

Meeting canceled

The Canton Township Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Dec. 19 has been canceled. The Planning Commission will hold its next meeting 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, in the Canton Administration Building, located at 1150 Canton Center Road.

Canton Newcomers

The Canton Newcomers invite the public to start the New Year's off with an abundance of adult socializing and refreshments at their general meeting 7 p.m. Jan. 4. Whether you are brand new to the area, grew up in Canton, or anything in between, this social, civic and charitable organization welcomes you to the Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Hamford, (west of Canton Center, between Woodmare and Weatherfield).

January's meeting will include a raffle with proceeds going to a local "Mom's in Waiting" program. Looking ahead, the group's Feb. 1 meeting will feature special guest speaker Jim Ryan, superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton school district.

For more information, including a complimentary newsletter, check out the Newcomers Web site at newcomers.angelcities.com. Contact Karen at (734) 737-0755 with any questions.

Evening with the stars

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will host "An Evening with the Stars" on Dec. 30 at 8 p.m. The event will feature professional tribute artists who will impersonate celebrities including Jack Nicholson, Tina Turner, Barry Manilow, Barbara Streisand, Johnny Mathis, Lou Rawls, Neil Diamond, Diana Ross and Ray Charles.

Tickets are \$25 and are on sale now at Summit on the Park. Call (734) 394-5460 for more information. To view the complete Village Theater Schedule, visit www.canton-mi.org.

Trash pickup

Residents can expect their trash pickup to be one day later than normal for the weeks of Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, due to the

holidays. For more information, call Canton Waste Recycling at (734) 397-5801.

Station giveaways

WSDP 88.1-FM, the student-run radio station at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, will host two weeks of giveaways aimed at adding holiday cheer for many listeners, including CDs selected from 88.1-FM's playlist for the past year, tickets to Emagine Theater and Jones Soda.

Through Dec. 22, each daily winner will be put in a drawing for a chance to win the grand prize: Santa's Sack of CDs, featuring more than 50 CDs from 88.1-FM's playlist in 2005. The grand prize winner will be drawn Thursday, Dec. 22, during Backstage Pass, which airs at 5:40 p.m. Backstage Pass is hosted by Emily Hulscher and features the latest music news, concert and CD updates and music reviews.

Artist competition

The application deadline for the Plymouth Symphony's Youth Artist Competition is Friday, Jan. 30. The competition itself is scheduled to be held on Sunday, Feb. 12, at Evola Music, 7170 N. Haggerty Road in Canton.

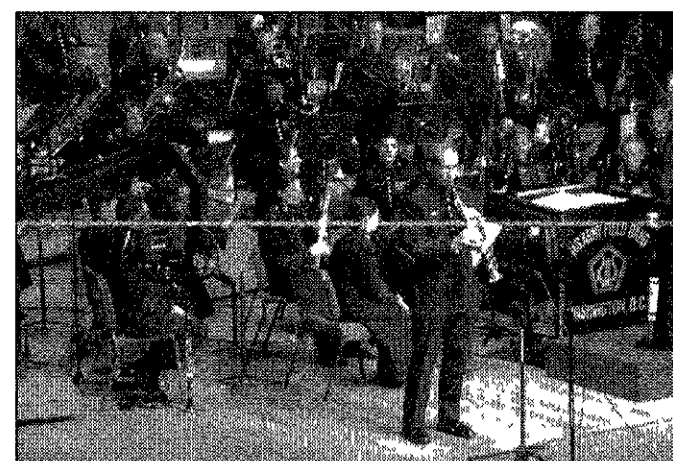
Through the generosity of the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, local service organizations and other sponsors, the Plymouth Symphony recognizes young orchestral tal-

ent from the greater Plymouth-Canton and surrounding communities through this competition and offered music scholarships to area youth since 1978.

The competition is composed of three divisions: Senior Instrumental (grades 10-12), Senior Piano (grades 10-12), and Junior Division (combined instrumental and piano grades 7-9). Applicants must be piano, band or orchestra students in the school districts of Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton, Van Buren (Belleville), Clarenceville, or Wayne-Westland. Celebration Youth Orchestra members and students at Evola Music are also eligible. The first prize winner in each Senior Division shall receive \$500 and the first prize winner in the Junior Division shall receive \$250. If applicable, honorable mentions will also be acknowledged.

Past participants are encouraged to reapply, however, musicians are eligible to win only one first prize award in each division. Winners may have the opportunity to perform with the PSO or Orchestra Canton. Applicants must be available to perform at the competition.

For an application or more information, please contact Ellen Elliott at (734) 451-2112 or by e-mail at info@plymouthsymphony.org. Applications are also available on the Plymouth Symphony Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org.



Musical ambassador

Staff Sgt. Christopher Blossom, a 1997 graduate of Canton High School, was one of the featured soloists in the United States Army Field Band's Christmas concert on Dec. 5. He is shown here during his solo performance with the band, also known as the 'Musical Ambassadors of the Army.' He is the son of Dave and Becky Blossom (a Livonia school teacher) of Canton, and grandson of Donald and Doris Allen of Livonia.

CORRECTION

An editorial in the Dec. 8 issue of the *Observer* should have listed the proposed high school requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum as follows:

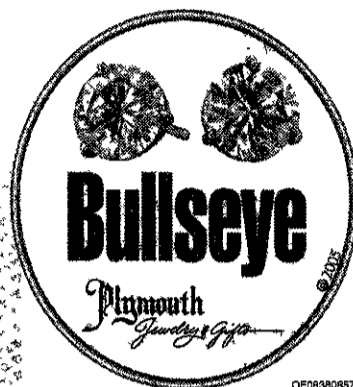
- One year each for algebra I, algebra II, geometry and one additional math class.
- Four years of English language arts.
- One year each for biology,

physics or chemistry, plus one additional science class.

■ Three years of social science, including civics and economics.

- One year of health or physical education.
- One year of fine arts.
- Skills tests.

The state Board of Education was to discuss the proposal of the state superintendent Tuesday.



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Physical Therapy UPDATE

Hands On Center
Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy

TAKING TO THE ICE

As physical as the contact sport of ice hockey may be, the majority of hockey injuries occur without any physical contact. Most injuries, in fact, involve muscle pulls that result from poor conditioning or lack of sufficient warm-up. Even in the absence of contact, power skating can predispose players to injuries of the muscles and tendons, particularly in the area of the groin. According to Canadian sports experts, over 40 percent of all hockey injuries are either muscle pulls or contusions, specifically in the shoulder (22 percent) and knee (15 percent). The good news is that the same experts point out that off-ice conditioning can significantly minimize the frequency and severity of these hockey injuries.

At the HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY, we know that when exercising, it is very important to spend about ten minutes before you start exercising warming up your muscles, for example, moderate walking and stretching them out. Similarly, never stop exercising suddenly. For more information, call us at 455-8370. We are conveniently located at 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth and have easy access and parking. New patients are gladly accepted.

PS When getting into proper condition to play a specific sport, be sure to engage in sport specific exercises.

John Cornuth, PT
Mark Milasberger, PT
Bob Schoemaker, PT

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Connecting grieving families

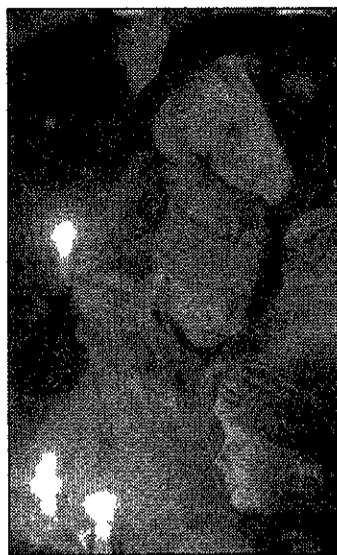
Lighting of candles honors children lost too soon

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Paul and Michelle Donnelly arrived in Plymouth from their Howell home Sunday night hoping to find something that would allow them to begin the healing process after Michelle suffered a late-term miscarriage in August.

With three children and life rambling on around them, the Donnellys felt like they hadn't been able to really grieve their fourth lost child in eight years. Paul's sister read online about The Compassionate Friends' candlelight vigil, held Sunday night in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park, and suggested the healing could start there.

And so it did, as the Donnelly family — Paul and Michelle, with 7-year-old Sam, 6-year-old Max and 2-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marcia Rodeheffer, with daughters Rachel and Morgan, honors the memory of son and brother Grant Rodeheffer. Marcia and her daughters attended Sunday's vigil with her husband Craig and daughter Mallory. The Rodeheffer family is from Commerce Township.

year-old Ava — joined hundreds of others to remember children lost too soon.

"We really haven't grieved yet, because life keeps moving," said Michelle Donnelly, who suffered late-term miscarriages in 1997, two in 2001 and another in August 2005. "I hope this event will help us do that."

That's the idea behind the ceremony, sponsored annually by The Compassionate

Friends-Livonia chapter, one of some 600 TCF chapters around the country. The ceremony included the dedication of a tree decorated with ornaments with the children's names, a candle-light vigil, a reading of the children's names, poetry and songs.

The local candle-lighting came in conjunction with the worldwide candle-lighting. The idea is that, as candles burn down in one time zone, they're lit in another, creating a 24-hour memorial.

Recognized in communities around the world, International Children's Memorial Day is already officially sanctioned by the U.S. Congress.

It's an event Pat and Paula Gibbons of Canton have attended since their son, Dan, died in an automobile accident four years ago. They were at Sunday's vigil, holding their candles and listening as the names of some 500 children were read.

"You just want to hear your child's name," Paula Gibbons said. "I've come a long way in four years, and Compassionate Friends has been a big part of my healing. Time makes things a little easier to deal with."

Pat and Paula Gibbons are like many of the hundreds gathered Sunday — repeat visitors there to give and receive solace and comfort. It's part of what makes the group so successful at what it does.

"We get old-timers who come back for this event, even when they don't come to the meetings any more," said Gail Lafferty of Livonia, the chapter treasurer who lost her son, Max, 10 years ago. "It doesn't surprise me, because this is so special."

For more information on The Compassionate Friends, call or e-mail Gail Lafferty, angel4gail@aol.com or (734) 981-4528

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(734) 459-2700



Hundreds of people turned out for the annual candlelight vigil sponsored by The Compassionate Friends-Livonia chapter, conducted Sunday evening in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

Dunham's Sports expansion brings store to Canton

Holiday shoppers looking for that special item for loved ones who live an active lifestyle have one more store to shop at. Dunham's Sports, a Michigan-based retailer, opened for business Monday in Canton.

The store, located at 41968 Ford Road, just west of Haggerty in the Willow Creek Shopping Center, will be tailored to the Canton market with a large selection of athletic and outdoor apparel, an expanded hunting and fitness department, and a large value area featuring footwear at savings of 30-50 percent off, according to Dunham's spokesman Tom Lemere.

The store will open at 8 a.m. Monday through Sunday, and have extended hours throughout the holiday season.

"Our market research indicates Canton is a vibrant and growing community and the opening of this store continues our expansion throughout the Detroit area and the state of Michigan," said Jeff Lynn, chairman and chief executive officer of Dunham's Athleisure Corporation, which is based in Waterford.

Dunham's was founded in 1937 in Detroit as Dunham's Bait and Tackle and has grown to more than 130 stores in 11 Midwestern states.

Lynn said Dunham's prides itself on providing customers with a wide variety of top-quality, name-brand merchandise at everyday low prices. Every store offers a full line of traditional sporting goods and athletic equipment, as well as a wide variety of active and casual sports apparel and footwear.

"We keep our customers coming back because of our continued commitment to provide the largest selections at the lowest prices," says Lynn.

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COMING UP TAG screening

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are screening students for admission to the district's Talented and Gifted program for the 2006-07 school year.

To apply for admission to the program, a student must reside within the P-CCS district boundaries and be in grades 2-7. Nomination forms are available in all P-CCS elementary and middle schools.

Completed nomination forms need to be back to school principals or counselors by Dec. 23.

Nomination forms also are available online at www.pccs.k12.mi.us.

Nominations for non-public school students should be returned to the TAG Office at Miller Elementary School, 43721 Hanford Road, Canton, MI 48187.

Screening for the program involves two phases of standardized testing, including the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and the Cognitive Abilities Test.

Exchange Club party

The Exchange Club of Canton will be holding its annual Christmas and Holiday Party Dec. 21 in the Freedom Room at Canton Township Hall. Members should bring a \$10 gift that night for exchange and all need to RSVP. Members may also bring guests or friends. All meals will be \$12 and there will be a raffle jack pot of \$50. For more information, contact David Loveland at (734) 207-8943.

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Sharing his view: McCotter praises Iraqi elections

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

This week's elections mean that Iraq will be a fully sovereign, popularly elected country, according to U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia.

"It won't be pretty, but have you been to Cook County lately?" he asked during a Tuesday appearance at the Plymouth A.M. Rotary Club.

If the U.S. troops are perceived as occupiers, the democratic Iraqi government will ask the U.S. to leave, the Republican said in response to a question from consultant Sam Kennedy.



McCotter

"I think we've achieved most that we can achieve. Things are moving in the right direction," McCotter said of the Middle East, citing elections in Egypt and other progress.

He acknowledged that President George W. Bush hasn't presented his views well: "The president does not express this well."

McCotter answered a number of questions from Rotarians during the morning meeting at the Plymouth

Cultural Center. "I'm fascinated by what people in the district think is important as opposed to the District of Columbia," he said.

Accountant Bill Pratt asked about money siphoned from Michigan to other parts of the country. "We continue to lose population," McCotter said, noting the state's congressional number is down to 15 and could drop by one. "Mercifully, maybe it'll be mine," he said, drawing laughs from the audience.

He said Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow as Democrats are in the minority party now which limits their role. "It's difficult. It's a num-

bers game."

Occupational therapist/health educator Debra Madonna asked about job prospects for Michigan's young people. McCotter, a 1983 Catholic Central High graduate, said about half his class has left the state. His son wants to be an automotive engineer, a field with an uncertain future.

"What do you tell him?" McCotter said. "Thirty years ago, you'd be very happy." The congressman said Michigan needs to study what worked for other states when their industries, such as textiles in Massachusetts, ended.

"Education will be the key,"

he said, adding that other states compete for jobs as well as foreign countries.

"This is vastly different than any cyclical thing you've seen before. In the Industrial Age, Michigan was on the winning side." He criticized General Motors management for support of the Chinese government, which McCotter said oppresses its workers.

"There is no moral accountability to your fellow American citizens."

The Republican Party's as much to blame as is the Clinton administration, he added.

McCotter is opposed to the current pension bill, noting a

lot of businesses want to shed that cost. He doesn't want government Hurricane Katrina relief to be a bailout for insurance companies, and favors limiting rebuilding, not on the scale of a Taj Mahal.

Mississippi and Alabama need aid, too, he said. McCotter wants an accounting of emergency preparedness money in New Orleans.

He was introduced by Rotarian Beth Stewart, whose husband is a state representative from Plymouth.

"Thaddeus is doing a great job for us," said Beth Stewart, director of the Plymouth Historical Museum. "We appreciate his work here."

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AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers for tax counseling positions. AARP Tax-Aide is a free tax counseling/preparation service offered to middle and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older.

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Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. You don't need to be an AARP member or be a retiree to volunteer (or to receive assistance from AARP Tax-Aide volunteers). You also do not need math or computer skills. All that is required is a desire to help and a cheerful disposition. Volunteers are provided training.

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The Library is compiled by Laurie Golden, marketing and communications manager of the Canton Public Library, which is located at 1200 S. Canton Center. For more information about library programs and services, call (734) 397-0999 or visit www.cantonpl.org.

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EDUCATOR

FROM PAGE A1
me for my future role as an administrator," said trustee Carol Saunders, former principal at Starkweather Education Center, when making the motion to name the new elementary after Workman.
Workman said part of the secret to success in the elementary grades was being eye-to-eye with youngsters.
"I often got at kid level, especially if it was an important topic," Workman said. "I even sat on the floor with them. It helped eliminate some of the barriers that would naturally be there, and improved the child comfort level greatly.
"Elementary kids don't repress their feelings as much," he said. "They will get off the school bus and give you a hug, even while you're conducting a conference with a parent or staff member."
Workman began his teaching career in 1960, one year after student teaching in Plymouth-Canton while studying at Eastern Michigan University. He taught at Starkweather as well as Allen, Smith and Truedell elementary schools.
In 1965, Workman took a position in the elementary administrative intern program, working as an assistant principal at both Allen and Smith. In 1967, he was appointed principal at Allen.
After 19 years at Allen, it was on to East as principal in 1986.
"The administration decided I had too much fun as an elementary principal to get the job

said Workman with a chuckle.
"Middle school students can wear you out about one in the afternoon, but you still know you have them until 5 o'clock when athletics or chorus practice are over.
"One of my hardest adjustments in middle school was that when the kids got off the bus, nobody would run to me and grab my leg, or greet me with a smile," he said.
Only months after retiring in the spring of 1995, Workman was called back to fill in as principal at Miller Elementary during a transition, and has done the same as an assistant at Pioneer Middle School.
This past spring, he served as an assistant principal at Canton High School.
"He's what I would envision the epitome of an elementary principal," said trustee Barry Simescu. "He gets to know the kids, makes them very comfortable.
"Tom is all about kids," he said. "He's what I would envision as the perfect elementary principal."

tbtruscalo@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700



Tom Workman split most of his 35 years in the Plymouth-Canton school district between Allen Elementary and East Middle schools.

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District hangs on to reserves even with less revenue on hand

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools will still have to tap into its reserves to meet expenses, but not as much as school officials had originally expected.

That was the message Gary Martin delivered in a budget amendment presented to the school board this month.

"It's our third year of deficit spending," said Martin, the district's deputy superintendent of administrative and business services.

The district had initially budgeted \$113.07 million in revenue and \$118.6 million in expenditures for fiscal 2005-06, but less than expected revenues and lower than expected expenses trimmed those numbers to \$112.3 million and \$116.9 million, respectively.

The drop in revenue is due in large part to declining enrollment. The district lost more than 300 students this year.

Those losses, however, are offset by a drop of \$1.6 million in expenses.

"We had a lower salary base than anticipated, but utilities we anticipate will be

higher, with increases in electric and gas," Martin said.

The biggest savings was in salaries and benefits and reflects changes in health care coverage worked out with its unions. However, the district is feeling the pinch with rising utility costs and expects to pay an additional \$735,000 this year.

Martin also told the board that the combination of a better-than-anticipated beginning surplus and the improvements reflected in the budget amendment, the district should finish the year with \$13.1 million in equity.

Keeping a close eye on expenses has helped the district hang on to its surplus, especially during three years of no increases or rollbacks

in state school aid. This year, the state increased the amount paid per student by \$175, but districts like Wayne-Westland have contended that a vast majority of that money is being eaten up by escalating health and retirement costs.

But as good as that looks, that \$13.1 million is only enough money to keep the schools open 1 1/2 months, if revenue sources disappear, according to Martin.

"Even with the positive numbers, revenue is still down \$975,000 and still represents a \$4.6 million deficit," Martin said. "And the next couple years are forecasted to be difficult."

smason@hometownlife.com
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Frances Corbell
Corbell, 72, died Dec. 8.

