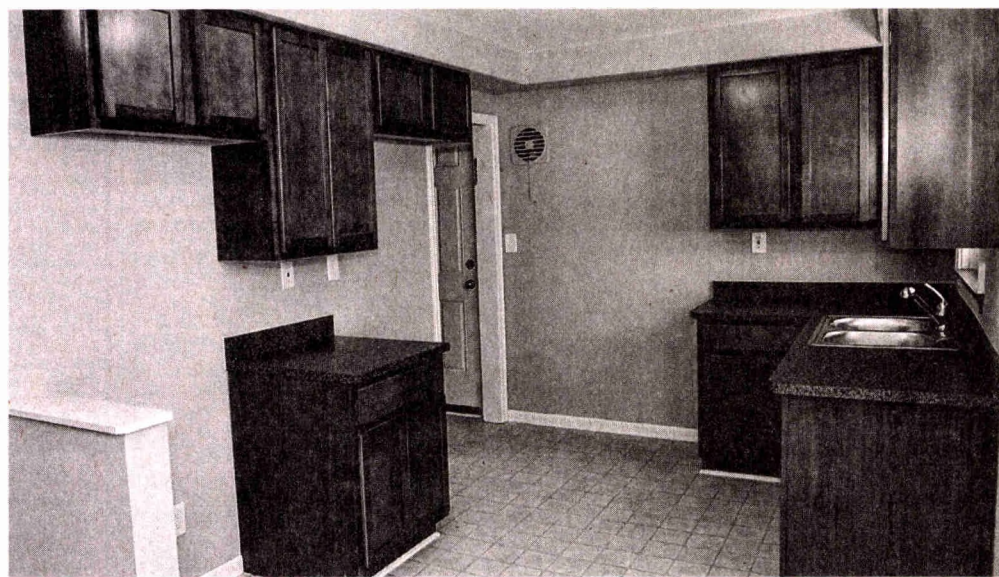
» Vice Presidents — **David S. Compo**, Compo Builders, Inc., Novi; **Rino Soave**, Infinity Homes Corporation, Livonia; **Robert M. Tedesco** of Silverado Homes, Birmingham; **Ben Templeton** of Templeton Building, Birmingham; Associate Vice President — **Katie Hallett**, TK Design & Architecture, Howell; CEO — **Michael C. Stoskopf**.

President Norman Finkelstein has developed subdivisions and condominium homes in southeastern Michigan for the past 26 years. His company, Norwood Homes, Ltd., specializes in land development, condominium conversions, custom homes, remodeling, brokerage and corporate relocation services. The company's mission is to provide quality home ownership to as many families as possible.

"We are fortunate to have Norm leading our team for 2015," said Michael Stos-



Finkelstein



The Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan focuses on residential construction

kopf, HBA's CEO. "He has been a valuable asset to this organization for many years and we are counting on his expertise to guide us through the coming year."

Finkelstein also serves as president of HomeAid Southeastern Michigan and on the Board of Directors of the HBA Charitable & Educational Foundation.

The Executive Committee is responsible for furthering the building industry's relationship with municipal and county governments and providing representation in the state and national associations. In addition, the Committee assists in overseeing HBA's mission to provide education, information, programs, net-

working, political action and all other activities that advance the building industry, while making the American dream of home ownership a reality for Michigan families.

Headquartered in West Bloomfield, Home Builders Association of SE Michigan (HBA) and Apartment Association of Michigan (AAM) are trade associations representing 800 builders, remodelers, multi-family property owners, developers and suppliers to the single family and multi-family residential construction industry. HBA is affiliated with the Home Builders Association of Michigan in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C.

Check with lawyer on foreclosure, don't just vacate premises

Q: I understand there has been a shortening of the redemption period under certain circumstances. I am living in a home now where there has been a foreclosure and I am kind of worried. Can you help me?

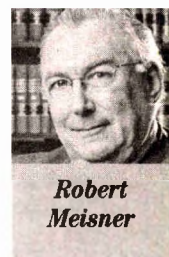
A: I think you were referring to a bill that became effective on June 19, 2014, in Michigan which changed some of the procedures to shorten the redemption period after a nonjudicial foreclosure. This legislation also eliminates the mediation provisions of the statute that

applies to parties to the National Mortgage Settlement. You are best advised to consult with an attorney as soon as possible to ensure that your rights are being protected and don't vacate the premises until you are required by law to do so.

Q: I am entering into a lease transaction as a lessee with a landlord who says he does not want to accept responsibility for any repairs to keep the place habitable and he wants to put that provision in the lease. Is that legal or reasonable?

A: You have asked a delicate question because it may not be reasonable, but it may be legal if the landlord complies with a Michigan statute which allows landlords to shift the responsibility for repair to the lessee under certain circumstances. The relevant Michigan statute provides lessees with a specific protection arising from the existence of a residential lease for habitability, and in addition to any other protection provided by the common law. Therefore, a landlord's failure to comply with the requirements to maintain the unit in good repair would be considered a breach of the terms of the lease between the parties unless the lease has a term of at least one year and the parties have agreed to modify these obligations. These obligations are that the premises and all common areas are fit for the use intended by all the parties and to keep the premises in reasonable repair to comply with applicable health and safety laws of the state and the local unit of government where the premises are located unless the tenant causes the problem. I would suggest that you contact a good real estate lawyer before entering into this type of transaction.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column should not be construed as legal advice.