Edith Dickinson
Dickinson, 88, of Birmingham, died Dec. 9.

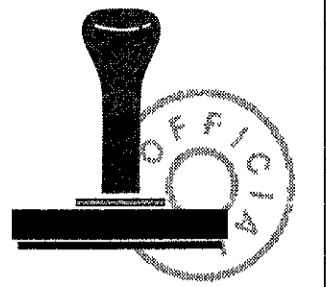
James J. Dobby
Dobby, 63, of Webberville, died Dec. 8.

F. William Gridley
Gridley, 85, of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 9.

Florence C. Griggs
Griggs, 92, of South Lyon, formerly of Plymouth, died Nov. 28.

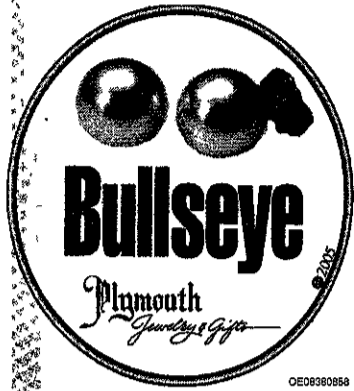
Albert J. Luibrand
Luibrand, 87, of Montana, formerly of Plymouth, died Dec. 4.

Ruth E. Rake
Rake, 84, of Birmingham died Dec. 12.



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in *Passages* on page C10.

Ralph W. Richmond
Richmond, 49, of Westland, died Dec. 9.
Helen Rose Rito
Rito, 91, died Dec. 10.



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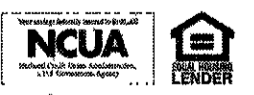
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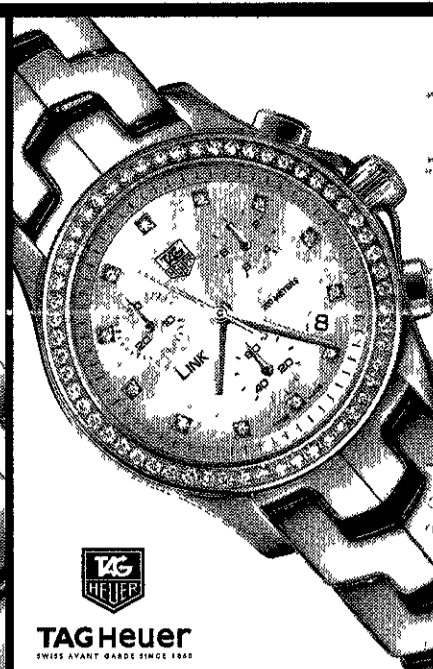
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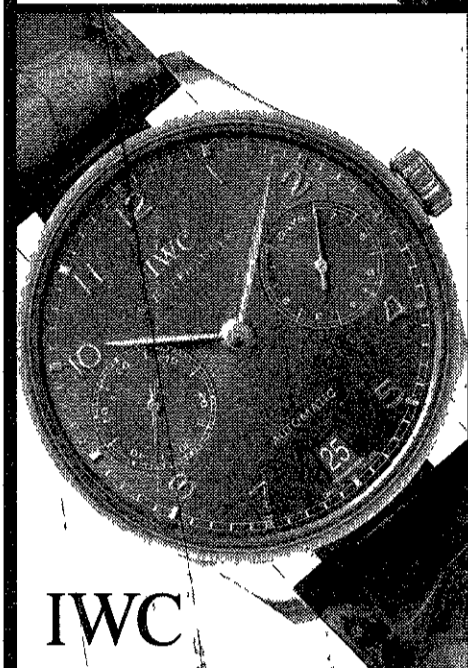
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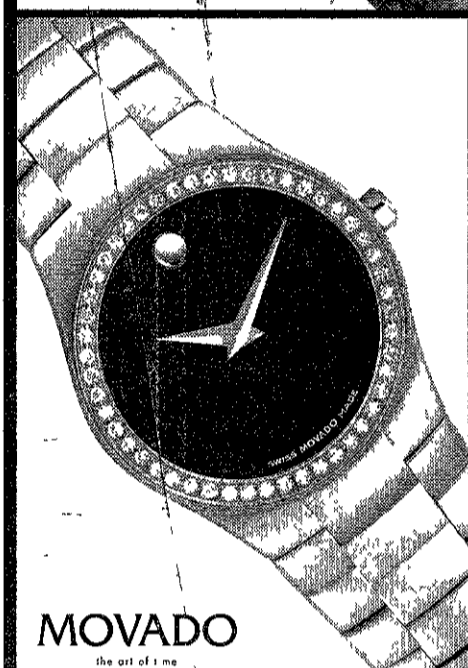
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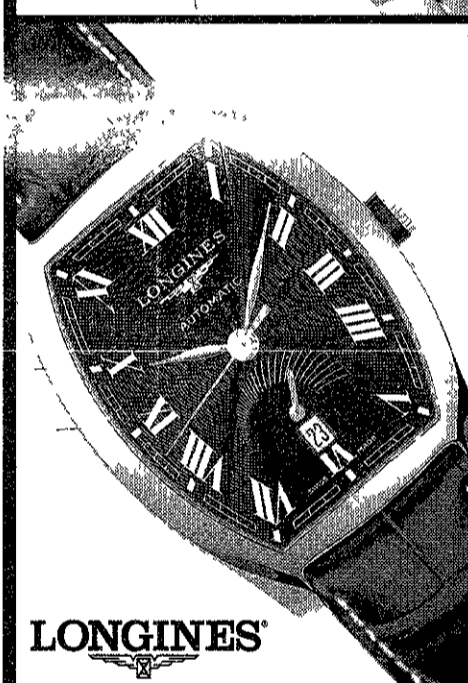
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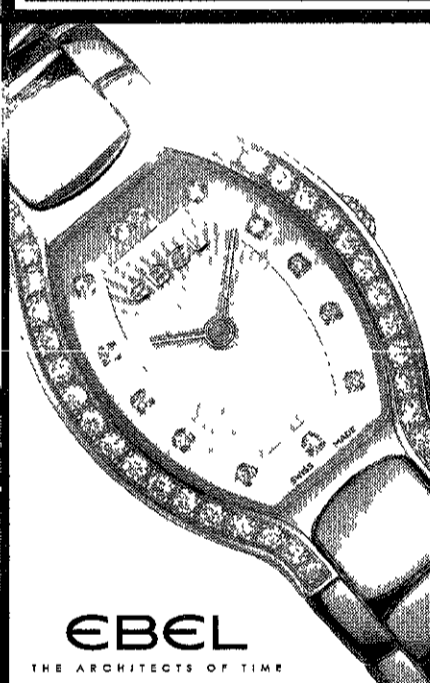
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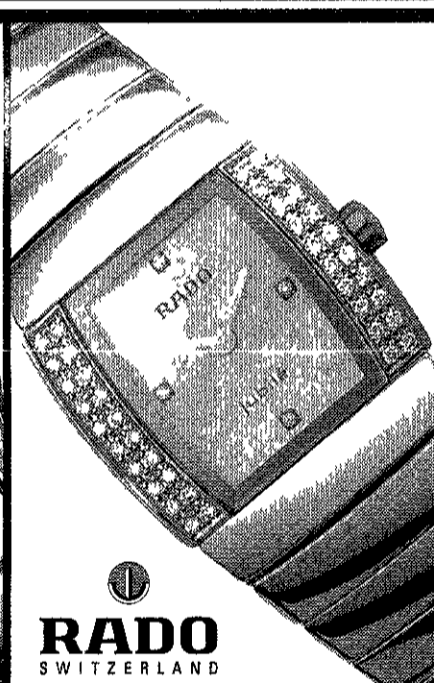
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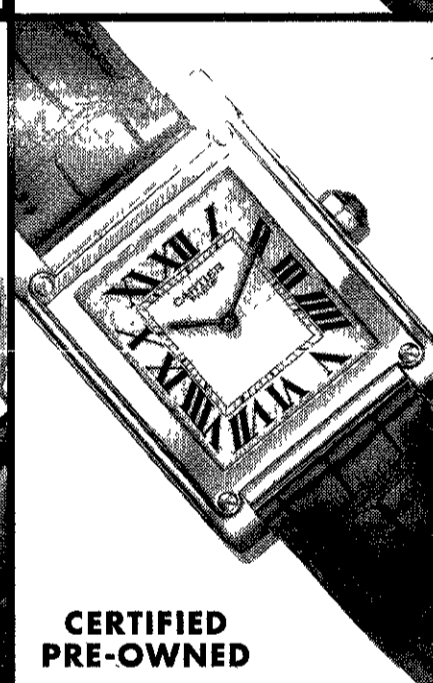
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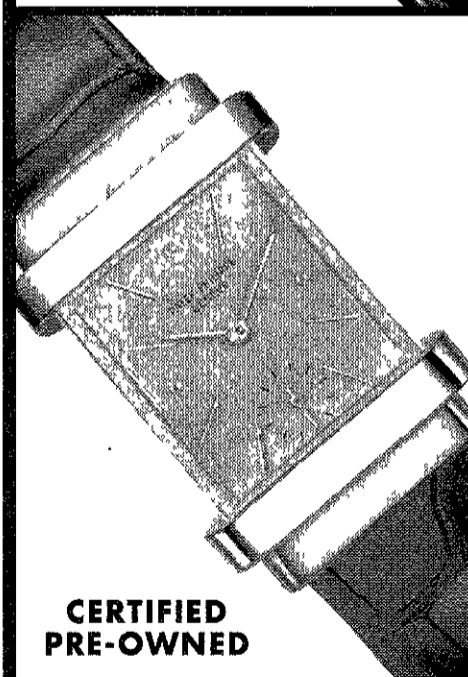
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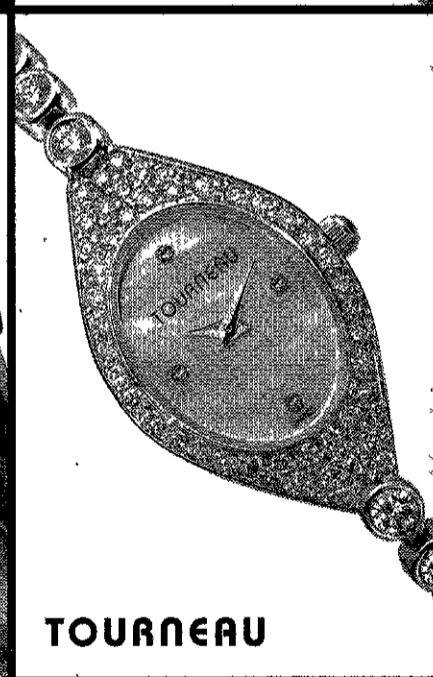
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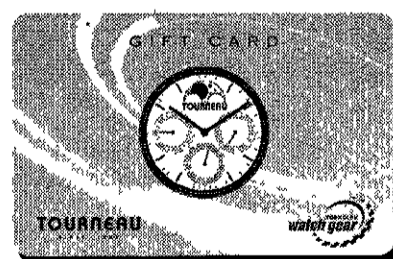
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LUNCHEON

All retired school employees are invited to join the Northwest Wayne County Chapter of Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP) at the next luncheon meeting Wednesday, Dec. 14. MARSP meets at 11:30 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road in Livonia.

At the December luncheon, a Barbershop Chorus of 16 will present a holiday program. Reservations can be made by calling (248) 477-9764. The cost is \$9.

CHANGE

FROM PAGE A1

lounge, a future Costco is planned. The preliminary planned development for the new warehouse store was approved by the Canton Township Board of Trustees Tuesday, and the board will likely see site plans for the store early next year.

Across Michigan Avenue is a successful shopping center. And development continues in every direction on Michigan Avenue and Canton Center, making Grigorian's little parcel an attractive piece of property.

She says she's always had offers from people who wanted to buy the bar.

"Of course years ago, every drinker who ever sat on a bar stool thought they wanted to own a bar," Grigorian said.

But now the callers are more business savvy and they have no intention of doing anything but razing the building to

make way for other construction.

Grigorian and her husband Leon bought the property in 1968, and took four years to convert the former service station into a bar.

"He loved this," Grigorian said. "This was all his." When he passed away 21 years ago, Grigorian had two daughters in college, and needed to learn in a hurry how to manage the business.

She fired all her employees but one, and then learned how to manage the 200-seat operation, how to do inventory and how to work behind the bar. Now Grigorian has 14 employees.

"I guess now I've had the bar longer than my husband did," Grigorian said, doing a quick count on her manicured fingertips.

There was a time when business success came easier than it does now.

"It used to be that all you had to do to have a successful bar was open your doors and

stand back," Grigorian said. "Now you have to find your customers." And you have to adapt to give them what they want, she said.

Gone are the days of getting behind the wheel after drinking one too many. And gone are the days when players on the sports teams leave their wives and children at home. Today's Mobil Lounge is more family-friendly, with a full complement of what Grigorian calls "bar food" on the menu, alongside salads and garden burgers.

"We had to change to keep up with the changing times," Grigorian said. "We have had to give the people what they want."

She sponsors six softball teams, four pool teams and four dart teams, which helps her maintain a steady customer base. The bar hosts Karaoke every weekend, and occasionally family events such as this weekend's guitar recital, take center stage.

"It's been a good run," said Grigorian of her 34 years in the bar. "I put two daughters through college and I've met a lot of great people." But she shrugs when asked if she's ready to retire.

"What else would I do if I'm not doing this?" she said.

Mobil Lounge is located at 45851 Michigan Avenue in Canton Michigan.

cmarshal@hometownlife.com (734) 459-2700

GUNNED DOWN

FROM PAGE A1

briefly with his mother at her residence in Walled Lake, but he recently purchased a condominium and was in the process of moving into his new home, Pomorski said. There were no particular hard feelings, and in fact not long before the murder-suicide, the couple had gotten together a few times, but Belanger ended the relationship abruptly days before the murder, he added.

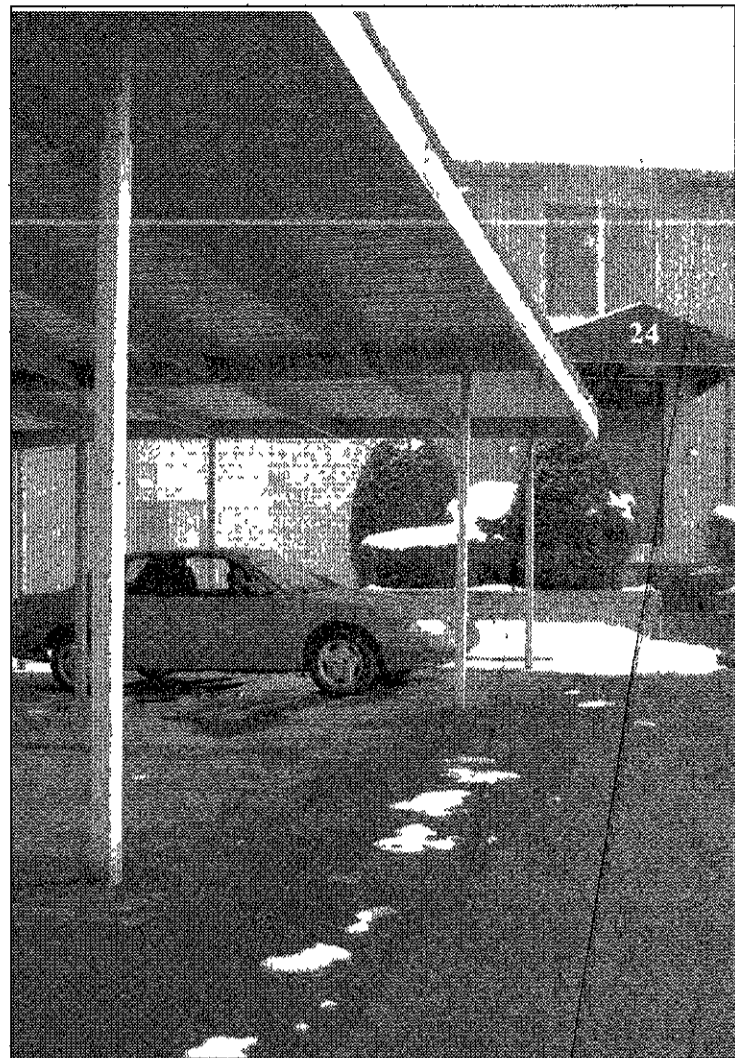
"(Hoffman's) mother had said that the two had recently rekindled the relationship," he said. But something had gone horribly wrong before the afternoon of Dec. 12.

According to police, Hoffman obtained a purchase permit for a handgun that morning. Before noon, he bought the gun, and by noon was in Livonia, where he stopped to see a friend.

'NOT CLEAR TO US'

"It's not clear to us why he went there at this time," Livonia Police Lt. Greg Winn said. Hoffman hadn't seen the friend in years, but had found him at his place of business, ABC Dental on Farmington between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

He was there for nearly four hours, talking to his old friend about his bout with depression, according to Winn. Hoffman left ABC Dental at about 4 p.m., and according to police went to Canton and shot Belanger. He then returned to ABC Dental just before 6 p.m., and again spoke to his old friend. Hoffman told his friend he had a gun and wanted to shoot himself, according to Winn. The friend tried to stop him, but Hoffman walked out of the office, into a hallway,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marlin Neil Hoffman shot Gina Marie Belanger four times in front of this carport on Monday.

and pulled the trigger of his handgun, firing a bullet into his head.

Livonia police were called to the scene at 5:55 p.m. Hoffman was also taken to St. Mary Mercy but he never regained consciousness. He was pronounced dead at 10:28 p.m.

"A lot happened yesterday in such a short period of time," Pomorski said Tuesday. "We're still investigating and trying to piece together what happened."

This is the second murder this year in Canton. Ryan Kierzek pleaded guilty to the March 2 beating death of his 6-month-old son, Tyler Bates. Kierzek is serving 30 to 50 years in prison for second-degree murder.

Staff writer Dan West contributed to this report.

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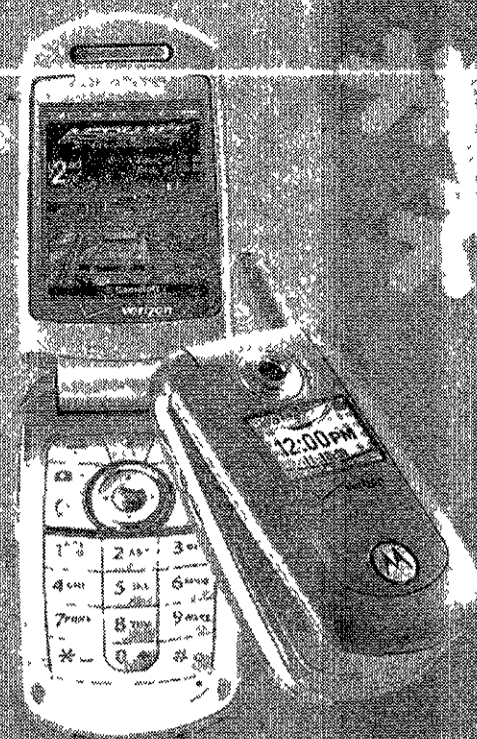
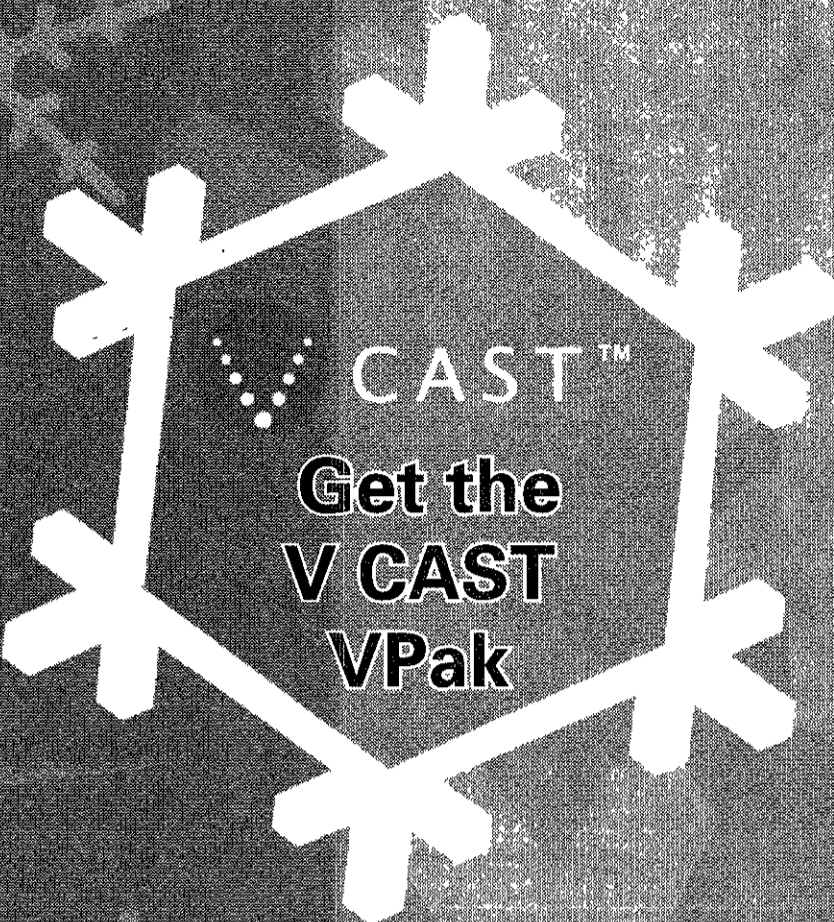
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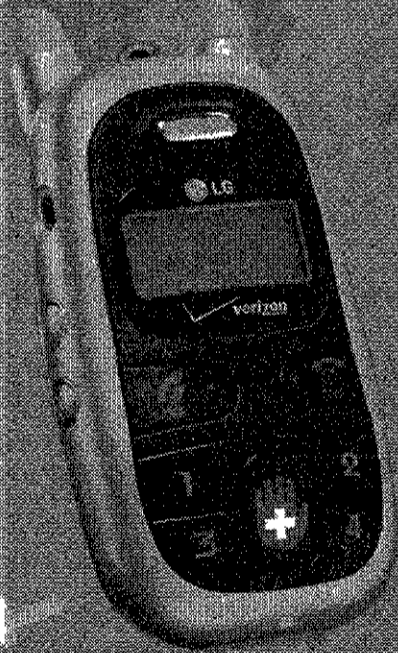
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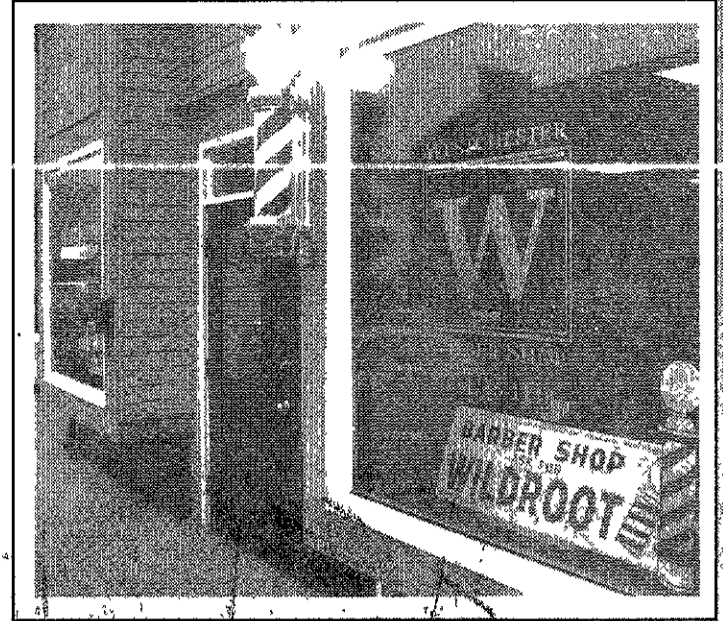
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Local Iraqis cast votes for brighter future

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Jimmy Jardack fought in the Army during World War II to protect the freedom of all Americans.

On Tuesday, the Beverly Hills resident cast his ballot for democracy with visions of freedom for his native land of Iraq.

"I still have a lot of relatives there and I'm concerned for their well-being," said Jardack, in the posh lobby of the Farmington Hills Manor on Orchard Lake Road, where thousands of Iraqi expatriates are expected to vote for a new Iraqi government over a three-day, worldwide election.

The Farmington Hills voting site, heavily guarded by local, county, state and federal police agencies, is one of two polling sites for Iraqi Americans in Michigan. The other site is in Dearborn. Voting continues 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. today, Thursday, Dec. 15. An estimated 20,000 Iraqi Americans in Michigan are expected to vote, according to poll organizer Nabil Roumayah of Southfield.

Jardack, who has lived in the United States since 1938, was born in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. His reasons for voting Tuesday were clear.

FOR DEMOCRACY

"To see that democracy prevails," he said. "Democracy is for everyone. It's important. I fought a war just to see that (here)."

There were smiling faces and even rounds of applause at the voting centers inside the banquet facility. Some paused to take photos of their friends and family as they cast their ballots. Many held up a finger tip coated in purple ink to show they had voted.

"I am very happy," exclaimed an enthusiastic Yousif Thweny of Warren. "I'm 64 years old



Badria Jijo, who grew up in Baghdad and now resides in Warren, casts her vote at one of the 10 voting stations set up at the Farmington Hills Manor in Farmington Hills for the Iraqi voting.

and this is the first time in my life that I know what I am. (In Iraq) we were like animals. We had no voice. Now, we have a voice."

Jacob Yasso, of Detroit left Iraq 41 years ago, but voting on Tuesday was "excellent."

"I hope for prosperity, security and democracy," he said. "I hope for one nation, under God."

Voters selected one party from a four-page ballot of more than 200 parties. A parliament will be seated by Dec. 31. Farmington Hills Clerk Kathryn Dornan, and city clerks from Troy and Birmingham took turns working the polls as "observers."

"They were looking for local clerks to volunteer to do the observing," Dornan said, noting they are checking that the polls open and close on time and that the ballot boxes are

sealed, for example.

VISIBILITY

Quite different from the violence in Iraq, the polling site in Farmington Hills was peaceful and jovial on Tuesday. Voters knew they were safe and secure at the polls.

The Farmington Hills Police Department coordinated security inside and around the perimeter of the Manor. City DPW trucks will remain lined up in the front of the building as a barricade to deter anyone from driving a vehicle into the building, said police Chief William Dwyer.

Farmington Hills officers were joined by the Michigan State Police, the Oakland

County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

"We are responsible for providing a safe environment for people to go, so they don't feel threatened," Dwyer said on Tuesday.

The police presence is worthwhile, he noted.

"The perception is very important. If someone wanted to make some sort of a statement or disrupt the election, we needed to prevent that," Dwyer said.

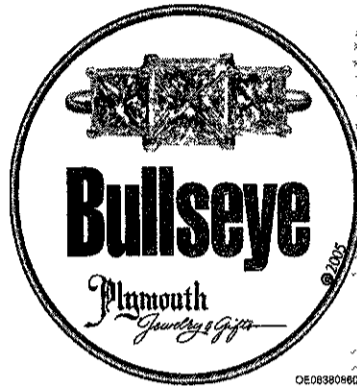
A private security company, headed up by a former FBI agent, is manning the metal detectors as voters enter the site. Police are situated



After casting their ballots, voters dip their right index finger in ink to prevent them from voting again at another voting station.

throughout the building, but Dwyer said the Iraqi American coordinators at the site request the heavy presence.

"The voters were thanking the officers for their presence," Dwyer said.



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OUR VIEWS

Barn should be spared

The Canton Historic District Commission and the Canton Historical Society should be commended for their efforts to try to save a rare piece of the town's agricultural past.

After hearing that the Plymouth-Canton school district was going to demolish an old barn that sits near the corner of McClumpha and Joy roads on the educational campus, the two groups sprang into action. They have begun a fund-raising campaign they hope will bring in enough money to move the barn to Cherry Hill Village, where it would sit next to the historic Bartlett-Travis House.

The old barn is one of about six remaining barns in the township, according to Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett, who is also a member of the historic district commission. She said roughly \$200,000 will have to be raised to make moving the barn feasible.

Bennett said township officials have always wanted to move a barn next to the historic Bartlett-Travis House, so it could be rented out or used for community events, such as farming demonstrations or square dances. This is also the site of the township's annual Village Faire, a popular event that celebrates Canton's rural past, in which farming played a vital role.

The school district has used the barn for storage for a number of years, but it is no longer large enough. Plus, district officials are planning to build tennis courts for the new Plymouth High on the spot where the barn now sits. The goal is to have the barn either moved or demolished by April.

Several barn experts, including one from Michigan State University, have inspected the barn and determined it is in pretty good shape, largely because the school district has been maintaining it. They also determined that some of the timbers in the barn date back to the pre-Civil War era.

It would be a shame to see the barn demolished. In the last two decades, Canton has lost so much of its agricultural past. This is a project the community should embrace and get behind. There just aren't many barns left to save.

To donate to the "Help MOOOVE the barn" project, please call (734) 394-5190.

'Tis the season to give

Some cite the economy — in Michigan it's depressing. Others call it donor fatigue — hurricanes Katrina and Rita and a tsunami in southeast Asia presented an immediate and necessary call to action.

Call it whatever you like, but it's shaping up to be a pretty tough year for local charities who are counting on the holiday season (that period from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day) to shore up food supplies and fund coffers to address local needs.

Throughout the last year, metro Detroiters were generous — as always — in answering the call for help throughout the world and nation.

The Salvation Army Eastern Division raised more than \$3 million for tsunami relief efforts and some \$5 million for hurricane recovery programs.

Add to that donations to the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and a long list of religious organizations and the money leaving southeast Michigan has been impressive.

It's time, however, to think local with that same level of compassion and commitment. The need is certainly here. Detroit was recently ranked the poorest city in the country with a poverty rate pegged at 33 percent.

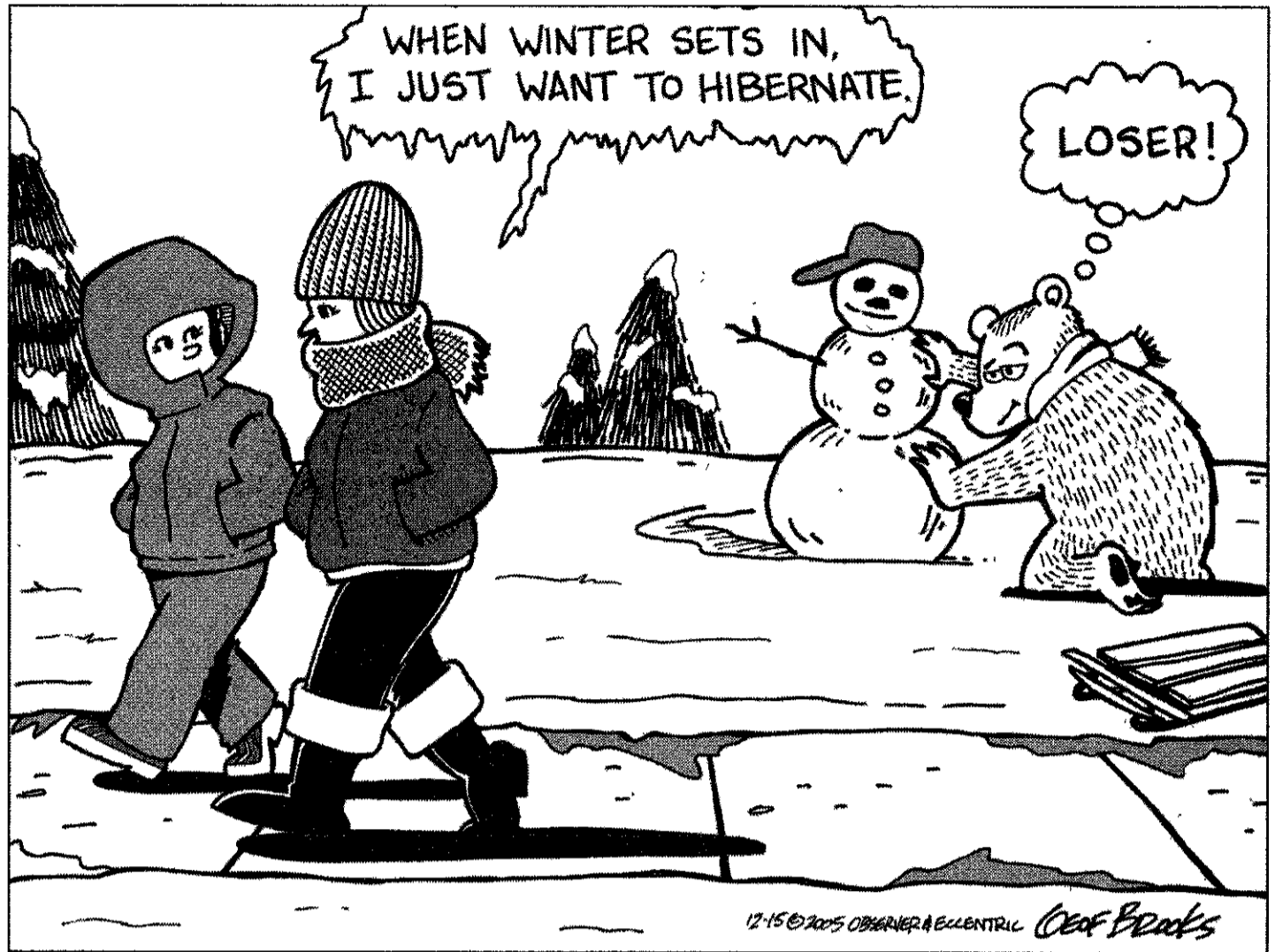
While local charitable options abound for donors in the metro area, two area agencies — Gleaners Community Food Bank and the Salvation Army — are seeking help in meeting basic needs: food and shelter.

Gleaners Community Food Bank urges cash donations, food drives and volunteerism. Visit the Web site at gcfb.org and find out just how much your donation is needed.

The Salvation Army uses 88 cents of every dollar received to provide an average of 13,000 direct services to people in need everyday. The Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign, launched in November, hopes to raise \$7 million at sites throughout the tri-county area by Dec. 24. The poor, homeless and hungry are direct recipients of the Army's local relief efforts.

Visit the Salvation Army's Web site at redkettlecampaign.org to donate or find out more about the group's local mission.

Make the commitment to help those close to home this holiday season. The need is great and the time is now.



LETTERS

Leave hunter alone

I live in the Links West condominiums and my condo backs to David Blendea's property. David has posted his property to protect his liability and he seems to be a safety first hunter. I think we all must keep in mind that David is shooting out of a tree stand and, therefore, is shooting down, which is much safer than hunting from ground level. I only have three problems with David: One, I have to look at his yellow no hunting signs; two, I am envious that I can't walk out my back door to hunt; and three, David has not invited me to hunt on his property. Let's leave David alone and let him enjoy the wonderful property he owns and uses for his pleasure.

Robert J. Schoenfeld
Canton

Take hunting up north

I couldn't have been more shocked to learn when reading the *Canton Observer* this morning that the gunshots I have heard recently were from Mr. Blendea and his friend "hunting" on his property, which is adjacent to the Links West condominiums where I reside. This small parcel of land where Mr. Blendea is "hunting" is about the only wooded area where deer can choose to habitat now, when periodically moving off the Pheasant Run golf course in view of the new condo and home construction that surrounds Blendea's property.

I had suspected and was concerned recently when hearing gunshots while walking with my grandsons on the golf course, that perhaps Mr. Blendea was "sighting in his gun" in preparation to go hunting up north. Now the question of why the decreased sighting of deer over the last few years has been answered. Mr. Blendea may as well hunt at the Detroit Zoo — it would be just about as sporting. However, with the continuation of legal hunting in this area, the township golf course crew will soon be able to save time and money by no longer placing feed piles out for the small declining deer population that we Links residents so enjoy.

The article's accompanying picture depicts Mr. Blendea looking out his back doorwall and his practice deer decoy in the background. What's next? Hunting while sitting in his recliner chair watching football? I have resided in the Plymouth-Canton communities for over 50 years and I too grew up loving the cornfields, pheasant and deer hunting. But times have changed and the communities have grown and have become densely populated. My grandsons and I actually hiked in this area last year hoping to see deer, enjoying the woods, nature and the Rouge River. I never dreamed we were in danger because Mr. Blendea could be legally bow or rifle hunting in close proximity.

The township, along with the DNR, needs to correct this no-brainer situation immediately before someone gets injured or killed. And Mr. Blendea needs to take his "hunting" passion up north.

Gerald Norquist
Canton

Chiefs pride

On behalf of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education, I wish to congratulate coach Tim Baechler and the Canton High School football team for their wonderful showing in the Division 1 state championship game at Ford Field.

Great job on your "dream season." We are brimming with pride at how well you represented yourselves, your school district and your community.

Our congratulations also extend to Director Marc Whitlock and the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park marching band for its stupendous showing, finishing ninth in the nation at the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis at the RCA Dome.

Our pride continues over the fact that magnificent band also won the state championship this year. In fact, the PCEP marching band has qualified as a national finalist 16 times in the last 17 years.

The fact these students have achieved this elite status in both the arts and athletics is made even more amazing by the fact they are a part of a strong academic environment which resulted in 648 students in last year's high school classes receiving the \$2,500 Michigan Merit (MEAP) Scholarships.

Again, congratulations to the PCEP marching band, the Canton Chiefs football team and our student scholars.

Mark Slavens
school board president

Quick snow day

On Friday, Dec. 9, the Plymouth-Canton school system declared a snow day. Not only did this close the schools in its system, but it also triggered the closing of the local day cares. And it kept the school buildings closed Saturday due to a "two-day" policy.

I had one high school and one elementary age child I had to find supervision for. Then I discovered the day care was closed and I had to scramble for a sitter. I still had to go to work.

When I went outside, I found a few inches in light powder and clear streets. Traffic was heavy and moving without a slowdown. Yes, I got very angry.

My preschooler had a function on Saturday at Discovery and that was now canceled after much planning, rehearsals and food preparation. On Saturday, the streets were even more clear and the sun was out.