Robert Meisner

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 2-5, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

16156 Locherbie Ave \$410,000

BIRMINGHAM

1255 Bird Ave \$612,000

1099 Canterbury St \$395,000

1638 Hazel St \$262,000

1376 Humphrey Ave \$560,000

2852 Manchester Rd \$604,000

885 N Old Woodward Ave \$230,000

286 Pleasant St \$435,000

711 Rivenoak St \$832,000

327 Southfield Rd # 15 \$220,000

2298 W Lincoln St \$668,000

1286 Willow Ln \$1,500,000

35300 Woodward Ave # 504 \$148,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

1165 Ivyglen Cir \$370,000

776 Kingston Ct \$74,000

1999 Long Lake Shore Dr \$670,000

2442 Mulberry Sq # 40 \$79,000

6078 Rocky Spring Rd \$365,000

67 Scenic Oaks Dr S \$1,300,000

6804 Spruce Dr \$220,000

1225 Stuyvesant Rd \$559,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

2755 Ayershire Dr \$649,000

2627 Bradway Blvd \$800,000

1021 Dowling Rd \$435,000

1861 Hunters Ridge Dr \$285,000

3500 Sunnydale Rd \$523,000

3805 W Maple Rd \$420,000

4559 Wabeek Forest Dr \$440,000

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

209 Annison Dr \$175,000

2490 Baltimore Ct \$278,000

1913 Cheshire Ln \$476,000

5669 Strawberry Cir \$60,000

FARMINGTON

32020 Grand River Ave Unit 27 \$60,000

32297 Leelane \$169,000

33725 Oakland St \$140,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

25538 Arden Park Dr \$225,000

36780 Chesapeake Rd \$283,000

31711 Dohany Dr \$155,000

29190 Earth Ln \$182,000

29202 Earth Ln \$101,000

28312 Green Castle Rd \$186,000

33531 Heirloom Cir \$70,000

38741 Lancaster Dr \$133,000

29215 Marvin Rd \$283,000

30790 Misty Pines Dr \$164,000

28145 Parkhill St \$263,000

21415 Parklane St \$278,000

29738 Pine Ridge Cir \$142,000

34016 Rhonswood St \$73,000

27634 Wellington St \$305,000

24749 Westmoreland Dr \$177,000

25465 Wykeshire Rd \$226,000

FRANKLIN

26450 Carol Ave \$495,000

HIGHLAND

2150 Elkridge Cir \$295,000

179 Gables Ct \$323,000

3259 Jackson Blvd \$195,000

3778 Taggett Lake Dr \$205,000

MILFORD

2375 Bridle Trl \$230,000

1190 Eagle Nest Ct \$340,000

2425 General Motors Rd \$254,000

707 Pointe Ct \$309,000

NORTHVILLE

20755 Normandy Ct \$635,000

47945 Ravello Ct \$1,230,000

43475 Scenic Ln \$425,000

43491 Scenic Ln \$448,000

48867 Veneto Dr \$155,000

48868 Veneto Dr \$182,000

NOVI

43050 12 Oaks Crescent Dr # 6066 \$180,000

50873 Almafai Ct \$490,000

41418 Cornell Dr \$208,000

40848 Coventry Rd \$360,000

39560 Kartar Ln \$85,000

40755 Ladene Ln \$253,000

25695 Laramie Dr \$515,000

44471 Midway Dr \$315,000

24429 Olde Orchard St \$107,000

42195 Park Ridge Rd \$220,000

22351 Peachtree \$134,000

45700 White Pines Dr \$440,000

SOUTH LYON

24873 Carriage Ln \$95,000

21111 Greenbriar Ln \$375,000

23805 Griswold Rd \$110,000

57248 Hidden Timbers Dr \$263,000

57837 International Dr \$375,000

1086 Paddock Dr \$260,000

58906 Peters Barn Dr \$395,000

22821 Spy Glass Hill Dr \$420,000

58678 Winnowing Cir S \$76,000

SOUTHFIELD

28075 Fairfax St \$59,000

25559 Farmbrook Rd \$35,000

21570 Hidden Rivers Dr S \$40,000

19480 Hilton Dr \$149,000

16115 Hilton St \$180,000

18162 Melrose Ave \$68,000

28815 Murray Crescent Dr \$170,000

28588 Regent Ct S \$52,000

23895 Wendy Ln \$158,000

WHITE LAKE

9640 Cooley Lake Rd \$108,000

9105 Huron Bluffs Dr \$255,000

314 Lakeside Dr \$320,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 22-26, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