I think the school system was much too quick to declare a snow day. Are we so soft that our children can't make their way through a little snow? This type of light snow doesn't even register as an event in some communities.

Next time, don't believe the "pending snowstorm" reporting on the news, which sensationalizes any event to gain listeners. Toughen up a little and think about how your actions have this chain effect.

Tom L. Sullivan
Plymouth

QUOTABLE

"We have had a lot of growth in Canton in the 12 years I've been here, and especially in the last three years. After IKEA opens, Ford Road will be like the Novi exit on I-96. Besides IKEA, we have a lot of good stores around us, but we know IKEA will really have a huge impact on the area."

— Tom Thakker, who is opening the state's first Taco Time on Ford Road in Canton, just west of the IKEA store, which is set to open in 2006

CANTON
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

New MEDC head should inject some common sense in Lansing

Acute neurosis, mental health professionals tell us, is relatively easy to diagnose. Somebody who keeps doing self-destructive things over and over again is certifiably neurotic — even though he knows perfectly well how dangerous they are. People like that may be helped by sessions on a shrink's couch.

I suspect there isn't a couch large enough to hold as many of our legislators as needed, but their pattern of self-destructive activity over the past few years certainly qualifies them for long-term therapy.

And the fallout is there for all to see. Consider, for example, the perilous state of Michigan's economy: we're certainly facing the greatest crisis since the Great Depression.



Phil Power

Now reflect on the Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC), the quasi-public outfit that over the years has earned the reputation as one of the country's best of its kind.

You'd think that the Legislature would be falling all over itself to provide funds to help the MEDC attract and retain jobs in Michigan. Especially now.

Far from it. Over the past five years, the general fund appropriation to the MEDC has been cut by more than 70 percent, its staffing by around 20 percent.

Its total operating budget has shriveled from \$110 million in fiscal 2000 to \$31 million six years later. Its authorized work force had fallen to 190 for 2006. But a last-minute \$3 million legislative cut in late November reduced the staff to 138.

Funding for Travel Michigan, the organization within the MEDC that promotes Michigan's tourist industry — arguably the state's second largest — has decreased by one-quarter since 2000.

Annual funding is currently \$4.9 million below average state expenses on tourist promotion. At the same time, Michigan has the lowest occupancy rate of all 50 states, meaning our tourism business has suffered directly as promotion funding has dried up.

Thick headed? Yep. Neurotic? Probably. Self-destructive? Without a doubt.

At this point, I hasten to confess bias. I've been a member of the MEDC board of directors since the early 1990s, when I was appointed by former Gov. John Engler.

I've seen the MEDC in good times (i.e. under Engler) and in today's bad times, when some Republicans in the Legislature have set out to hobble, if not kill outright,

the state's main economic development organization.

The main culprit in all this is the so-called "caveman caucus" in the state House of Representatives, a bunch of self-described ultra-conservatives instrumental in electing Rep. Craig De Roche, R-Novi, speaker and to whom he owes allegiance and loyalty.

I've seen how effective the MEDC can be. And in recent times, I've seen how the organization, properly, has tightened up as its budget has been cut. And I've seen just how hobbled the MEDC has become in trying to help our state out of its economic jam.

So I was interested to see what would happen when I attended the board meeting last week.

There's a new CEO, Jim Epolito, a seasoned business executive. He took the Michigan Accident Fund from peanuts to a many-hundred-million-dollar operation in just a few years, and isn't afraid to tell it like it is.

Epolito recognizes that part of the problem with the Legislature is simple communications. Most lawmakers are new to their jobs and haven't the foggiest idea of what economic development is all about.

The newly adopted 21st Century Jobs Fund could be a big help. The legislation puts a lot of the authority for the program into the Michigan Strategic Fund, but it's likely the MEDC will wind up with much of the administrative responsibility for something like \$250 million in job-creating programs.

Those are focused on four key sectors of our economy: life sciences, alternative energy, homeland security and defense, and advanced automotive manufacturing and materials.

"Things are coming together right now," Epolito told me after the meeting. "For the first three months, we were playing defense. Now we can go on offense in attracting and retaining jobs."

"Our plan is simple. First, we must do everything we can to secure our manufacturing base. Second, we need to plant the seeds of jobs for the future."

Sounds sensible and insightful to me. Epolito may not be a psychiatrist, but he is just the kind of guy to inject a bunch of common sense into a neurotic political environment in Lansing.

Phil Power, a member of the board of directors of the MEDC, is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.

Annual candlelight vigil helps parents cope with their loss

The weather, unpredictable as it is in Michigan, never seems to be a problem for The Compassionate Friends when they get together for their annual candlelight vigil to honor children who have died too soon.

Last year, rain threatened the event, conducted in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park, but the raindrops stopped falling literally minutes before the 7 p.m. vigil. This year, snowflakes drifted down aimlessly, and of course it was cold, but nothing happened to dampen the event.

It could give you pause to wonder whether the children being honored by the ceremony are looking out for those gathered. Gail Lafferty doesn't wonder, though. She knows it, for sure.

"The kids definitely take care of us," she said with a smile.

Smiling comes easier now for Lafferty, a Livonia resident who lost her son, Max, at the age of 18 when he died in a car accident the day after Christmas in 1995. That's part of what makes this time of year hard — though for parents who've lost children, there's no such thing as an easy time.

What Lafferty does, though, is find things that help her get through the holidays, a season that might otherwise be lost to her. The annual vigil is one of those things.

"It gets hard, especially in December, especially around Christmas," Lafferty said, after sharing the trademark hug she has for just about everyone. "It helps me to work on this, though."

The Livonia chapter of The Compassionate Friends held its annual candle-lighting ceremony Sunday in Kellogg Park, braving elements that would have kept most people indoors — snow on the ground, temperatures below freezing, the Lions on national television.

It's part of an international children's memorial honoring — and, more importantly, remembering — children lost too young, the idea being to light candles at 7 p.m. in every time zone around the world. As the candles fade in one zone, they're lit in another, providing a 24-hour wave of light encircling the globe "in loving memory of all children that their light may always shine."

It's amazing to see literally hundreds of people come together, united in one common purpose, by a shared grief you have to experience to really understand. They gather around the Christmas tree decorated with ornaments bearing the names of children they've lost, a tangible expression of an intangible feeling.

They share the moment with others in the same situation, bearing the same grief, hoping to connect with their lost child. They're gathered with friends, some longtime friends, some they see only on this night. Some lost their children only recently, others years ago.

There's a lot of repeat business at the vigil, peo-

ple seeking solace and hoping to spread some.

"We get a lot of old-timers who come back for this, even though they don't even come to the meetings anymore," said Lafferty, treasurer of the Livonia chapter. "It doesn't surprise me. This is a special event."

Pat and Paula Gibbons agree. They've been coming since they lost their son, Dan, in an automobile accident four years ago. This year, they put up a Christmas tree in the park and decorated it with ornaments, pictures and testimonials to their son.

They attended Sunday's vigil with family, all gathered to help remember Dan, all happy to hear his name included with some 500 names read every year.

"You want to hear your child's name," Paula Gibbons said. "I've come a long way in four years, and The Compassionate Friends has been a big part of my healing. And time helps."

The Gibbons lost Dan to a car accident. In the gathering, the causes of loss are all different — from car accidents to drug overdoses, from cancer to suicide — but the sense of loss is the same. The memorial features the singing of songs and the reading of inspirational poems.

The tears flow from the first minute to the last, from the eldest eyes to the youngest. Grieving parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and friends all gathered to cry, to laugh — but mostly to remember.

Michelle and Paul Donnelly came from Howell in search of something — anything, really — to help them overcome the pain of a fourth lost child. Michelle Donnelly has now had late-term miscarriages in four pregnancies in eight years.

The couple came to Sunday's vigil — with sons Sam, 7, and Max, 6, and their 2-year-old sister Ava — at the urging of Paul's sister, who read about the vigil online.

Before the event, Michelle Donnelly was hoping the vigil would help jump-start the grieving process after losing her fourth child in August.

"We haven't really even grieved yet ... life keeps moving," Michelle said. "I hope this will help us do that. Hopefully, communing with others who want the same thing will bring us a little peace of mind."

That's the incredible part of this annual ritual, this yearly group hug that gets hundreds of people through one more holiday season. It's a difficult pain to imagine if you haven't gone through it, an impossible pain to manage if you have, a seemingly unbearable burden if you're just starting to go through it. But the candle-lighting ceremony helps.

"People feel good being here, although they're very sad, especially the newly bereaved," said Lafferty, who is getting through her 10th holiday season. "It's a special night."

Which might explain why the snow stopped.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the *Plymouth Observer*. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 459-2700.

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Award recognizes Best Friends of Rouge

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

The Friends of the Rouge honored three Rouge River restoration volunteers Thursday with their Best Friend of the Rouge Award. The Friends recognized Edward J. Bagale, vice chancellor at the University of Michigan-Dearborn; Kurt Kuban, community editor of the *Canton Observer*; and Marjane Baker, a retired teacher at Tonda Elementary in the Plymouth-Canton School District. The award is presented in recognition of the "positive impact" that recipients have had on the Rouge River.

The awards were presented at the Friends annual membership meeting at the University of Michigan's Environmental Interpretive Center in Dearborn.

Awardees were selected from the Nonprofit Sector, Education and Volunteer At-Large.

"Without the dedication and support of our volunteers, we would not be successful in our mission to restore and protect the Rouge River," said Carolyn McCaughey, executive director of Friends of the Rouge.

Bagale is being honored for his tireless efforts in raising awareness of the Rouge River and our local environment.

"Because of Ed Bagale's leadership, perseverance and hard work, Rouge River residents have more opportunities to experience nature through projects such as the Rouge River Gateway Greenway Trail. He is a true friend of the Rouge," McCaughey said.

Bagale said when he first came to the university in 1985, he was interested in finding a way for the university to "provide value" to the community. He said the environment around the university's Dearborn campus has been a way to link the university and the communities around it.

"They say it takes a village to educate a child. It also takes a village to clean up a watershed," Bagale said. "What we've figured out in the last 25-30 years is that success breeds success. If you don't mind who sets the

sponsors workshops on geographic issues for teachers. She said that she and another teacher applied to a grant from the National Geographic to buy hip boots that have been used by students to wade in the Rouge River.

"Every year the kids would say they thought it would not be exciting, but then they'd say it was their favorite field trip. They liked getting down and dirty," Baker said.

Said McCaughey: "Friends

of the Rouge is proud to honor Marjane Baker for her dedication to educating students about the important role they play in the health of the Rouge River."

While at Tonda, Baker established a natural area along the banks of Fellows Creek, a tributary of the Rouge River. With her guidance, students planted more than 1,000 trees and shrubs.

"I never expected recognition for doing what we should

be doing anyway," she said.

Friends of the Rouge is always looking for volunteers to help with river restoration projects.

"The Friends of the Rouge have a multitude of programs for volunteering at the Rouge Rescue, or conducting bug hunts or frog/toad surveys, or getting involved in the Rouge Education Project, which introduces many school children to the Rouge," Kuban said.



Best Friend of Rouge Award recipients (left to right) Edward Bagale, Marjane Baker and Kurt Kuban

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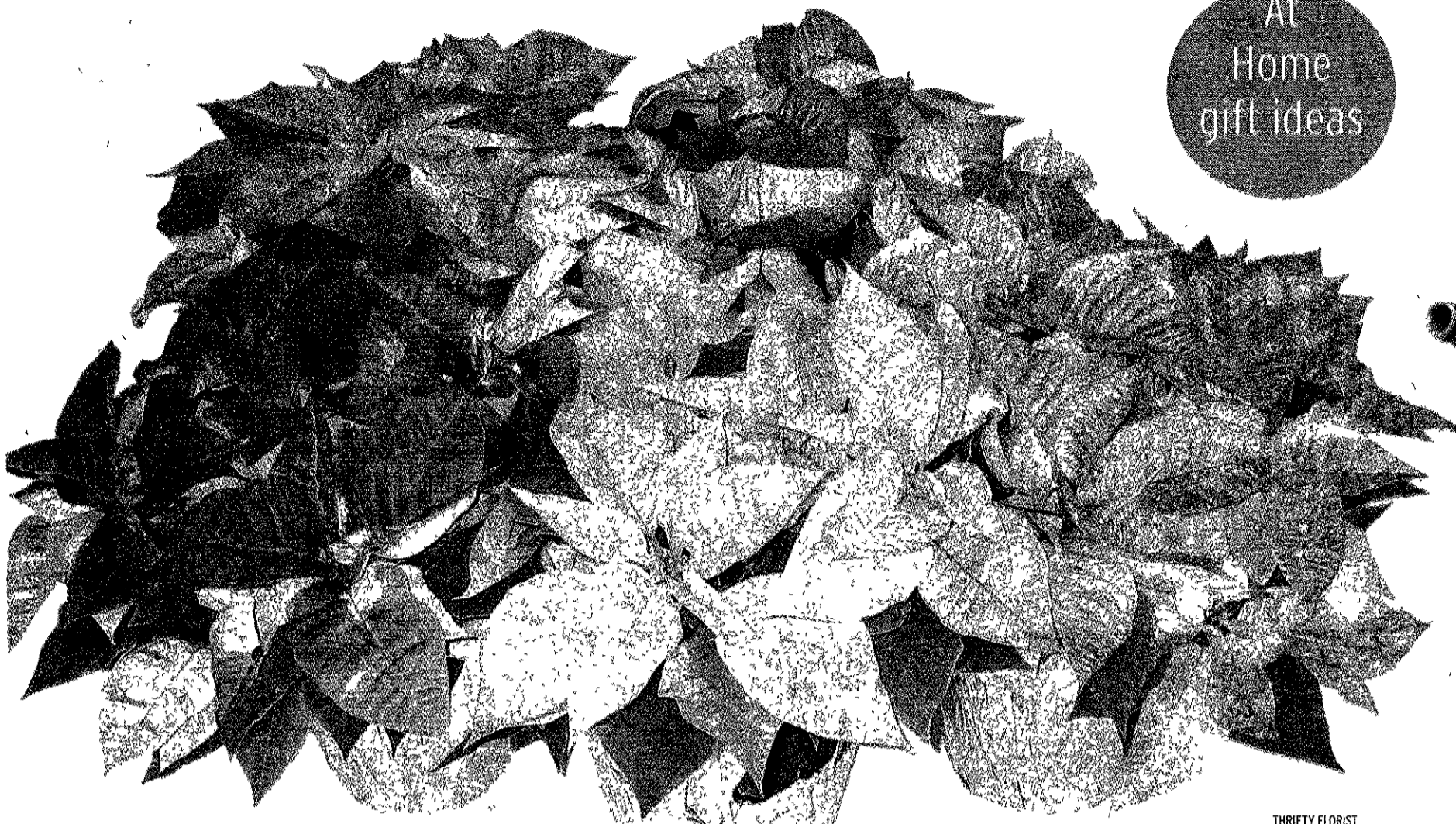


A family of four

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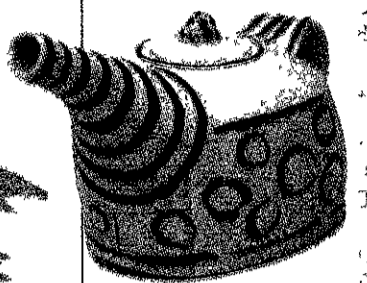
Holiday homes need more security
INSIDE B3

Ken Abramczyk, editor
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Fax (734) 591-7279
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All Home gift ideas

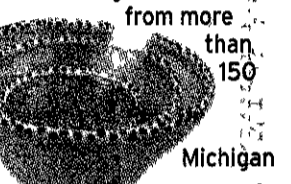
Accents



Gallery shop

The Ann Arbor Art Gallery's Gallery Shop features holiday gifts now through Dec. 31. The art center is at 117 W. Liberty in downtown Ann Arbor. For more information, including the shop's extended holiday hours, call (734) 994-8004, Ext. 118.

The Gallery Shop presents an expanded selection of original art work from more than 150 Michigan and regional artists.



Among the works are musical instruments, handmade wood furniture, jewelry, ceramics, glass and fiber. Examples are the nesting pots and teapot shown here.

Sports scene

Are you a football enthusiast who has a room decorated to reflect your interest in the NFL? Does the decor in your home have a football motif or theme?

We'd like to share such spaces with our readers. Tell us about your room, including how you tackled the theme or achieved your decorating goal. Mail the information to At Home, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009 or 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150; fax it to At Home, (248) 644-1314 or (734) 591-7279; or e-mail it to Ken Abramczyk, kabramczyk@hometownlife.com or Mary Klemic, mklemic@hometownlife.com.

Be sure to include your name, phone number and address, and the best time to call you.

Dots right

"Ever pick up a ring of keys and wonder where they all go and what they open? Or worse yet, spend five minutes trying to open a lock, in the dark, late at night, during a downpour?" say Morris and James Carey, writing for AP Weekly Features. "Color-coded keys make opening locks a breeze. Just put a dab of the same color paint or the same color adhesive dots on corresponding keys and locks. At a glance, you will be able to find the one you are looking for, no matter how many keys you have on your ring.

"You can forget memorizing shapes and special names on various keys. Just connect the dots."

Dig these garden gifts

Remember your green thumb this holiday season

There are some gift suggestions for the gardener on your holiday list that will give a green thumb up. One that gives a new spin to the traditional poinsettia. Dyes from Germany are available that can be used to paint white poinsettias, says David Calcaterra, vice president of Thrifty Florist. "You can paint purple blooms or like every color in the rainbow," he said. A variation on hanging baskets is another new idea. "Burlap pouches filled with evergreen branches are becoming very popular," Calcaterra said. The pouches, costing around \$19.99, are a way to decorate an outdoor area during the winter.

"It just adds a little (decoration) to the garden," Calcaterra said. Soaps and lotions for gardeners make good gifts, Calcaterra said. **HEAVIER-DUTY** Heavier-duty items are good gift ideas as well. Examples at Saxtons Garden Center in Plymouth include a Toro snowblower. The snowblowers start at \$359.95. Snowblowers have improved, says business owner Alan Saxton. "They're much better machines by far," he said. "They throw snow better, throw it

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Looking for an unusual gift for a gardener? Suggestions include dyes available at Thrifty Florist that can be used to paint a white poinsettia just about any color.

GARDEN GIFT SOURCES

- Thrifty Florist: in Birmingham, (248) 203-2980; Livonia, (734) 421-9250; Westland, (734) 467-5144; Ann Arbor, (734) 973-5585; Huntington Woods, (248) 544-0850. For other locations, visit www.thriftyflorist.com or call (888) 847-4589.
- Saxtons Garden Center: (734) 453-6250
- Michigan School of Gardening: www.michigangardening.com, (248) 4-GARDEN
- Practical Gardening Institute: www.practicalgardeninginstitute.com

PLEASE SEE GARDEN, B4

All I want for Christmas is ... power tools



The Kid's Carpenter Workbook is designed to safely introduce children and parents to basic carpentry skills and tools.

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Looking for something for the DIY-er in your life? With all the home remodeling that's going on these days, you can visit your local hardware, tool store or national retail store to find the perfect gift for those who love to tinker or build. (Heck, it might even serve as a not-so-subtle hint to get going on that room remodel you've talked about for years.) For starters, you can get back to the basics with wrench, drill bit or plier sets for beginners. For the handyman or handywoman, get them into the high-tech tools — such as a laser level to help line up wall art and photo-

graphs to setting cabinet lines and drop ceilings. "The new hot laser items are going quite well," said Kathy Wojciechowski, store manager of the Sears Hardware in Westland. Remodeling projects also defy the stereotype as something exclusive for the "man-of-the-house." "Women are buying tools," said Wojciechowski. "More and more are finishing up their homes. They're able to take on these projects." Versatility is an added dimension to today's tools. The Craftsman 19.2-horsepower drill has several add-ons, including a vacuum, saw, hand planer, jigsaw and sander. One Sears salesman suggests

that a holiday shopper facing a budget crunch doesn't need to buy that whole kit for \$300; family members can split up the costs and buy the attachments separately and only the ones that are needed. If you know of newlyweds or young homeowners, you might consider basic tools for them. A Lasertrac 7-1/4 inch circular saw (\$59.99) projects a red laser line on the workpiece. Other ideas include a table saw with folding legs and a dust bag. And don't forget the all-important level. For the homeowner who wants to do some serious remodeling, consider

PLEASE SEE POWER, B4

Get a fire-sale price on HP's office-friendly color printer



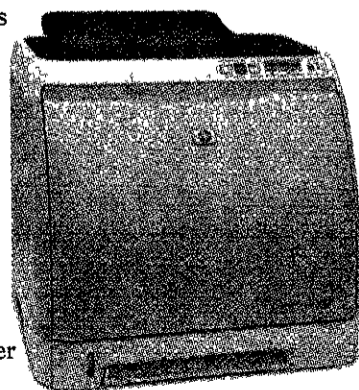
Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

Shopping for a new printer? Here's the deal of the century: HP's Color LaserJet 2600n is on sale for \$319.99 until the end of the year. A color laser printer? The thought probably never crossed your mind, and with good reason: Until recently, they cost a small fortune. But with HP's deal, which includes free shipping and an instant rebate (the price is normally \$399) when you order direct from the company, you can score a color

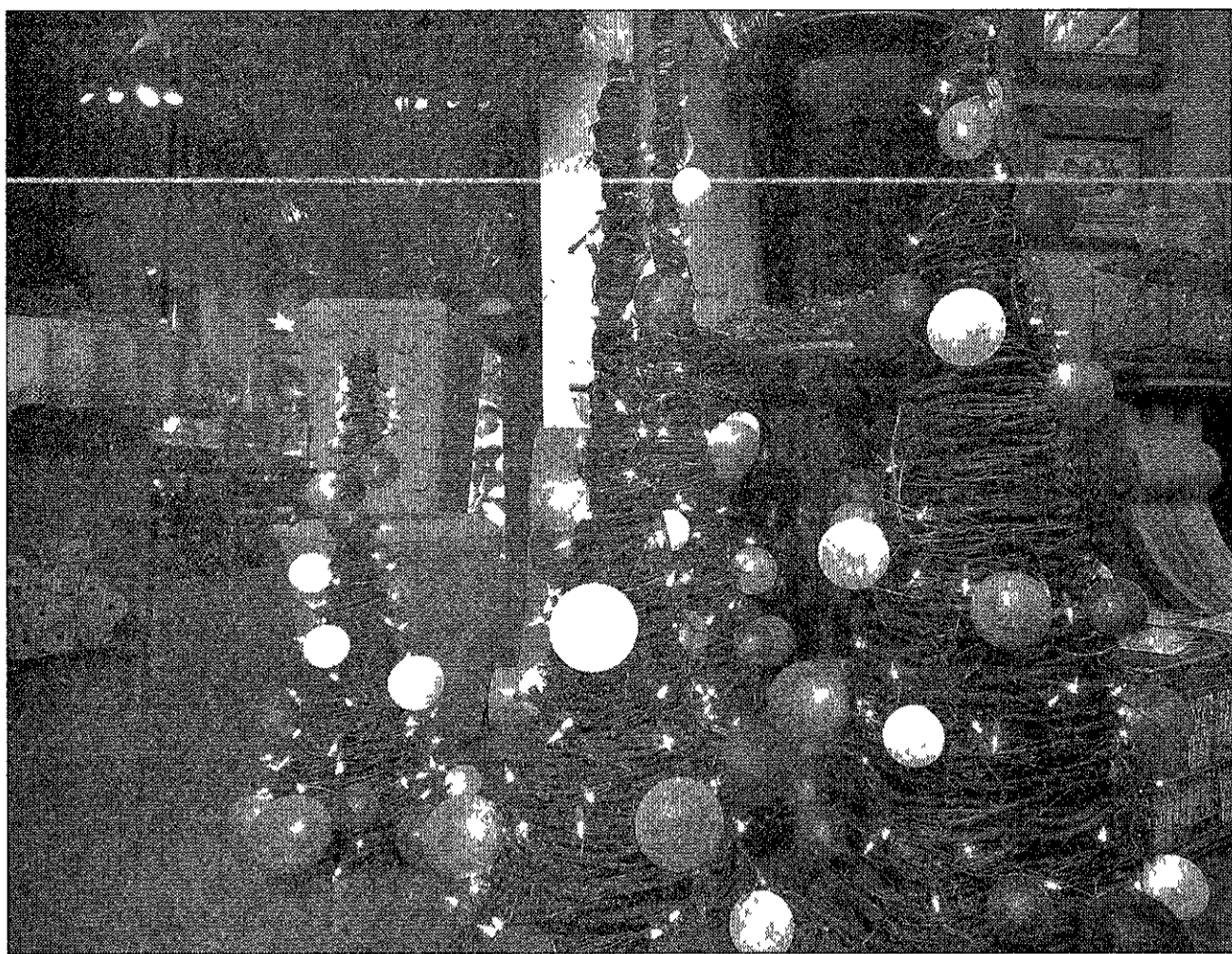
laser for less than you'd pay for a high-end inkjet. I've had a 2600n on my desk for the last couple of weeks. Once you've grown accustomed to printing gorgeous color documents on plain old copy paper, it's hard to go back to a fussy, noisy, ink-gobbling inkjet. For example, this year we decided to send a one-page family newsletter along with our holiday cards. I dressed it up with colorful seasonal art, then dashed off 50 copies on the 2600n.

The last time I printed 50 copies of something on my inkjet, all I could think about was how much ink it was costing. Those cartridges are expensive! Admittedly, so are replacement toner cartridges for the Color LaserJet. It requires four of them, and you'll pay close to \$300 for a set. Yowza. On the plus side, you can print upward of 2,500 pages before you'll need more toner. Size is something else to consider



On sale for \$319.99 until the end of the year, HP's Color LaserJet 2600n should be on the short list for any business that does a lot of color printing.

PLEASE SEE BROIDA, B5



Seasonal ideas

Detroit Garden Works, 1794 Pontiac Drive in Sylvan Lake, offers a vast assortment of holiday decorations, services and unusual gifts for home and garden. Included are winter pot design and planting, dry and preserved natural materials for topiary and winter pots, topiary design and fabrication, holiday lighting and decoration for interior and exterior, and cut flowers for parties and events. Two of the many holiday items are shown here: chickadees and cardinals, and Belgium bubble ball trees. Recall the feel of the great outdoors with faux branches, garlands and picks combined with the charm of the handcarved birds. Many are weatherproof and can be used in or out. Prices range from \$6.50 to \$89. The bubble ball trees are exclusively designed Belgium hops vine cones adorned in white lights and bulb covers that pop with holiday glow. Various heights are available, ranging in price from \$79 to \$275. Bulb covers are sold separately, and come in red, green and white. Costs are \$42 for a small package (12 covers) and \$68 for a large package (18 covers). Call (248) 335-8089. Visit www.detroitgardenworks.com. Detroit Garden Works' newest venture, Branch Manufacturing, is up and running at its new home in Pontiac. This studio designs and fabricates garden pots, furniture and sculpture, all made by hand. Visit www.thebranchstudio.com, e-mail info@thebranchstudio.com or call (248) 874-1314.



HOME CALENDAR

Santa visits

Santa Claus will greet children and pass out special treats at area Art Van Furniture stores. Parents may bring their cameras. Santa will be at the Art Van Furniture store at 8300 Wayne Road in Westland noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17. Phone (734) 425-9600. He will be at the Art Van Furniture stores at 22555 Greenfield in Southfield and 27775 Novi Road in Novi Sunday, Dec. 18. Santa will be at the Southfield store noon to 2 p.m. (phone (248) 569-3770) and the Novi store 3-5 p.m. (phone (248) 348-8922). **Kwanzaa celebration** The Storytellers will share stories about the African-American tradition of Kwanzaa, and demonstrate ethnic musical instruments, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Art Van Furniture, 13855 E. Eight Mile in Warren. Phone (586) 779-9530. This enthusiastic duo performs lively presentations and encourages the participation of the children in attendance.

Meadow Brook Hall

The 2005 Holiday walk is being held by a group of professionally decorated Meadow Brook Hall, continues to Sunday, Dec. 18. Tours are available 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, with last admittance at 4 p.m. Reservations aren't required for any of the tours. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$5 for ages 17 and under, free for under age 2, \$12 for OU affiliates with ID, \$5 for OU students. A special group rate of \$12 per person is available for groups of 20 or more. The museum holiday shop features holiday and gift-giving treasures. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Meadow Brook Hall is on the Oakland University campus in Rochester. Call (248) 364-6200 or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org for information. Breakfast with Santa will take place 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, in the ballroom, including visiting with Santa and making ornaments. Cost is \$25 for children, \$30 for adults. For reservations and information, call (248) 364-6263. It's a Wonderful Life at the Grand Manor will take place 7-11 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, offering 1940s holiday treats, traditions and entertain-

ment; guests are invited to dress in the style of the period or business casual. The festivities will include candlelight tours, live music, a strolling dinner, jitterbug lessons, a "Martini's Bar" and a showing of the classic film *It's a Wonderful Life*. Reservations are required. Cost is \$65. For reservations and information, call (248) 364-6206. Meadow Brook Hall, a 100-room mansion, was built by Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto magnate John Dodge. **Holiday Shop** The Holiday Shop at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, 1516 Cranbrook Road in Birmingham, offers eclectic and extraordinary holiday gifts now to Saturday, Dec. 17. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. This year, more than 100 renowned artists from across the country are selling all types of wares, including pottery and textiles. Purchases include complimentary wrapping. For more information, call (248) 644-0866 or visit www.bbartcenter.org. **Gift gallery** The Art Gallery at the Pointe Club Center for the Arts in Rochester offers original gifts handcrafted by Michigan artists. The PCCA is at 407 Pine. The gallery is open now to Jan. 7. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Dec. 23 and 30; closed Dec. 24-26 and 31. Call (248) 651-4110 or visit www.pccart.org. **Sculpture for home** HMFRRNSHNGS: Utilitarian Sculpture for the Home, an exhibit of work by students, alumni and instructors of the College for Creative Studies, continues to Feb. 9 at the Janice Charach Epstein Gallery, in the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-1000. The show pushes the boundaries of functionality for furniture and other items in the home. The furnishings are available for purchase. *Send calendar items at least two weeks ahead of the event to Ken Abramczyk, At Home Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, e-mail kabramczyk@hometownlife.com, fax (734) 591-7279 or (248) 644-1314.*

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GARDEN CALENDAR

Garden design

A new class, Designing Your Garden from the Inside Out, will take place on four Tuesdays beginning Jan. 10 at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham. Fee is \$125. Materials needed are a sketch pad, drafting pencils, colored pencils, erasers, standard plastic slot guides for drawing circles and triangles, and a drafting slot guide. To register and for more information, call (248) 644-5832 or visit www.communityhouse.com. In the class, you will design a small garden using the view from your favorite window, incorporating hardy perennials, shrubs and bulbs to make the most of all seasons. Bring snap-

shots of different views of the area from inside and outside the planned garden. Instructor Michael Saint, owner of Good Earth Landscape & Interior Design LLC in Clarkston, is a member of the Michigan Wildflower Association and the National Wildlife Association. His gardens have been certified as wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Association.

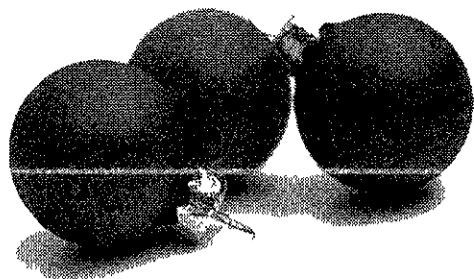
Send calendar items at least two weeks ahead of the event to Ken Abramczyk, At Home Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, e-mail kabramczyk@hometownlife.com, fax (734) 591-7279 or (248) 644-1314.

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's SPORTS section



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Homes need added security during holidays



The holidays keep people preoccupied with winter travel, remembering everyone on their wish list, and smiling through the office party.

The problem with this time of year is that burglars are busy too.

During the holidays, people take items out of high-security stores and house them in low-security homes. A savvy thief is aware of this, and might even wait until mid-January to enter your home, after your defenses are down.

However, you don't have to let criminals run off with all your new gifts. By using smart ideas, such as better outdoor lighting and home security systems, you can turn your home into a citadel that scares away night prowlers.

ServiceMagic, a free online home improvement resource for consumers and contractor matching service, provides a few home security basics for every homeowner so they can protect their home and family this holiday season and into the new year.

Most thieves are opportunistic. They come into a neighborhood and look for houses that seem undefended and unoccupied.

An important part of home security is making your home look occupied at all times.

■ One big clue that you are out of town is your mail or newspapers piling up. Never allow newspapers to accumulate in the front yard. Ask a neighbor or friend to get your mail.

■ Not only should some lights be on, but the array of lights should change just as it would if the home were occupied. The easiest way to do this is with timers.

■ Leave on a TV or radio with the volume turned up loud enough to be heard by someone approaching the doors or windows.

■ Having a car in the garage or driveway can also be a deterrent. If you are going on a trip and not leaving a car at home, you might want to make arrangements with the next door neighbors to park one of their cars in your driveway while you are away.

Alarm systems offer little in the way of

physical obstacles to thieves. Instead they offer an important psychological one.

■ In a neighborhood with an efficient police force, the alarm substantially increases the odds that the thief will get caught. Even in areas where police response times are slow, the noise and attention of an alarm may well dissuade the burglar from finishing their mission.

■ The cost of alarm systems varies widely. A burglar easily can disable some of the simpler, less expensive detection devices. The more complex and unfamiliar the array of devices, the more likely the burglar is to trigger the alarm or give up trying to disable it.

■ The response time to alarms is driven by the effectiveness of the monitoring service you're using.

When considering a monitoring service, get the names of people who have had the opportunity to observe response times in the past.

Most area police departments encourage homeowners to etch their Social Security number on the metal surfaces of valuables that are prone to theft, although sometimes this isn't very practical because it can decrease the item's value.

Here are a couple of things that will help if thieves happen to breach your security.

■ Photographs of especially valuable items like art work and antiques can help police recover goods.

■ A journal or log of jewelry and other valuables will also help expedite dealing with insurance agents.

Additional tips on hundreds of home-related topics can be found in Homeowner Resources at www.servicemagic.com.

This free service can also connect you with prescreened and customer-rated home service professionals in your area, including security companies.

ServiceMagic® Inc. is headquartered in Golden, Colo.

The company addresses more than 500 different home service needs that range from simple home repairs and maintenance to complete home remodeling projects.

Snow removal 101: Take it easy

Winter in Michigan means snow. In fact as I write this, it's snowing. That snow will need to be



Ask Dad

Harry Jachym

removed from the sidewalk and drive. Before you head out to remove the snow this winter, be it hand shovel or with power, there are a few things to consider.

It's a well-known fact that shoveling snow puts a stress on a person's body. Major snowfalls bring a sudden increase in the number of fatal heart attacks. People with high blood pressure, history of heart problems, smokers and those who lead sedentary lives are especially at risk. Team this up with the fact that cold air is harder to breathe, and you could be looking at trouble.

On the good side, the U.S. surgeon general recommends that we should all have at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity a day. Snow shoveling counts as physical activity.

Before heading out to shovel the snow, take some time to consider these tips:

■ Make sure you have a good shovel. The shovel should be strong but light in weight. Avoid plastic blades, as they tend to break easily and don't chop ice very well. The shovel should be as large as you can handle with a full load of snow,

Major snowfalls bring a sudden increase in the number of fatal heart attacks. People with high blood pressure, history of heart problems, smokers and those who lead sedentary lives are especially at risk.

but not so large that you have to strain to lift it. Make sure the shovel fits your body, not too long or too short.

■ Take time to stretch. Even physically active people need to "warm up" before shoveling.

■ If you are sedentary or have heart problems, discuss snow removal with your medical professional.

■ Avoid caffeine or alcohol before starting to work on the snow. Caffeine is a stimulant and will increase your heart rate. Alcohol constricts your blood vessels, which also makes you feel colder and forces your heart to work harder.

■ Drink water as necessary. If you are thirsty, you are already starting to dehydrate.

■ Dress in layers, adding or removing layers as necessary.

■ Coat your shovel with silicon spray so the snow will slide off easier.

■ Load the shovel less if the snow is wet and heavy.

■ Begin slowly and pace yourself. Shovel the needed areas first. If your body says it's

time to take a break, do it.

■ Lift correctly. Back injuries and other strains are very frequent when shoveling snow.

■ Watch your balance. Slips are all too common.

■ Once the snow is removed, spread salt or other ice melting agent or grit.

If you are like me and prefer to use power to remove the snow, read and follow the recommendations in the owner's manual. If you bought a used snow blower without a manual, look on the Internet and you may find one.

Keep yourself and others out of the line of the discharge. Stones and other objects can be thrown from the machine.

Don't allow children or inexperienced people to use the snow blower.

Take a few moments to plan your pattern for removal. This will likely change with each snow fall depending on the amount of snow and wind direction. Shut the machine off before cleaning clogs from the machine.

Now that this column is finished, I think I'll go outside and follow a few of the above mentioned tips. To all readers, I wish you and your families a great holiday season.

Harry Jachym writes Ask Dad, a column on home issues ranging from repairs and maintenance to building and remodeling projects. He is a Plymouth resident.