1485 Brookdale Dr \$255,000

6622 Brookshire Dr \$265,000

44236 Candlewood Dr \$255,000

1692 Christopher Dr \$112,000

41699 Glade Rd \$206,000

44746 Glengarry Rd \$305,000

39641 Hillary Dr \$135,000

42819 Lilley Pointe Dr \$82,000

2037 Premier Ln \$395,000

4089 Radcliff Dr \$140,000

448 Robyn Dr \$157,000

48200 Royal Pointe Dr \$310,000

42254 Saratoga Cir \$166,000

4435 Southbridge Dr \$145,000

49565 Taft Ln \$469,000

43598 W Arbor Way Dr \$110,000

1535 W Lakeview Ln \$300,000

6340 Wedgewood Rd \$179,000

GARDEN CITY

31234 Florence St \$100,000

32990 Florence St \$100,000

32683 James St \$105,000

LIVONIA

14800 Arcola St \$74,000

18111 Deering St \$127,000

32621 Five Mile Rd \$60,000

14532 Garden St \$130,000

18447 Glengarry Dr \$350,000

29870 Greenland St \$221,000

34425 Grove Dr \$190,000

17505 Hizmet St \$105,000

19387 Ingram St \$152,000

37206 Ladywood St \$170,000

8928 Louise St \$180,000

19630 Merriman Ct \$95,000

29849 Minton St \$134,000

34610 Munger Dr \$150,000

34887 Pembroke Ave \$325,000

18354 Pershing St \$134,000

17575 Rexwood St \$194,000

16240 Ronnie Ln \$170,000

34635 Sarah Beth Ln \$100,000

36035 W Chicago St \$162,000

NORTHVILLE

19608 Aqueduct Ct \$118,000

15461 Bay Hill Dr \$565,000

44861 Broadmoor Cir S \$415,000

42202 Farragut Ct \$180,000

16741 Lochmoor Cir E \$315,000

17654 Parkshore Dr \$758,000

42926 Richards Ct \$129,000

18161 Shoreline Ct \$650,000

20141 Silver Spring Dr \$123,000

46735 Timberlane St \$370,000

15576 Troon Ct \$810,000

411 Yerkes St \$171,000

PLYMOUTH

46551 Barrington Ct \$310,000

10880 Chestnut Dr \$190,000

12016 Landers Dr \$466,000

9040 N Haggerty Rd \$94,000

641 S Harvey St \$180,000

585 S Sheldon Rd \$300,000

9305 Saddlebrook Ct \$547,000

REDFORD

9570 Brady \$90,000

11780 Columbia \$98,000

17445 Delaware Ave \$80,000

20387 Fox \$56,000

18288 Indian \$48,000

25002 S Sylbert Dr \$83,000

14850 Seneca \$

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	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
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1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.5	0	2.75	0
AFI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	3.5	0	2.75	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.625	0	2.875	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.875	0	3.125	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.625	0	3	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.625	0	3	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.5	0.75	2.75	0.75
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.75	0	3.125	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.75	0.25	3.125	0

Above information available as of 1/23/15 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

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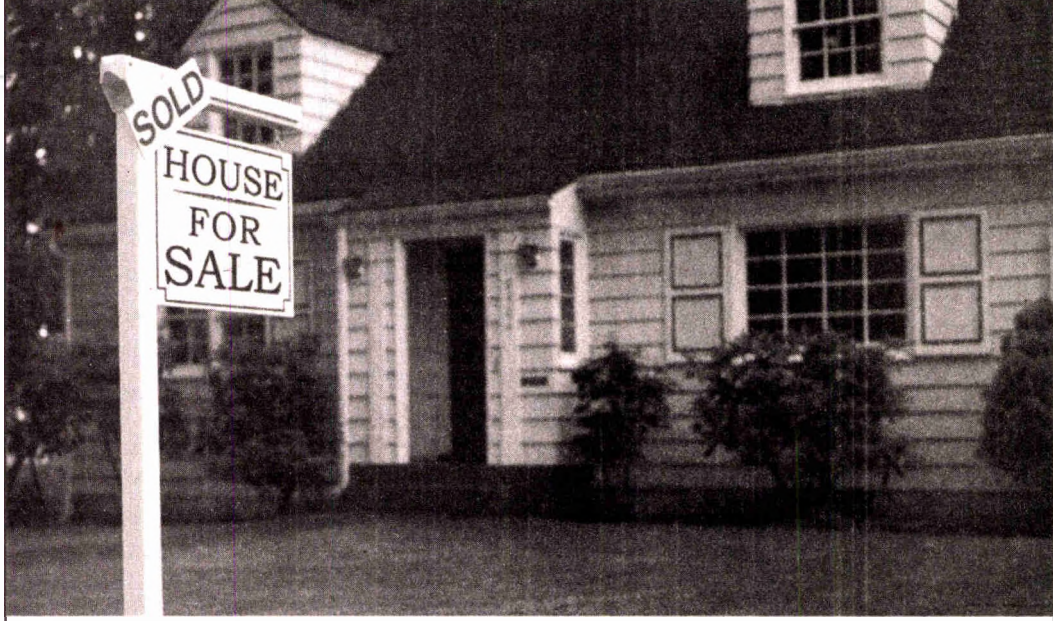
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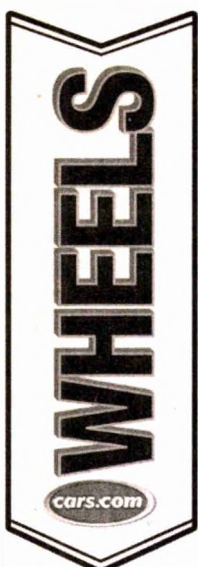
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Trucks for Sale

FORD RANGER SPORT 2011
4x4, extended cab. Great to
work or play! \$18,988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

GMC SIERRA 2010
Crew Cab, short box, 4x4, SLE,
ABS, traction control. \$23,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

4 Wheel Drive

MARINER 2010
4wd, 4 dr Premier
leather, ABS. \$13,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

SIERRA 1500 2011
Ext. Cab, 4WD SL
58k, 1 owner \$20,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
2009 - 4wd, 4dr, V6, Ltd
Heated front seats \$21,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Sports Utility

BUICK ENCLAVE
PREMIUM 2012
FWD, leather, heated seats,
Nav. System. \$28,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