Send any questions or comments to Jachym at askdad@comcast.net or in care of Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

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GARDEN

FROM PAGE B1

farther." Saxton also suggested a chain saw by Stihl or Shindaiwa (starting at \$159.95), and a lawn mower by such companies as Honda, Toro and Layn-Boy. Riding lawn mowers start at \$2,200; more professional styles start at \$5,000. On a smaller scale, Saxton suggested no-spill fuel cans, generators, turteup kits for lawn mowers, and

interchangeable tools such as hoes, shovels and rakes that can be put on short or long handles. And a Mantis tiller, which is good for the garden almost all year. "I use one every weekend except when the grass is frozen," Saxton said. **LEARNING EXPERIENCE** Whether the gardener on your list is a novice or experienced, and whether his or her garden is small or large, a gardening class or membership in a garden-related organization is a thoughtful gift. Continuing education classes on garden topics are offered through school districts, at colleges and by organizations. One example is the Michigan School of Gardening, which has an office in Livonia. The school offers gift certificates redeemable for any of its classes in Livonia, Ann Arbor, Pontiac and Royal Oak. These certificates are available in six denominations, from \$25 to \$200, and are good for one year from the date of purchase. There is a \$2 fee for each certificate ordered. The school has started a Web site, the Practical Gardening Institute™, described as an "online community for people who love to garden." For a limited time, gift membership in the PGI is \$25 - half the regular annual membership fee. The one-year membership includes a subscription to Janet Macunovich's weekly Growing Concerns™ e-column; access to the Gardeners' Forum, a way of asking a question of a lot of people at once (with online discussions moderated by 20 recognized gardening professionals including Macunovich, rose expert Nancy Lindley and former PBS *Victory Garden* host Roger Swain); special discounts on conferences, learning opportunities and purchases made in the Gardeners' Market; and 24-hour access to practical advice. The PGI has published a book and poster set by Macunovich, *8 Months of Color*. This is a guide for choosing perennials, bulbs, trees, vines and shrubs to provide color for eight full months. Cost is \$16.95 for PGI members, \$19.95 for others. mklemic@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2569

POWER

FROM PAGE B1

specialized tools such as 12-inch snips for roofing materials, sheet metal, vinyl and plastic, a masonry drill bit set (with 3/8 inch and larger), a 7-inch tile wet saw, or a compressor for nail guns and staplers. These items land in the \$15-\$300 price range. Need a cabinet? An 18-drawer chest and cabinet runs for \$549 and a four-drawer intermediate to add more storage space to the piece costs \$129 at Sears. Tool bags, rigs and aprons are priced \$15-\$80, all great step savers (and ease the strain on your back and knees) for those working on projects. Halogen worklights are great to help light up a work area. Any demolition planned? How about a reciprocating saw? Before you hit Sears, Lowe's, Home Depot, Marsh Power Tools or other tool stores, check out the Web sites of the tool companies, such as DeWalt, Black & Decker and Craftsman, and what they offer in terms of new products. DeWalt features a heavy duty palm nailer, 4 1/2"-inch small angle grinder and double bevel sliding compound miter saw. Black & Decker has a SmartDriver Compact Screwdriver to help tighten those screws on handles of dresser drawers. (These screws must be tightened inside the drawer, and often cannot be tightened with a power drill driver because the drill driver is too large to fit in the drawer.) Craftsman also features a socket set with large embossed numbers that are easy to read (No more straining to read what size the socket is!) Looking for a gift for your junior carpenter? Kid's Carpenter's Workbook is designed to safely introduce children and parents to basic carpentry skills and tools. The illustrated, 40-page book takes you through simple steps to building five family-friendly, inexpensive projects. Author Mark Clement, the father of a 4-year-old daughter, designed projects for the book that require five common do-it-yourself tools: circular saw, hand saw or jigsaw, measuring tape, drill/driver or hammer, and T-square. The projects are Kid's Toolbox, Lemonade Stand, Seesaw, Kid's Stool, and Coat Cubby. Featured woodworking projects include three levels of Skill Builders that give young carpenters an opportunity to advance their carpentry prowess. For experienced adults, Parent Carpentry Corners provide advanced carpentry instructions. Kid's Carpenter's Workbook is designed to introduce youngsters ages 4 to 12 to the basics of using tools and simple how-to construction projects. The book has suggested activities for children ages 4 to 6 while parents and older children are completing the more difficult parts. Kid's Carpenter's Workbook is available at bookstores or from the publisher, CenterLine Media, at www.centerlinemedia.com (phone (215) 646-4591). Cost is \$12.95. With today's selections and varieties of tools, there's plenty of selections for the Yule season. kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net (734)953-2107

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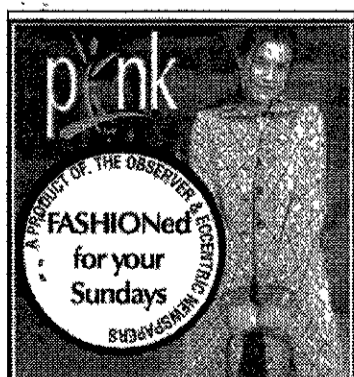
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Holiday headache: Checklist helps keep your home spotless

The holidays are a great time for catching up with friends and family. It's also the time of year you want your home clean and inviting to guests.

If you've avoided your regular household chores and the prospect of cleaning has you feeling overwhelmed, the local cleaning experts at Molly Maid of Plymouth have some suggestions for cleaning up.

"This is the time of year, as temperatures cool and people head indoors, when we notice

all of the things we neglected during the warmer summer months when we spent our time outdoors," said John Cohen, owner of the Livonia-based Molly Maid franchise.

But no need to worry, Cohen says. Here is a checklist to review and rely on to get your home back in shape for entertaining.

■ Turn up the lights. The first thing to do when preparing to clean, particularly since the days are getting short-

er, is to turn the lights on to their highest setting when you clean.

"Bright light helps to reveal the spider webs and dust bunnies hiding in the shadows," Cohen said.

■ Focus your work.

If you are pressed for time, concentrate on these areas first: guest bedrooms and bathrooms, kitchen, family room and dining room. During the holidays, these are the rooms that see the most activity, Cohen says.

Take the time to do a thorough cleaning of your guest bathroom, being sure to reach behind fixtures, replace the shower liner, wash your curtains and clean your medicine cabinet.

"Make sure the bathroom is properly stocked with the necessary supplies," Cohen said.

Your kitchen and dining room are probably two rooms that are cleaned on a regular basis, but make sure you take the time to clean the cabinet doors and

hardware. This can brighten up your kitchen by removing grease, dirt and dust that give cabinets a dull exterior.

The chairs and lighting fixtures in the dining room could also use good cleanings.

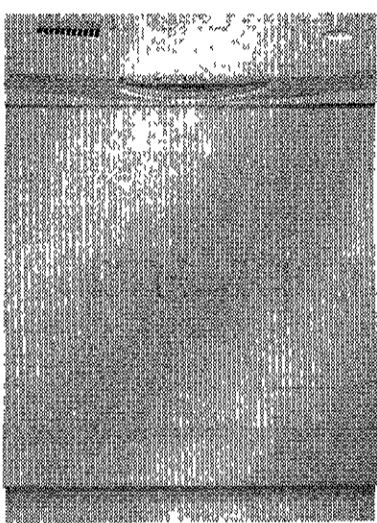
■ Clean often, not long. Although many families devote a few hours each week to doing a thorough job of cleaning, you can save a lot of time and energy by taking a few minutes each day to put things away where they belong. This can

prevent "clutter buildup," Cohen said. And of course, if time is of the essence and your hectic holiday season doesn't give you time to say on top of these tasks, Cohen says that hiring a professional is a great option.

"We understand that a lot of people are busy and do not have the time to clean their home like they would want."

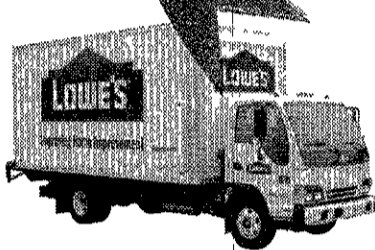
For information on home cleaning services or tips to keep your house in good condition, call Cohen at (734) 421-7195.

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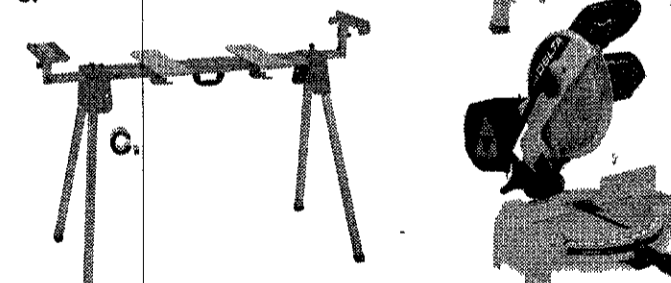
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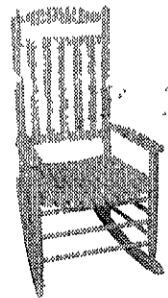
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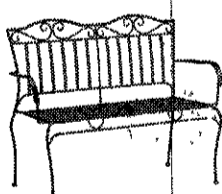
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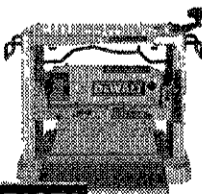
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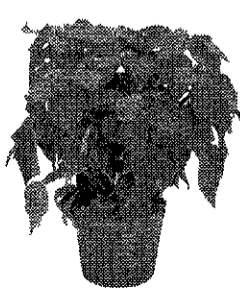


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Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books, including *How To Do Everything with Musicmatch* and *101 Killer Apps for Your Palm Handheld*. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

Seal garage door in 1 afternoon

BY MORRIS AND JAMES CAREY
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Bill asks: "What is the best way to seal the garage door?"

We assume you are referring to a sectional garage door rather than the tilt-up type.

Generally speaking, a good-quality sectional garage door that has been properly installed is reasonably weather-tight. But even the best doors can begin to leak after long use.

A simple fix would be to apply a one-inch wide strip of rubber to the inside surface of the door at each horizontal section joint - all the way from one side of the door to the other. Apply the strip to the upper section centered between it and the section below. A special rubber bottom can be bought to fit the base of just about any garage door.

For the sides of the opening - on the outside trim - attach good old-fashioned weatherstripping for a conventional door. That's the type with the round vinyl bead attached to a flat metal strip.

If the door is wood, use staples or nails to attach your wind proofing. If the door is metal, then use half-inch, self-tapping screws. Once you have all of the materials you should be able to do the entire job in an afternoon.

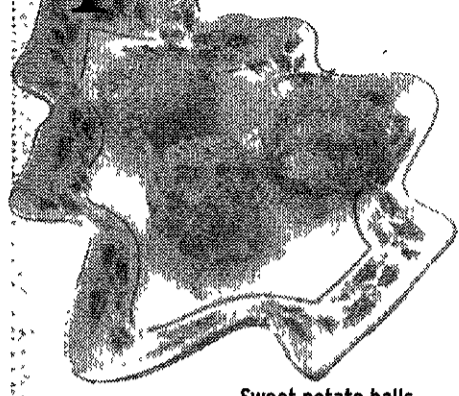


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A Christmas present



Sweet potato balls add to the festivities.

Canton woman turns family recipe collection into gift, then book

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

In 2003 Canton resident Kathy Black wanted to do something different for Christmas.

In her eyes, she thought the Christmas holiday was "too commercial." "I wanted to do something more personal," Black said.

So she wanted to create a gift. A family gift.

Kathy asked her mother, brother and two sisters for their favorite recipes and compiled them. That family holiday cookbook grew to 360 pages of recipes.

Today that giant recipe binder has evolved from that collection to a smaller bound edition published this last summer. *A Treasured Collection of Family Recipes: A Labor of Love*, by Kathy Black (Cookbook Publishers), highlights favorite dishes submitted by her relatives.

Kathy draws much of her culinary inspiration from her mother Bonnie Rigsby of Walland, Tenn., and she wanted to preserve her mother's old recipes. "She is a wonderful cook who loves traditional recipes," she said.

For the book Rigsby sent her daughter recipes on napkins and paper bags, and others were "always in a drawer," Kathy said. "With most of her recipes, she didn't even write them down. She would just say, 'put in a little of this.'"

"Everyone, all my siblings, wanted to do at least one of them," she said.

TENNESSEE ROOTS

Kathy was born in Maryville, Tenn., the daughter of Kenneth and Bonnie Rigsby. The family moved to Royal Oak when Kathy was 4. Kathy met Sandy Black, they married and moved to Canton where they have lived for 35 years. Sandy, who grew up in Plymouth, teaches at Stevenson Middle School in Westland.

Kathy's parents moved back to Tennessee about 15 years ago. Since then Sandy and Kathy, and daughter Julie Staunton with her husband Mark, of Plymouth, and Jacob



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

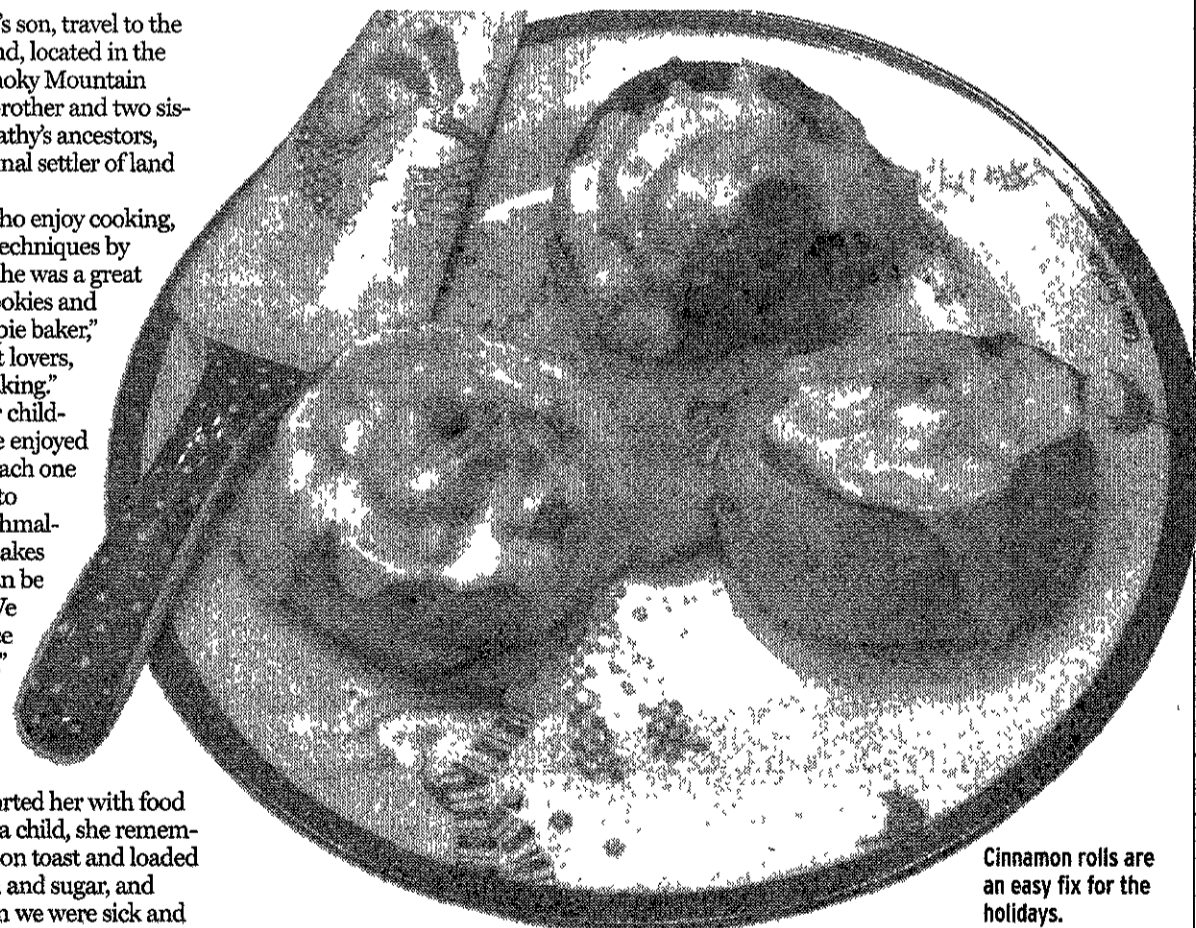
Kathy Black of Canton presents a festive platter for a Christmas meal with chicken crepes and asparagus with a cheese sauce.

Black, Sandy and Kathy's son, travel to the Rigsbys' home in Walland, located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Kathy's brother and two sisters also visit. (One of Kathy's ancestors, John Oliver, was an original settler of land near the national park.)

Like most children who enjoy cooking, Kathy learned cooking techniques by watching her mother. "She was a great baker, always making cookies and cakes and she is a great pie baker," she said. "We're all sweet lovers, and we're always into baking."

Kathy remembers her childhood and how much she enjoyed the sweet potato balls (each one consisting of sweet potato wrapped around a marshmallow). Many sweets she bakes today for the holidays can be traced to her mother. "We made the sugar and spice balls when I was a child," Kathy said. "I can remember being small enough to stand on a chair to cook."

Kathy's mother comforted her with food when Kathy was sick as a child, she remembers. "She made cinnamon toast and loaded it with butter, cinnamon and sugar, and bring it to our beds when we were sick and



Cinnamon rolls are an easy fix for the holidays.

PLEASE SEE GIFT, B8

Kathy Black's Christmas Menu

Breakfast:
Cinnamon rolls
Hot chocolate
(served with juice and coffee)

Lunch:
Mom's best-ever potato soup (served with rolls, corn muffins, crackers)

Dinner:
Green holiday punch
Chicken crepes
Mom's fabulous hash brown casserole
Springtime asparagus casserole
My mother's sweet potato balls
Our Grammy black's stuffing balls
Refrigerator rolls

Dessert:
Italian cream cake (served with ice cream)
Cookie tray: Coconut drops, Santa's whiskers, sugar and spice balls, chocolate almond biscotti and peanut butter blossoms
Candy: Peppermint bark, old-fashioned cooked pecan eggs

Try this quick stir-fry for your busy days

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Let's not resign ourselves to scrappy meals on these madly busy days, nor lose out on taste and nutrition. Sometimes we can have it all - we just need the right recipe.

Ginger apple chicken stir-fry is a winner to try. It doesn't take long to make, the result is pleasing, with a snappy taste that will cheer jaded palates and warm a chilly evening.

The combination of ginger and apple works a kind of magic on the chicken,

and a touch of Asian influence completes the palatable whole. If you happen to have guests to entertain, well - that's their good luck to share this.

GINGER APPLE CHICKEN STIR-FRY

- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons minced ginger root
- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breast, cut into strips
- ½ pound pea pods
- 1 small sweet red pepper, cut into strips

- 10 shiitake and/or white mushrooms, sliced
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ½ cup applesauce, unsweetened
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- ½ cup chicken broth or water

Heat sesame oil in nonstick skillet or wok. Add garlic and ginger, and stir for about 30 seconds. Add chicken and cook in hot oil 4 to 5 minutes, or until chicken is no longer pink. Remove chicken from skillet. Add pea pods, red pepper and mushrooms, and cook, stir-

ring, until tender-crisp, about 3 minutes; sprinkle with pepper.

Combine applesauce, vinegar, soy sauce, cornstarch and chicken broth or water. Add chicken to vegetables, add sauce mixture and cook until sauce is thickened and clear, about 4 minutes. Serve over steamed brown rice. Makes 4 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 340 cal., 25 g carbo., 16 g total fat (5 g saturated), 70 mg chol., 5 g dietary fiber, 670 mg sodium, 25 g pro.

Recipe created for AP by the U.S. Apple Association.

Publishers dish up rich menu of books

BY JOAN BRUNSKILL
AP FOOD EDITOR

NEW YORK (AP) - It's a tough exercise in taste to choose food books to give as presents at this time of year, when publishers offer their best.

Their best tends to be their heaviest, glossiest and shiniest star-studded volumes - sometimes exactly the kind of book you'd never take into the kitchen and pop carelessly down beside the stove.

So here's a pared-down sampling of books published in late 2005, grouped into a few broad general types. Decorative or utilitarian, or both, some have recipes, some do not. Readers of the latter may savor them only from the comfort of an armchair - but the books will still have satisfied the hunger for knowledge.

LARGE-FORMAT, HANDSOME VALUES

Hungry Planet: What The World Eats by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio (Ten Speed Press, \$40) grabs your attention for the startlingly varied stories it tells about how people feed themselves around the world. Its contents are based on detailed research, beautifully photographed, presented with often disturbing clarity.

Photographer Menzel and writer D'Aluisio introduce us to 30 families, representing every continent, each family photographed with the food they had for the week they were interviewed.

The household range is from the most affluent in the developed countries, among them a German family of four shown with \$500 worth of food, to the neediest - for example, a family of six in a refugee camp in Chad, who spent just over \$1 for tiny additions to their week's meager food rations. In between are families in widely differing situations, perhaps in cultural transition, or affected by rapid social change, poverty, conflict and globalization.

Roaming through 24 countries, from Australia to the United States, from Bhutan to Guatemala and the Philippines, Menzel and D'Aluisio profile each family and its community, local food sources and markets, and way of life, including family recipes.

Text and images complement nutrition professor Marion Nestle's evaluation in her foreword, where she sums up the book as a rich and thoughtful commentary on today's human condition.

Mangoes and Curry Leaves by Jeffrey Alford and Naomi Duguid (Artisan, \$45) is subtitled *Culinary Travels Through the Great Subcontinent*.

In this latest venture in studying food in its cultural context, Alford and Duguid, accomplished travelers, writers and photographers who've been described as culinary anthropologists, focus on

PLEASE SEE BOOKS, B7

Home-baked for the holidays

A home-baked holiday gift doesn't have to be high in fat and calories. You can have your cake and eat it, too.

Dried fruit, nuts and even some vegetables naturally high in sugar are ideal ingredients for quick breads. They are also rich in antioxidants and phytochemicals — protective substances found only in plant foods — that help protect against many types of cancers, heart disease and other chronic illnesses.

Dried fruits, for example, are rich in dietary fiber and flavonoids, a powerful group of phytochemicals that helps fight cancer and heart disease. Vegetables high in natural sugars, especially sweet potatoes and pumpkins, provide a rich foundation for a quick bread. Both contain health-protective phytochemicals and antioxidants.

CRANBERRY-SWEET POTATO BREAD

Canola oil spray
2 large eggs
¾ cup light brown sugar, firmly packed
¼ cup canola oil
1 cup mashed canned sweet potatoes
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ teaspoon orange extract
½ cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon nutmeg
½ teaspoon allspice or mace
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup chopped dried unsweetened cranberries

1-2 tablespoon(s) Turbinado or Demerara sugar (optional)

Lightly coat a standard loaf pan (8 by 4- or 9 by 5-inch) with canola spray and set aside. Set oven rack in middle and preheat oven to 350° F.

In medium bowl, whisk eggs, sugar, oil, sweet potatoes and extracts until well combined.

In large bowl, sift together flour, spices and baking soda. Make a well in center of mixture and add sweet potato mixture. Mix until just moistened. (Do not over-mix or beat batter until smooth.) Lightly stir in cranberries.

Transfer batter to prepared pan. For a more decorative presentation, dust top of batter with light coating of Turbinado or Demerara sugar.

Bake 50 to 60 minutes, or until tester comes out clean. If sugar has been added to top of bread, begin checking bread after 30 minutes. If sugar darkens, lightly lay a sheet of foil on top of pan to prevent burning.

Remove bread from oven and allow to cool 10 minutes on rack. Remove from pan and set back on rack to completely cool. Seal bread tightly in plastic wrap, then foil. Tightly wrapped in both, it can be refrigerated up to 1 week, or frozen up to 1 month.

Makes 12 servings.

Per serving: 221 calories, 7 g. total fat (less than 1g. saturated fat), 37 g. carbohydrate, 3 g. protein, 1 g. dietary fiber, 131 mg. sodium.

Recipe courtesy of the American Institute for Cancer Research.

BOOKS

FROM PAGE A1

Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

After an overview of the sub-continent, they regale readers with about 200 recipes grouped in chapters ranging from chutneys, salsas and sambols, through main course items, to street foods, snacks and drinks, many illustrated in color photos.

They list menu recommendations for "every occasion" — including food to delight children, for a feast with guests, or favorites for a potluck.

You can learn about ingredients from a long, excellent glossary toward the back of the book. But all through earlier chapters you'll find stories, essays and photographs of local people, scenery and food markets that bring to life exotic flavors, tastes and customs.

Provence Harvest by Louisa Jones (Stewart, Tabori and Chang, \$40) is another evocation of cuisine through words and pictures, this time of a region of France long celebrated for its lush countryside and bountiful food and wine.

The Canadian-born Jones has lived in Provence for some 30 years, and her observations on country life, customs, history and food are complemented with 40 recipes from Jacques Chibois, an acclaimed Provencal chef.

Jones praises Chibois' respect for gardening and farming, his knowledge of where food comes from and what happens to it along the way. "In this book," she says, "we have tried to present growers, gardeners, and small-scale processors who resist the pressure of standardization" and some of whom are struggling to survive. "We can, we must, join up with others all over the planet who want, as we do, to preserve local flavor and character," she writes.

Chibois suggests that local flavor in recipes for dishes such as tuna marinated in lemon and ginger with creamy fresh cheese, and watermelon granite with hibiscus flowers and fresh figs.

Photographer Guy Hervais contributes his own insight with images of Provence's charming world of small towns, houses and people, stunning landscapes

and, of course, mouthwatering food.

Boulevard: The Cookbook by Nancy Oakes and Pamela Mazzola, with Lisa Weiss (Ten Speed Press, \$50) conjures up in its design the stylish cooking of a San Francisco restaurant with a distinctive belle-epoque setting.

Oakes is Boulevard's co-owner and chef, and Mazzola is its chef de cuisine. They've translated 75 of their dishes into detailed recipes featured in the book, many of them photographed in luscious detail by Maren Caruso.

As professional chefs, Oakes and Mazzola acknowledge in their introduction, they work with a talented team and have access to special ingredients — so, "you might find some of the recipes challenging to produce in the home kitchen without our experienced crew. Hopefully, the 'Kitchen and Shopping Notes' will help you successfully reproduce these recipes at home."

Weiss adds the advice to read the chefs' notes even if you're not going to prepare a particular dish "because you'll learn a little something you may be able to use another time." Meanwhile, there's plenty to enjoy in the book.

Seasonal Southwest Cooking by Barbara Pool Fenzl (Northland, \$35) puts a colorful range of regional food within reach of cooks anywhere, with 150 recipes grouped under conventional headings that include appetizers, soups, entrees and so on, through breads and desserts.

But the "seasonal" angle in the title is a guiding principle of the book. Fenzl opens with a month-by-month listing of dishes for occasions to cook for, a Valentine's soiree in February, for example, a Fourth of July picnic, or a holiday open house in December.

Fenzl, host of the PBS series "Savor the Southwest," has lived in Phoenix for some 36 years and runs a cooking

school there — experiences that are reflected in her clear recipes' regional flavor. After a fall hike in the woods, she says, think of black bean soup with lime cream, followed by spice-rubbed buffalo tenderloin with porcini butter. Something simpler for a hearty but healthy January meal: a vegetarian "you'll-never-miss-the-meat"

chili, well laced with flavor.

Fine food photography by Christopher Marchetti that accompanies the recipes is rivaled by other photos throughout the book: panoramas of Southwestern scenery and wilderness landmarks including some eye-catching double-page spreads — disappointingly, with no captions.

A Christmas Carol

By CHARLES DICKENS ADAPTED BY CHARLES NOLTE

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CALENDAR

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Note: Hands-On classes have a prerequisite of the Cooking 101: Skill Development class or instructor's

approval. Plan to wear a white chef's jacket, dark pants and comfortable shoes for all hands-on classes. Please prepare a tool kit with the following: a set of knives, peeler, spatula, dough cutter, thermometer and measuring spoons. Visit Web site www.schoolcraft.edu for more information on these classes and others: Cooking Beef Tenderloin, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Dec. 15, and Holiday Appetizers, 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 17.



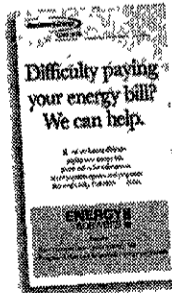
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GIFT

FROM PAGE B6
 would put a flower on a tray." The cookbook follows that philosophy of cooking food for family members as a way of showing love and appreciation for them. The gift of giving food is kind of a lost art," Kathy said.
 "My children like chicken crepes and the cookies, they loved the Santa's whiskers, green punch and the sweet and spice cookies."
 "When she entertains for family or friends, Kathy likes to find out what each person likes, and prepare that dish. "I try to make something for every person that they want and make something they love," she said. "I pray for them as I am making the dish."
 "But she isn't afraid of new recipes. The Italian cream cake was added to her holiday repertoire just a few years ago.
 The book also contains other recipes that may or may not have anything to do with the holidays — Mexican dishes and even egg drop soup. "It reflects the personality of each person," she said.
 Many of the favorites were passed on from generation to generation from Bonnie Riggsby's recipes she learned from her mother to Kathy, then to Kathy's daughter Julie. Kathy's sisters Karen LaCourse and Kelly Russell and her brother, Kenneth Riggsby, also contributed to the book as did other relatives.
 "Once it was completed, every member of the family received the large binder copies of the 360-page book, which also contained famous quotes, poems and other writings. "They were astounded," Kathy said of her siblings' reaction to the book's size. "I printed it at home. They knew it was coming, but I don't think that they were prepared for the size of the book."
 This summer while Kathy visited her mother, they went to a restaurant owned by a distant cousin, Olivia Sipe, who was the flower girl in Kathy's mother's wedding. (Sipe also writes a food column for the *Marysville Times*). Sipe suggested that Kathy make the book available to the public and that it be printed in a smaller format.

HOLIDAY PLANS
 Before the Blacks return to Tennessee to spend holiday time with Kathy's parents they expect to gather and celebrate at the

Blacks' Canton home and visit Sandy's family.
 The Blacks' Christmas menu includes chicken crepes and asparagus, potato casserole, rolls, a punch with lime juice, pineapple, orange juice and sherbet and Italian cream cake with pecans and toasted coconut.
 There's sweets galore. Along with the Santa's whiskers and sugar and spice balls, there's chocolate almond biscotti, peanut butter blossoms, coconut drops and cinnamon rolls.
 Kathy enjoys a "Southern Christmas." "It's family and food oriented, where everyone cooks together and pass down recipes."
 Relatives also plan their holiday schedules to visit with the Riggsby family. "So far everyone has come, which is an amazing feat," she said. Relatives arrive from California, Florida, Michigan and Georgia.
 Kathy says people should remember the love of God and remember family during the holidays.
 "It's truly a celebration of family," Kathy said. "My family believes Christmas should be a celebration of family and a celebration of the birth of Christ. We feel it's getting too commercial and we should get back to what Christmas is all about."

A Treasured Collection of Family Recipes: A Labor of Love is available at Michigan Made in Plymouth, Book Sellers in Plymouth, Gabriella's in Plymouth and the Dixboro General Store in Ann Arbor. If you would like to order a signed copy of the book, send a check for \$15 to Kathy Black, P.O. Box 6184, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Recipes reprinted from *A Treasured Collection of Family Recipes: A Labor of Love* (Cookbook Publishers, 2005) by Kathy Black.

MY MOTHER'S SWEET POTATO BALLS

Wash and peel five or six fresh sweet potatoes. Cut them into big chunks and cover with water. Add a bit of salt. When water comes to a boil, turn temperature down to low and just let them simmer until tender. (Boiling too hard will make them mushy.) When they are fork tender, drain them very well in a colander. Mash the potatoes with a mixer until fluffy, then beat in a little hunk of butter, a dash of both cinnamon and nutmeg, and a tablespoon or so of sugar. Cover and refrigerate. (You can do all this



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kathy Black's original cookbook is more than four inches thick.

the day before you serve them.)
 Preheat oven to 425°F. Butter or spray a glass 9 by 13-inch baking dish. Pour out a big bag of miniature marshmallows and a big bag of coconut on separate plates. Spoon out about 2 tablespoons of the cold sweet potato mixture into the palm of your left hand and a marshmallow in your right hand. Push the marshmallow into the potatoes and mold the potatoes into a ball around the marshmallow. Roll the sweet potato ball in the coconut and place each ball in the prepared pan. Do not bake until just before serving.

Preheat the oven to 425°F and bake the sweet potato balls for five minutes uncovered. They should be lightly browned and the marshmallows should be getting puffy and gooey, but not totally melted. You can check them by poking one with the point of a knife. If you bake them too long, they will have a hole in the middle with no marshmallow!

Black writes, "This is a wonderful, old-fashioned recipe that was on my mother's table every holiday as long as I can remember. In fact, I was the designated roller most of the time."

Recipe originally from Mary Ethel Effler, *Guide to the South*

CHICKEN CREPES

Crepes:
 1 cup flour
 1 1/2 cups milk
 3 eggs
 1 tablespoon melted butter
 1/2 teaspoon salt

Blend ingredients in blender. Make crepes on electric crepe maker or in a buttered skillet by pouring a ladle of batter into the skillet and rolling the batter around the pan to make a thin pancake. Turn once when set.

Filling:
 4 tablespoons chopped onion
 4 tablespoons chopped green pepper
 1 cup mushroom pieces
 1/2 cup butter
 4 tablespoons flour
 1 1/2 cups chicken broth
 1/2 teaspoon marjoram
 1/2 teaspoon oregano
 4 cups cooked chicken breasts, cubed into bite size pieces

Preheat oven to 350°F. Sauté vegetables in the butter until tender. Add flour and cook one

minute; add chicken broth; blend and cook until bubbling. Add marjoram, oregano, and cooked chicken breast pieces. Put filling on crepes and roll up.

Sauce:
 2 cans cream of chicken soup
 1 package chicken gravy mix
 1/2 cup mayonnaise
 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Combine with whisk and pour over filled crepes in baking dish. Bake at 350°F for 30 to 40 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of Kathy Black.

CINNAMON ROLLS

1 loaf frozen bread dough
 1 stick softened butter
 1 tablespoon cinnamon
 1 cup brown sugar
 1/2 cup flour
 1 cup chopped pecans

Thaw frozen bread dough in a greased bowl. Cover it with a clean tea towel. Let the dough rise to almost double in size. Pat dough out into a flat rectangle on a lightly floured surface.

Stir all ingredients together and spread evenly on top of dough rectangle. Carefully roll the dough in jelly roll style. Try to keep all the filling inside. Seal the edge of the dough by moistening it with a little water. Using a sharp knife, slice the roll into 1-inch slices. Place the rolls on a greased cookie sheet, trying to seal the seam under the roll. Let the rolls rise again in a warm place until almost double in size, about 1/2 hours. Bake in preheated oven at 350°F about 25 minutes. Drizzle rolls with white vanilla glaze while they are warm.

Recipe courtesy of Kathy Black.

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WRESTLING — Wildcats take Armada title **2**

HOOPS — Rocks hang tough with Saline **3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton sophomore forward Neil Sharma glides in for two of his four points during Tuesday night's 53-40 Chiefs' victory over Rochester.

Stepping up

Four players hit double figures for victorious Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Canton's basketball team found a go-to player Tuesday night against Rochester.

And another. And another. And another.

Four Canton players scored in double figures, leading the Chiefs (1-1) to a 53-40 victory over the visiting Falcons, who were playing their first game after their Dec. 9 game was postponed by heavy snow.

Led by junior center Ryan Waidmann's 14 points, the Chiefs displayed more offensive scoring balance than a tight-rope walker. Also making major contributions were junior Steve Paye and senior Andy Larsen, who both netted 12, and senior guard Andre Bridges, who chipped in with 11.

"Going into this season we expected Dre (Bridges) to lead us in scoring, but we've had some other guys step up, which is nice," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "Ryan really did a nice job tonight."

"It was very important to get a win tonight because we have some very tough games coming up. We have Ann Arbor Pioneer, Troy Athens and South Lyon on our non-conference schedule, so it doesn't get any easier for us."

After trailing by as many as 10 points early in the contest, the Falcons used a surge late in the first half to narrow their halftime deficit to 20-18.

Rochester's bid for a road win was dashed by a combination of shaky shooting — the Falcons drained just 5-of-16 free throws and 17-of-54 field goals — and momentum-stalling turnovers. "We missed a lot of shots, but we missed a lot of shots from the front end of one-and-ones," said Rochester coach Matt Jansen. "We shot around 80 percent from the line during our pre-season scrimmages, so

THE THIRD'S A CHARM

Canton's basketball team sealed its first victory of the 2005-06 season — 53-40 over Rochester — Tuesday night with a dominating 18-3 run that stretched over most of the third quarter. The run extended the Chiefs' lead from 22-20 to 40-23. Following are the Canton players who played key roles in the big third quarter and their stats during the run:

- **Andy Larsen** — eight points (two three-pointers and a layup);
- **Steve Paye** — six points (two inside baskets and a pair of free throws) and five rebounds;
- **Ryan Waidmann** — two points and four rebounds;
- **Neil Sharma** — two points on a fast-break layup.

PLEASE SEE CHIEFS, C4

Wildcat spikers take 1st

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Judging by the results of Saturday's season-opening Madonna University Invitational, the 2005-06 season could be a very special one for the Plymouth girls volleyball team.

The Wildcats lost just one game as they went on to compile a 6-0 record to win the title in their own gymnasium. Plymouth breezed through the four round-robin matches before defeating Monroe in the semi-finals, 25-23 and 25-21, and Wyandotte in the finals, 25-21, 22-25 and 15-11.

Wyandotte jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the deciding third game of the final match before the Wildcats stormed back behind the strong play of Jackie Dorre and Jeanine Moise.

"Jackie Dorre came up huge in a pressure situation in the final game," said Plymouth coach Kelly McCausland. "We were down 4-0 because of some unforced errors, but we got us back in it with five service aces. I was very proud of the way the girls came back. Being down 4-0 is a lot when you're only playing to 15."

"Jeanine Moise had a couple unforced errors in the final game, but we kept going to her and she responded with five kills in that game alone. Wyandotte was tough. They spread out their offense and they had a couple of left-handers which made them tough to defend."

Plymouth qualified for the seminal round by sweeping its first four matches. The Wildcats upended Southfield (25-7, 20-15), Belleville (25-5, 25-15), Dearborn Heights (25-14, 25-7) and New Boston Huron (25-12, 25-14).

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Plymouth's Le Duc signs with EMU

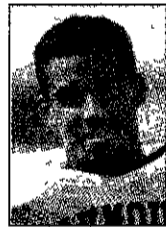
BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

One strong commitment deserves another.

That was Josh Le Duc's logic for verbally committing to play four years of football for Eastern Michigan University beginning in the fall of 2006.

The 6-foot-4, 207-pound Plymouth tight end said the Eagles' unremitting attention and an opportunity to play as a freshman weighed heavily on his decision to pick EMU.