CHEVY EQUINOX 2011
FWD, 4 dr, 2 LT, heated lthr
seats, ABS, power sunroof,
too much to list! \$15,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

FORD ESCAPE SEL 2013
Leather, navigation, FWD, 19K
miles, Ford Certified 1.9%

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

FORD ESCAPE XLT 2009
4x4, V6, full power, alloys.
Fully inspected & warranted!
\$13,988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

FORD FLEX LIMITED 2013
Heated seats, Ford SYNC,
navigation, back up camera.
\$26,988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

GMC ACADIA 2010
FWD SLT1, Lthr, Bose ster-
eo system, loaded! \$17,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN 2010
FWD, 4 door, SLE-1, back up
camera, privacy glass.
\$13,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN 2011
FWD, 4 dr, SLE-1, 42K, 1 own-
er, extra clean! \$14,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC YUKON 2011
4WD, 4 Dr., 1500 SLT,
Leather, Pwr. Sunroof, 3rd
Row Seat, \$30,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

GMC YUKON 2012
4wd, 4 dr., 1500 SLT, leather,
heated seats, nav. system,
power sunroof. \$31,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Sports Utility

JEEP LIBERTY 2012
4x4, 4WD, 4dr Spt, 1 owner,
40,000 miles \$17,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Sports & Imported

CHEVY AVALANCHE 2011
4WD, LTZ, leather, back-up
camera, remote ignition.
\$29,995

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BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

SCION TC 2009
2 dr. hatchback, power sun-
roof, 1 owner, \$15,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

BUICK

BUICK VERANO 2014
1778 miles, rear camera, crum-
ple zones, steering wheel cont.
\$18,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

BUICK VERANO 2014
Driver info system, Bluetooth,
rear view mirror in dash -
lots more! \$18,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

LACROSSE 2010
CXL, 3.0, FWD, leather, heat-
ed seats, ABS. \$16,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

LACROSSE 2012
FWD, Premium 3, Leather,
heated seats, power sunroof
\$22,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

REGAL CXL 2011
CXL R1 Russelsheim, 48K, 3rd
row seat, 1 owner. \$13,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

COBALT 2008
2 dr. Coupe Sport, ABS, air
Sunroof. \$8995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

IMPALA LT 2011
30K, 1 owner, leather, heated
seats, power sunroof. \$14,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

IMPALA LTZ 2008
6 cylinder, leather, moonroof,
alloys, low, low miles. Show-
room new! \$12,988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

MALIBU 2014
1LT, 22K miles, 1 owner, load-
ed. Just like new except the
price! \$20,500

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BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

CAMARO SS 2013
RWD, Black, rear spoiler,
28K miles. \$28,988

NORTH BROS.
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CHRYSLER 200 LTD 2012
FWD, heated seats, remote
start \$15,988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

CADILLAC CTS 2009
3.6L V6, AWD, Options galore!
\$14,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

KIA RIO 2013
4 dr sedan, auto Ex, ABS,
MP3 player, lots of extras!
\$12,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

CIVIC 2013
EX-L Auto Sedan w/nav.
Leather, moonroof. \$17,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

MUSTANG GT PREMIUM
2011
RWD, Coupe, leather,
29K miles. \$21,988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

MUSTANG V6 2008
Premium RWD Coupe. Loaded
with options! \$9988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

TAURUS SEL 2012
FWD, ABS, V6, security
system \$20,988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

GMC SIERRA
SUPER CAB 2003
V8, auto, air, full pwr, alloys!
Fully inspected & warranted.
\$8988

NORTH BROS.
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GMC TERRAIN 2011
FWD, 4 dr, SLE-1, ABS
Privacy Glass, \$15,000

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Chrysler-Plymouth

TOWN & COUNTRY 2010
4 dr. wagon Touring, 4 wheel
ABS, Solar glass, 1 year FREE
maintenance (limited time of-
fer) \$13,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
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Ford

C-MAX SEL 2013
Hybrid, leather, navigation, 20K
miles, Ford Certified 1.9%

NORTH BROS.
855-667-96 80

FIESTA TITANIUM 2014
18K miles, FWD, heated seats,
leather, steering wheel control.
Ford Certified. \$17,988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

FOCUS SE 2012
FWD, 34K miles, ABS, AC
1 owner. \$14,988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

FUSION 2010
Sport pkg., FWD, leather, Ford
SYNC, traction control. Ford
Certified. \$15,988

NORTH BROS.
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FUSION SE 2013
FWD, 12K miles, ABS
Bluetooth, 1 owner. \$19,988

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MUSTANG GT PREMIUM
2011
RWD, Coupe, leather,
29K miles. \$21,988

NORTH BROS.
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MUSTANG V6 2008
Premium RWD Coupe. Loaded
with options! \$9988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

TAURUS SEL 2012
FWD, ABS, V6, security
system \$20,988

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855-667-9860

GMC SIERRA
SUPER CAB 2003
V8, auto, air, full pwr, alloys!
Fully inspected & warranted.
\$8988

NORTH BROS.
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GMC TERRAIN 2011
FWD, 4 dr, SLE-1, ABS
Privacy Glass, \$15,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
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CIVIC 2013
EX-L Auto Sedan w/nav.
Leather, moonroof. \$17,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

CADILLAC CTS 2009
3.6L V6, AWD, Options galore!
\$14,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

KIA RIO 2013
4 dr sedan, auto Ex, ABS,
MP3 player, lots of extras!
\$12,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

CIVIC 2013
EX-L Auto Sedan w/nav.
Leather, moonroof. \$17,995

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MUSTANG GT PREMIUM
2011
RWD, Coupe, leather,
29K miles. \$21,988

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MUSTANG V6 2008
Premium RWD Coupe. Loaded
with options! \$9988

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TAURUS SEL 2012
FWD, ABS, V6, security
system \$20,988

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GMC SIERRA
SUPER CAB 2003
V8, auto, air, full pwr, alloys!
Fully inspected & warranted.
\$8988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

GMC TERRAIN 2011
FWD, 4 dr, SLE-1, ABS
Privacy Glass, \$15,000

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CIVIC 2013
EX-L Auto Sedan w/nav.
Leather, moonroof. \$17,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

CADILLAC CTS 2009
3.6L V6, AWD, Options galore!
\$14,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

KIA RIO 2013
4 dr sedan, auto Ex, ABS,
MP3 player, lots of extras!
\$12,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

CIVIC 2013
EX-L Auto Sedan w/nav.
Leather, moonroof. \$17,995

BOB JEANNOTTE
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MUSTANG GT PREMIUM
2011
RWD, Coupe, leather,
29K miles. \$21,988

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MUSTANG V6 2008
Premium RWD Coupe. Loaded
with options! \$9988

NORTH BROS.
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TAURUS SEL 2012
FWD, ABS, V6, security
system \$20,988

NORTH BROS.
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GMC SIERRA
SUPER CAB 2003
V8, auto, air, full pwr, alloys!
Fully inspected & warranted.
\$8988

NORTH BROS.
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GMC TERRAIN 2011
FWD, 4 dr, SLE-1, ABS
Privacy Glass, \$15,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
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Lexus

LEXUS ES 350 2008
4 dr. Sedan, Leather, Heated
Seats, Loaded! \$17,000

BOB JEANNOTTE
BUICK, GMC
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Lincoln

MKZ 2012
FWD, 20K miles, leather. All
the bells & whistles! \$19,988

NORTH BROS.
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MAZDA CX-7 2011
1 Spt, FWD, ABS,
Privacy glass. \$14,988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

PONTIAC G6 GT 2007
Convertible, FWD, Premium
Sound System. \$10,988

NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860

PONTIAC SOLSTICE 2007
2 dr. convertible, RWD, leath-
er. Hurry! This one won't last!
\$14,995

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RELIGION CALENDAR

FEBRUARY ASH WEDNESDAY

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Feb. 18
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannan, Wayne
Details: Worship service

Contact: 734-728-1950
ASH WEDNESDAY

Time/Date: 6 p.m. supper; 7 p.m. worship service, Feb. 18
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: A free soup and sandwich supper precedes the service
Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

AUCTION

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15

Location: Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, Westland

Details: Concordia Lutheran School's annual auction, Disney Dreams, will include appetizer, dinner, dessert, and beverages. Tickets are \$30 per table or \$270 per table of 10. Buy them at either campus, 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills, 248-474-2488; or 9600 Leverage, Redford, 313-937-2233. Tickets must be purchased in advance by Feb. 9

Contact: Raeann Kusch at 734-432-7777

DINNER/DANCE

Time/Date: 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: Catered chicken dinner with dessert bar, music and dancing. \$20 per person. Buy tickets at the church in person or by phone before Feb. 9

Contact: 248-553-3380

GRIEF SHARE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22-June 7

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This nondenominational program features Christ-centered Bible-based teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Includes videos that feature grief experts and real-life stories of grieving individuals; support group discussion; and work-based personal study and reflection. Registration fee is \$15, which includes the workbook and other materials

Contact: Rev. Roger Wright at 313-682-7491; griefshare.org

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25-March 25

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Grieving with Great Hope workshop is for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy, presents the five-week series

Contact: goodmourningministry.net or St. Michael's at 734-261-1455

GRIEF RECOVERY

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1-March 22

Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: The free four-week program is for widows and widowers. It will deal with topics such as loneliness, anger, and depression. It's presented by Widowed Friends, a peer support group in the Archdiocese of Detroit

Contact: Priscilla at 734-591-7879

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church

Contact: The Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbsosm.com

OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 2 p.m. Feb. 1

Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia

Details: Open house for preschool through grade eight

Contact: 734-425-4420

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8

Location: Prentis Apartment Community Room, located on 10 Mile, east of Greenfield, Oak Park

Details: Meredith Goldberg will lead a workshop on a Star of David fusible applique place mat

or table runner. The Pomegranate Guild of Southeastern Michigan studies and creates Judaic needlework

Contact: Judy Galperin at 248-661-5337

SOUL RETENTION CLASS

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: Pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

WEDDING, COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

Time/Date: 10 a.m. commitment ceremony; 12:30 p.m. wedding, Feb. 14

Location: Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: The church offers a complimentary group wedding and group commitment ceremony on Valentine's Day. Couples must pre-register, and those participating in the wedding ceremony must deliver their license to the church no later than Wednesday, Feb. 11

Contact: 734-421-1760

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 Shulenberg 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

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed

Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY 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

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows

Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

Contact: 734-464-1223

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

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

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 202

Details: Addition No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

Fireside Church of God

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program for dependent adults, specializing in dementia care. Not a drop-in center

Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

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

St. Thomas a' Becket Church

Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322

Unity of Livonia

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: Overeaters Anonymous

Contact: 248-559-7722; www.ooa.org for additional information

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m. worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/desserts)

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township

Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hangups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is free.

Contact: Child care, 248-374-7400; www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate

THRIFT STORE

St. James Presbyterian

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Contact: 313-534-7730 for additional information

Way of Life Christian Church

Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m. third Saturday from October through May

Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth

Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a question to know God more in their lives.

Contact: 734-637-7618

TOUR

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon first Sunday of the month

Location: The Solanus Casey Center, a Capuchin ministry, at 1780 Mount Elliott, Detroit

Details: Led by Capuchin friar Larry Webber, the director of the Solanus Casey Center, the tour focuses on the spirituality and holiness of Father Solanus, a humble Capuchin friar credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. No reservations are needed, although the center requests an advance phone call for groups of five or more. No cost for the tour, although donations are accepted.

Contact: 313-579-2100, Ext. 149; www.solanuscenter.org

WORSHIP

Adat Shalom Synagogue

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday; 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Sunday; and 6 p.m. weekdays

Location: 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Contact: 248-851-5100

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday service

Location: 35300 W. Eight Mile, Farmington Hills

Contact: pastor Terry Miller at tshelton@mi.rr.com; 248-478-6520

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and youth and adult Bible classes

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia

Contact: 734-522-6830

Passages View Online www.hometownlife.com

Inspire Theatre celebrates 10th anniversary with variety show

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

It was a cold January night in 2005. Len Fisher recently had lost his job after the church he pastored had closed. The Christmas play he had directed at another local church also had ended.

The Westland resident did what any true thespian would do. He called his friends together and said "let's start a theater."

"That was January, around the 8th. By Feb. 14 we did our first show. We had one month to put together a show and cast it," said Fisher, who called the troupe Inspire Theatre. "I told them if we're going to be a theater company we need to do a show. Otherwise, we're just a nice group that talks about theater."

Fisher, who had grown up watching Carol Burnett on television, wrote his own musical variety show for the troupe's debut.

"It was a musical tribute to love and marriage. I had basically written it before, tweaked it and added dinner," he said. "We sold out a one-night show and had a blast."

He and his Inspire cast and crew are looking for a repeat of that successful first show, when they reprise favorite scenes and songs from the past decade at a 10th anniversary dinner show.

Dinner theater shows, catered by Lou Toarmina of Toarmina's Pizza, are at 6:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 13-14. Tickets are \$25. Shows with appetizers are at 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21. Tickets are \$15. A matinee show without food is at Sunday, Feb. 15. Tickets are \$13. The theater is at 5767 Executive Driver, Westland.

"*Godspell* was fun. That was our first real show. We're bringing back one song from that. Burns and Allen are making an appearance. We have a scene from *It's a Wonderful Life*, we have vaudeville jokes," Fisher said. The show will include scenes from television, movies — including *Star Wars* — and Broadway.

Talented family

The 21-member cast includes some of Fisher's family members. His wife, Sue, daughter, Elizabeth Kerr, sons, Andrew and Benjamin, and daughter-in-law, Kylee Fisher, will each sing one or more



Carolyn Via of Garden City portrays Gracie Allen during a rehearsal at Inspire Theatre in Westland.



Len Fisher, director, and Nancy Rocker, assistant director, look on as the cast rehearses for Inspire Theatre's 10th anniversary show. Fisher founded the Westland community theater.

PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN



Livonia residents Bobbi Gladden and Jacob Oesterwind play Jenny and Forest Gump during a rehearsal at Inspire Theatre in Westland. The theater will celebrate its 10-year anniversary in February.



Inspire Theatre performers, Joe Mowaske (left), Bev Green, Jim Gladden, Deanna Lee and Angela Ross recreate a scene from the hit television show, "Taxi" for the theater's upcoming 10th anniversary show.

songs.

"We're bringing back everything we've done over the years and my whole family has been in shows over the years," he said. "There have been a lot of variety shows, which amazingly, are more difficult than a play because there are so many elements. I'm working on the order of this show now and there are 48 elements to put in the right order."

Courtney Nixon of Farmington Hills will appear in several scenes. She'll portray Marilyn Monroe singing *Happy Birthday* and will reprise her role as Glinda the Good Witch. She'll also appear in a *Star Wars* scene and will bring back an over-bearing stage mother

character from a previous play.

Nixon has been involved with Inspire Theatre since its first play, after a friend suggested she audition for *Godspell*. She had no acting experience when she tried out and then landed a part as a townsperson. Since then, she has performed in nearly 20 shows.

"I don't think many in the theater would describe me as shy anymore," she said.

Fun on stage

Nixon teaches at St. Fabian School in Farmington Hills, where she has directed the middle school play. When she talks to her young cast and crew, she mirrors Fisher's

philosophy.

"He always tells us if you're not having fun, you're not doing it right," she said. "I think we take people where they are, (at Inspire) no matter if they are the best singer in the world or not the best. We play to everybody's strengths. It's all about coming together and enjoying ourselves as we put on a show."

That camaraderie draws John Donnelly of Redford to the Inspire stage year after year. Donnelly, 62, performed in an annual charity show produced by a community group in Redford from the late 1980s-1990s. After the group disbanded, it was another decade before he took a chance on Inspire Theatre in 2006.

"I love it. It's fun," Donnelly said. "A lot of it is Len. He is fun to work with and he is very knowledgeable..."

Donnelly figures he has performed in 20-some shows. He won the lead in *No Stone Unturned* in November 2014. The Inspire mystery was performed as dinner theater at Mangiamos in Saline.

"That was a good one. That was really funny and I had a great time making it," Donnelly said. "There were a lot of people I had worked with many times before. Lots of regulars in that one. I enjoyed it very much."

For tickets to the 10th anniversary show, call 734-751-7057 or visit inspiretheatre.com.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Wild Winter Weekend: Celebrate African American history with an African drum lesson, hear stories by Kenyan naturalist and Detroit Zoo education specialist David Gakure, enjoy live entertainment, arts and crafts, games and educational experiences, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 7-8. Free with zoo admission
Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

DIRTY SHOW

Time/Date: 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 12-14 and Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21

Location: Russell Industrial Center, 1600 Clay Ave. Detroit

Details: Exhibit of erotic art, with an appearance by John Waters at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. Tickets are \$30 general admission, \$45 seated, \$75 VIP
Contact: dirtyshow.org

GALLERY@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public events, through Feb. 28

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: Art work and essays on Martin Luther King, Jr., by students in the P-CEP Arts Academy
Contact: 734-394-5300; cantonvillage-theater.org

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6-27

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: Ninth annual Member Exhibi-

tion features more than 70 works of art in all media. Opening reception, 6-9 p.m. Feb. 6

Contact: 248-344-0497

COMEDY

EMERGENT ARTS

Time/Date: 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13

Location: The Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington Street, Ypsilanti

Details: The Laugh Riot Dolls present "Laugh at Love: an Anti-Valentine's Day Show," an all-female cabaret-style comedy show with stand-up comedy. The show also will feature The Little Dollies. All seats \$10
Contact: 734-985-0875; www.emergentarts.com

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 30-31

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Shows are \$12 for show only or \$25 for show and a dinner on Thursday; \$16 for show or \$29 for show and dinner, Friday-Sunday

Open mic: Each comedian gets five minutes of stage time. Open mic begins

at 8 p.m. every Tuesday. Call the box office Tuesday through Thursday, to get on the performer list

Contact: 734-261-0555; catchthefunny.com

LAUGH IT OFF

Time/Date: 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6

Location: Brady's Tavern, 31231 Southfield Road, Beverly Hills

Details: The show will feature Jeff Ford, Amit Jain, Michael Joseph Klink, Khurum Sheikh, Tom Massey, Greg Shur, Joey Derderian, Andrew Acker and Jane aka CC Dynamite with her puppet. \$8 if booked in advance by email or \$10 at the door
Contact: artactivity@hotmail.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 29-30; and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31

Location: Fourth and Troy streets in downtown Royal Oak

Details: Bobby Tassel; tickets \$10 Thursday, \$18 Friday-Saturday
Contact: 248-542-9900; info@ComedyCastle.com

DANCE

BARN DANCE

Time/Date: 6-7 p.m. and 8-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7

Location: The farm at Kensington Metropark, 4570 Huron River Parkway, Milford

Details: Early barn dance is for daughters and their fathers; later dance is for families. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. A square dance caller will walk dancers through the basics. A Metropark vehicle entry permit is required to access the park. Cost is \$7 daily, \$30 annually or \$20 annually for seniors
Contact: 810-227-8910

EISENHOWER DANCE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31

Location: Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit

Details: Premiere of *The Light Show*, a co-commission by Detroit Opera House and Wharton Center of East Lansing. The production pairs four choreographers with four lighting designers, with dancers' movements developed in tandem with varying light treatments. Tickets are \$25-\$83. Laurie Eisenhower, artistic director, will give a free dance talk one hour before the performance. A master class for intermediate dancers, ages 14 and up, is at 11 a.m. Jan. 31. Pre-register for the class at dance@motopera.org
Contact: MichiganOpera.org; 313-237-5100

MICHIGAN CLASSIC BALLET

Time/Date: 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31

Location: Smith Theatre at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, Orchard Lake Road, south of I-696, in Farmington Hills

Details: "A Winter Fairy Tale," features excerpts from *Sleeping Beauty*. The program will also include the debut performance of *Etirole sur Paris*, choreographed by Renee Rodriguez Mueller, especially for the Michigan Classic Ballet dancers. Order advance tickets, \$20 each, by phone, online at michiganclassicballet.org, by mail at 5526 Drake, West Bloomfield, MI 48322. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$25

Contact: 248-682-2284

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30-31 and 2 p.m. Feb. 1

Location: Allesee Dance Theatre, third floor, room 3317, Old Main, 4841 Cass at Warren Ave., Detroit

Details: Dance Workshop Showcase features eight dances choreographed by WSU dance majors. General admission is \$12; \$8 for students and seniors. A limited number of tickets may be available at the door for \$15. Buy tickets at wsushows.com, at the Hillberry Box Office, 4743 Cass, Detroit, or by phone
Contact: 313-577-2972

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30 and Thursday, Feb. 5; 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31; and 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: *Interstellar*; admission \$3
Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Feb. 6 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 7

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit

Details: Alfred Hitchcock's *Spellbound*; \$5
Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY

KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 6-May 3

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor
Details: "Death Dogs: The Jackal Gods of Ancient Egypt," will explore the mysterious ancient Egyptian jackal-headed gods associated with death and the afterlife. It will feature approximately 40 artifacts, some never before displayed and many coming from University of Michigan excavations in Egypt. The exhibit opens at 6 p.m. Feb. 6 with a lecture by T.G. Wilfong, Kelsey Museum curator. A reception follows
Contact: 734-764-9304

CREAMY SMOKED SWEET POTATO SOUP

Servings: 6-8
Courtesy of Samantha Foglesong,
New Orleans, La.

4 extra-large sweet potatoes
(about 5 pounds)
4 cups seafood stock
2 cups heavy whipping cream
¼ teaspoon kosher salt, divided
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 pound fresh jumbo lump
crabmeat, picked free of shells
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
½ teaspoon crushed red pepper
2 tablespoons unsalted butter,
melted
1 tablespoon thinly sliced chives

Prepare smoker to 200°F.
Smoke sweet potatoes 2 ½-3
hours. Let cool, and peel.
In large Dutch oven, combine
sweet potatoes, stock and cream.
Blend on high speed with an im-
mersion blender until smooth.
Heat over medium heat, and add
½ teaspoon salt, then cinnamon and
nutmeg. Strain mixture through
fine-mesh sieve into large bowl;
discard solids.
In medium bowl, combine crab,
lemon juice, red pepper, remaining
salt, butter and chives.
Divide soup among bowls and
top with crab mixture.

PIQUANT SWEET POTATO QUICHE

Servings: 6
Courtesy of Karen McGowan,
Houston, Texas

1 bag (15-ounces) frozen sweet
potato fries, thawed
¼ cup melted unsalted butter
1 ½ cups shredded Havarti or
Monterey Jack cheese
1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and
diced
2 cups shredded Swiss cheese
2 cups chopped cooked ham
¼ cup finely chopped fresh chives
4 large eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup half-and-half
1 ½ teaspoons salt
½ teaspoon smoked paprika
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper

Preheat oven to 425°F.
Spray 10-inch pie dish with non-
stick cooking spray.
Pulse sweet potato in food pro-
cessor until shredded. Transfer
sweet potato to sieve and press with
paper towels to remove excess
moisture.
Press potato into bottom and up
sides of prepared pie dish. Brush
with melted butter and cover with
aluminum foil. Bake until edges of
crust are golden brown, 20-25
minutes. Remove from oven and let
cool on wire rack. Reduce oven to
350°F.
Add Havarti cheese, jalapeno,
Swiss cheese, ham and chives to
crust in one layer.
In medium bowl, combine eggs,
half-and-half, salt, paprika, pepper
and cayenne. Pour evenly over
cheese mixture and cover with
aluminum foil.
Bake until knife inserted into
center comes out clean, 30-40 min-
utes. Let cool 5 minutes before
serving.



SWEET POTATOES

PACK IN NUTRITION, PERK UP ANY MEAL

If you're looking for a little variety to spice up your life, cooking with a versatile veggie such as the sweet potato may give your menu the satisfying kick you crave, along with a healthy dose of the nutrients your body needs.

Unlike many vegetables with a peak season that comes and goes, sweet potatoes can be found at your local grocery store year round with a consistent quality and freshness. Because they are available fresh, canned or frozen, sweet potatoes offer the ultimate flexibility for healthy and delicious menu options at any meal.

With virtually no fat and low in sodium, sweet potatoes, or yams, fit perfectly into a low-carb lifestyle, with major nutritional bonuses to boot. In addition to being a source of vitamin B-6, iron, potassium and fiber, the sweet potato provides twice the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A and more than one-third of the requirements for vitamin C.

Sweet potatoes also rank significantly lower than white potatoes in the glycemic index, which explains why many carb-counting diets encourage substituting sweet potatoes for white potatoes.

For more prize-winning free recipes, or to enter your recipe in the national Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission's 2015 Sweet Rewards Recipe Contest, visit www.sweetpotato.org

Courtesy of Family Features

TIPS FOR PERFECT SWEET POTATOES

» Fresh sweet potatoes can be stored for up to a month at 55°F to 65°F, but should not be refrigerated until after they are cooked.

» Always use a stainless steel knife when cutting a sweet potato; using a carbon blade will cause the yam to darken.

» One 15-ounce can of sweet potatoes equals one cup of fresh sweet potatoes.

» Canned sweet potatoes are precooked, so add them at the end of a recipe.

SWEET POTATO S'MORES

Servings: 6
Courtesy of Michele Carl,
Masonville, Colo.

1 cup pecans
1 cup almonds
¼ cup honey, divided
¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
12 dried pitted dates
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon, divided
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
2 cans (15 ounces each) sweet potato puree
½ cup apple cider
¼ teaspoon ground ginger
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
½ cup minced crystallized ginger
2 cups miniature marshmallows
Dark chocolate shavings for garnish

Preheat oven to 170°F.
In food processor, pulse pecans and almonds until chopped. Add ¼ cup honey, vanilla, dates, salt, ¼ teaspoon cinnamon and butter, and process until finely chopped.
Spread in thin layer on parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake until crispy, about 3 hours. Let cool, and cut into 3-inch squares.
Reduce oven to 250°F. Spray a 13-by-9-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
In food processor, combine sweet potato, apple cider, remaining honey, ginger, nutmeg, cloves and remaining cinnamon; process until smooth. Stir in crystallized ginger.
Transfer to prepared baking dish, and cook 1 hour. Stir well, and cook 30 minutes more. Let cool to room temperature.
Increase oven to 300°F.
Spray rimmed baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray. Spread ½-inch layer of sweet potato butter on each cracker. Top with marshmallows, and place on prepared baking sheet; bake 10 minutes.
Sprinkle with chocolate shavings and serve.