"Other schools showed interest in me, but Eastern came after me hard and often," said Le Duc. "Their coaches have been calling me once a week and making sure everything is ok. And when I made my visit there last month, I got to meet the coaches and some of the players, and they made me feel at home, like



Le Duc

it is here at Plymouth.

"Eastern didn't have a great record this past season, but they were in just about every game. They lost a few games by one, two or three points. The players I talked to said it's the MAC championship next year or bust. Their goals are high, but I think we can reach them."

Le Duc said he may have faced a year of sitting out had he chosen to attend a larger school or another MAC school.

"The coaches at Eastern have told me that I have a chance to play right away as a freshman," he said. "That was appealing to me because I didn't want to red-shirt if I could avoid it."

The opportunity to play for Eastern's pass-happy offense — and with talented quarterback Tyler Jones — has amped

up Le Duc's anticipation level.

"They have a wide-open attack, which I'm looking forward to," he said. "I saw Tyler Jones play against Miami and he's a very good quarterback. He's a very exciting player."

Le Duc said the Eagles' initial plans have him playing tight end and possibly some wide receiver, "depending on the situation."

"But the defensive coordinator said he wants me to play defense, so nothing is set yet," he said.

Le Duc's statistics were down during his senior year at Plymouth due to the Wildcats' run-oriented offense.

However, his combination of speed (he's been clocked at 4.6 seconds in the 40-yard dash), size and potential made him a popular target of collegiate football recruiters.

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All in the family

Hockey is coolest game in town for the Kowalski clan

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Given the popularity of ice hockey in the Kowalski household, it's surprising there's not a Zamboni parked in the driveway of their Canton home.

Randy and LeeAnn Kowalski are probably the only parents in the metropolitan Detroit area — and possibly the state of Michigan — who have three children playing varsity high school



Prep Profile

hockey. Son Kyle is a senior forward for Canton and identical twin sophomore daughters, Keely and Kristie, skate for the unbeaten Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins.

It doesn't stop there — 12-year-old son, Kurt, is a promising

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, C5



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

When it comes to high school hockey, no family is better represented in the Plymouth-Canton area than the Kowalskis. Pictured above (from left) are Kristie, Kyle, and Keely Kowalski. Kristie and Keely play for the unbeaten Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins while Kyle is a forward for Canton.

Sidelines

Hoop clinic

The "Holiday Slam" youth basketball clinic will be held in the Canton High School Phase III gymnasium Dec. 29-30 for kids in kindergarten through sixth grades. Basketball fundamentals will be the focus of the two-day holiday break clinic. The cost of the clinic is \$75, which includes a T-shirt, basketball and tickets to a Detroit Pistons and Detroit Shock basketball games. To register, visit www.santaslam.com.

Spring soccer

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department will be accepting spring youth soccer registrations the entire month of January during business hours — Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — at the recreation office, which is located in the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St. All first-time registrations require a birth certificate.

The fee for 6-and-under through 8-and-under divisions is \$65 for Plymouth residents and \$90 for non-residents. For 9-and-under and older divisions, the fee is \$70 and \$100, respectively. Call the recreation department at (734) 455-6620. Registration forms can be downloaded from the department's Web site at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

Wolfpack tryouts

Tryouts for the 2006 Western Wayne Wolfpack AAU girls basketball teams will be held at the following times and locations:

■ **9- and 10-year-olds:** Friday, Jan. 13, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at East Middle School; and Friday, Jan. 20, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at East Middle School.

■ **11-year-olds:** Friday, Jan. 13, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at East Middle School; and Friday, Jan. 20, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at East Middle School.

■ **12-year-olds:** Monday, Jan. 9, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School; and Monday, Jan. 16, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School.

■ **13-year-olds:** Monday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School; and Monday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School.

Neal honored

Plymouth Whaler James Neal was named "Player of the Week" by the Ontario Hockey League Monday for the week ending Dec. 11. Neal tallied a goal and five assists in two games.

Neal racked up a goal and two assists and was named the first star in Plymouth's 6-3 win over Sarnia on Dec. 8. He then assisted on three goals in Plymouth's 6-3 victory over Owen Sound on Dec. 12. The 18-year-old native of Whitby has 11 goals and 24 assists in 30 games this season. The two-win week helped the Whalers move into the tie with the Saginaw Spirit for first place.

Wildcats take Armada mat title

The final standings of Saturday's Armada Team Tournament were black-and-white.

Those are the team colors for Plymouth, which captured the title with a 5-0 record in the six-team tourney. The Wildcats upended Armada (48-24), Bishop Foley (58-18), Sterling Heights Stevenson (44-22), Warren Cousino (50-21) and Warren Mott (61-15) to earn the first-place hardware.

Four Wildcats compiled perfect 5-0 records: Taylor Fox (215 pounds), Danny Jammoul (189), Ben Kosmalski (119) and Andrew Saunders (135).

Recording four wins were Shaun Bailey (heavyweight) and Vince Darolfi (171).

Three-win performances were turned in by Steve D'Annunzio (112), John Hagar (152), Amir Pakray (125), Ali Youssef (145) and Steve Korpus (140). Korpus was unbeaten heading into the meet.

SALEM 5TH

Salem's wrestling team finished fifth in its 10-team round-robin invitational Saturday.

"We sent five wrestlers to the finals, so I thought we did

well," said Salem coach Greg Woochuk. "Considering we had a lot of new kids wrestling and we didn't have our 145-pounder, we did fine."

Wyandotte Roosevelt earned first-place honors followed by Belleville, New Boston Huron and Adrian.

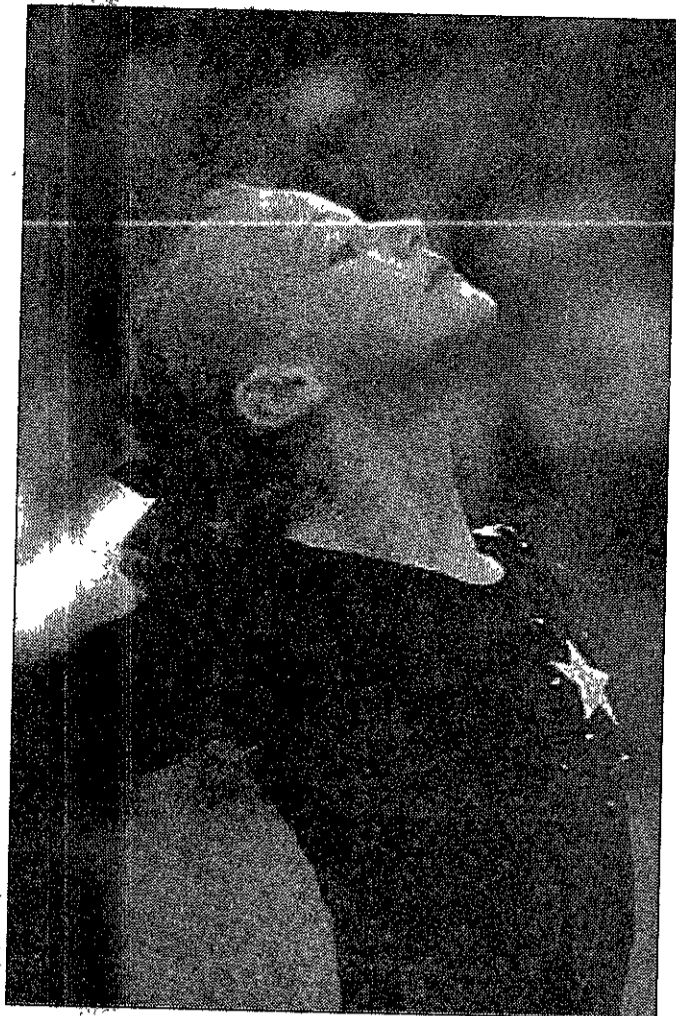
"It was a pretty strong field," Woochuk said. "Wyandotte has a very good team this year and Belleville and Adrian are always strong."

Salem's 112-pound Jeremy Stankewitz was named the lower-weight most valuable wrestler after winning his weight class with a 5-2 victory

over highly regarded John Cole of Wyandotte Roosevelt.

Salem senior Jake Bennett also turned in a gold medal effort, winning the 140-pound division with a 9-5 triumph over Belleville's Steve Coak in the final match.

The Rocks' second-place finishers were Cory Mervyn (125), Andrew Ross (171) and Jeremy Henderson (189). Mervyn lost, 4-2, to New Boston Huron's Andrew Novack; Henderson was edged by New Boston Huron's Lance Thornberry while Ross dropped a 5-3 overtime thriller to New Boston Huron's Tristian Burnette.



One of Euro Stars' brightest

Local gymnast Anna Genrich, 11, is blazing an impressive trail in the world of youth gymnastics. Genrich, who is beginning her first season at Level 8, was the state champion in three events and first all-around as a Level 7 competitor. She was the first Euro Star gymnast to reach an all-around score of 38 earlier this year when she hit 38.075.

SALEM WRESTLING

SALEM ROUND ROBIN 2005

103 pounds: 1. Al Vellathoten (N) def. Tim Dixon (B), 6-0; 3rd: James Maloney (WY) def. Logan Vernor (A), pin (1:23).

112: 1. Jeremy Stankewitz (S) def. John Cole (WY), 5-2; 3rd: Justin Fleeson (B) def. Justin Levely (NBH), 9-3.

119: 1. Jerry Boggess (WY) def. Kody Elliot (A), tech. fall (4:31); 3rd: Jeremy Szekeley (NBH) def. Joe Sayway (TA), 15-0.

125: 1. Andrew Novack (NBH) def. Cory Mervyn (S), 4-2; 3rd: Christian Cullinan (WY), def. Ed Mohr (A), 9-3.

130: 1. Steve Pace (B) def. Cody Backhaus (NBH), 12-11; 3rd: Josh Adkins (WY) def. Matt Shaheen (TA), 6-1.

135: 1. Jamie Boggess (WY) def. Kevin Lieblang (SH), 7-5; 3rd: Jeff Phillips (B) def. John Matty (TA), 11-6.

140: 1. Jake Bennett (S) def. Steve Coak (B), 9-5; 3rd: Richard Perez (WY) def. Jeremy Young (N), 7-1.

145: 1. Steve Shaughnessy (WY) def. Kevin Putnam (B), 7-1; 3rd: Elvis Vushaj (WLW) def. Ty Waters (A), pin (5:04).

152: 1. Andy Goodman (WLW) def. Matt Crawford (N), 7-3; 3rd: Jeremy Epley (S) def. Joe Koszykowski (BH), 10-7.

160: 1. John Favorite (N) def. Brandon Chappel (B), 9-0; 3rd: Will Morr (A) def. Jake Birmingham (WLW), pin (0:33).

171: 1. Tristian Burnette (NBH) def. Andrew Ross, 5-3

(OT); 3rd: Jame French (WY) def. Chris Perry (A), 11-0.

189: 1. Lance Thronsberry (NBH) def. Jeremy Henderson (S), 8-4; 3rd: Dan Martinez (TA) def. Sean Jennings (A), 8-7.

215: 1. Chris Alexopoulos (WLW) def. Casey Crowley (WY), tech. fall (4:11); 3rd: Pat Toupin (B) def. Dan Sprys (N), pin (2:57).

HVY: 1. Jim Kinaja (TA) def. Cameron Holbrook (A), 1-0; 3rd: Justin Pawlowski (SH) def. Tim Phelps (NBH), 15-10.

WRESTLING RANKINGS

OBSERVERLAND MAT RANKINGS

103 pounds: 1. Jamie Preiss (Wayne Memorial); 2. Dustin Ashley (Garden City); 3. Tommy Myshock (Stevenson); 4. Jared Pieknik (Franklin); 5. Carl Lucke (Canton).

112: 1. Jeremy Stankewitz (Salem); 2. Ken Nelson (Redford Union); 3. Brandon Smith (Franklin); 4. Ryan Schnettler (Canton); 5. Andrew Murray (Churchill).

119: 1. John Roos (Franklin); 2. Sam Santilli (Canton); 3. Brandon Nikula (John Glenn); 4. Ben Kosmalski (Plymouth); 5. Dan Pniewski (Lutheran Westland).

125: 1. Cory Mervyn (Salem); 2. Mike Warren (Franklin); 3.

Steve Ludke (Garden City); 4. Greg Roberts (Churchill); 5. Jared Stephens (John Glenn).

130: 1. Josh Billiau (Franklin); 2. Steve Korpus (Plymouth); 3. Dan McCahill (John Glenn); 4. Steve Cieslik (Lutheran Westland); 5. Dwuan Burris (Redford Union).

135: 1. Corey Phillips (Canton); 2. Robert Bytner (Lutheran Westland); 3. Rowdy Glasgow (John Glenn); 4. James Jones (Franklin); 5. Matt Stott (Salem).

140: 1. Jim Wood (John Glenn); 2. Val Gui (Salem); 3. Jacob White (Clarenceville); 4. Ali Youseff (Plymouth); 5. Alex York (Salem).

145: 1. Konrad Konsitzke (Canton); 2. Jacob Bennett

(Salem); 3. Ed Manier (John Glenn); 4. Matt Edwards (Lutheran Westland); 5. Dennis Tullio (Franklin).

152: 1. Adam Kokenakes (Stevenson); 2. David Wood (John Glenn); 3. Saif Khan (Clarenceville); 4. Matt Sweda (Canton); 5. Steve Kemp (Lutheran Westland).

160: 1. Naté Turco (Franklin); 2. Marwan Faraj (Canton); 3. Jeff Elswick (Wayne); 4. Brian Ziembra (Churchill); 5. Matt Delong (Redford Union).

171: 1. Blake Karkoska (Franklin); 2. Josh Kelly (Churchill); 3. Brent Robbins (Clarenceville); 4. Cody Rize (Stevenson); 5. Andrew Hein (John Glenn).

189: Jeremy Henderson

(Salem); 2. Jacob Galindez (Lutheran Westland); 3. Chris Van Camp (Franklin); 4. Danny Jammoul (Plymouth); 5. Alex Amberg (Canton).

215: Greg Schuyler (Franklin); 2. Shamin Garcia (John Glenn); 3. Robert Coffey (Wayne); 4. Taylor Fox (Plymouth); 5. Tom Bonnell (Canton).

HVY: 1. Matt Shileikis (Redford Union); 2. Donnie Laramie (Canton); 3. Kyle Brown (Franklin); 4. Michael Oesterling (Clarenceville); 5. Kevin Hanka (John Glenn).

List compiled by Jim Gourlay (Redford Union) and Dave Chiola (Livonia Franklin).

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 16
Warren Cousino at Salem, 7 p.m.
South Lyon at Canton, 7 p.m.

WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 15
Salem at Northville Tri-Meet, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
Canton Varsity Invitational, 9 p.m.

HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 16
Plymouth at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
PCS Penguins at E.H. Mercy at Eddie Edgar Arena, 8:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Dec. 17
Canton at Stevenson Invitational, 8 a.m.

BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Dec. 15
Westland John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
WLA Conference Relays at Salem, noon

GYMNASTICS
Thursday, Dec. 15
Plymouth at John Glenn Quad, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
Canton at Vassar, noon

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 16
(Crusader Tourney at Madonna)
St. Francis (Ind.) vs. Marygrove, 6 p.m.
Madonna vs. Savannah Art & Design, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
Crusader Tourney, noon & 2 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Lansing CC, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 16
Madonna at Campbellsville (Ky.), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
Madonna at Lindsey Wilson (Ky.), 2 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 15
Whalers at Peterborough, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 16
Whalers at Oshawa, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 18
Whalers at Toronto, 2 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

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LIKE NUMBERS?
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of them in
today's **SPORTS** section

Rocks hang tough with Saline until 3rd quarter

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Salem battled undefeated Saline toe-to-toe for three quarters of Tuesday night's non-conference game in the Hornets' gymnasium. But a rough third quarter proved to be too much to overcome in the Rocks' 54-47 setback. The loss dropped Salem to 0-2 while Saline improved to 3-0.

"We played very well in the first half, but they upped their defensive pressure in the third quarter and we didn't handle it very well," said Salem coach Bob Brodie, whose team was out-scored 19-5 during the eight-minute span following halftime. "We panicked a little bit and had too many mental mistakes. There were a lot of trips down the floor when we couldn't even get a shot off."

Grant Stone paced the Rocks with 12 points. Senior forward Billy Leddy

PREP HOOP

had 10.

P.J. Swanson led the Hornets with 14.

The first half couldn't have been more competitive. Stone was the Rocks' sparkplug early on, netting 10 points in his team's 17-point first quarter.

After their third-quarter meltdown put them in a 44-30 hole, the Rocks whittled the Hornets' lead to five at one point in the fourth quarter, but a missed lay-up combined with a make at the other end by Saline sealed Salem's fate.

"I liked the way we scrapped and never gave up," Brodie said. "I thought Jon Pomorski played well in the second half. He scored seven points in the fourth quarter and showed a lot of senior leadership."

But a rough third quarter proved to be too much to overcome in the Rocks' 54-47 setback. The loss dropped Salem to 0-2 while Saline improved to 3-0.

Salem was nearly perfect from the free-throw line, draining 6-of-7 attempts. The Hornets practically lived at the line, nailing 15-of-23 free shots.

The Rocks return to action Friday when they host Warren Cousino. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

BELLEVILLE 66, WAYNE MEMORIAL 44: Senior Leon Freeman led the Tigers with 27 points, 12 rebounds and at least three eye-opening slam-dunks as they evened their record at 1-1. The game was the season-opener for the Zebras.

"I was happy with our defensive intensity tonight," said Belleville coach Mike Krogel. "The kids definitely wanted this one after our loss the other night. They really came to play."

Belleville dropped a 53-49 decision to Inkster on Friday, however, they played without Freeman.

The Tigers received solid contributions from just about every player on the roster against Wayne. Scoring at least five points for the winners were: Carlos Clark (nine); Mike Donaldson and Mike Gibson (six points a piece); and Marius Williams and Darius Hardrick, who both chipped in with five. Donaldson recorded five steals while Gibson, a powerful 6-foot-7 forward, hauled down eight boards.

Freeman displayed his offensive versatility by draining three three-pointers, eight conventional twos and a perfect 2-for-2 from the charity stripe.

Playing before an enthusiastic home crowd of close to 800, the Tigers raced to a 23-9 lead after eight minutes and 34-16 halftime advantage. Led by Justin Collop's 17, the Zebras battled hard in the second half, getting out-pointed 32-28.

"Everybody got to play, which was nice," said Krogel.

Belleville was 4-of-7 from the line; Wayne was a red-hot 10-of-12.

PCA 61, RUDOLPH STEINER 34: The Eagles improved their record to 2-1 with a convincing victory over Ann Arbor Rudolph Steiner. Matt Saagman led the way with 14 points while Dave Kosielyny added 11, including three triples.

PCA sprinted to a 21-5 first-quarter lead and 31-17 halftime advantage. The Eagles led 49-22 with eight minutes to play.

PCA coach Doug Taylor praised the play of Derek Elenbaas. ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

Sophomore leads 'Cats to first win of season

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

He's only a sophomore? That's probably close to what members of Trenton's basketball team were thinking about Plymouth's Jake Hager during Tuesday night's non-conference basketball game in the Trojans' gym.

After struggling to get on track in the Wildcats' opener last week against Dearborn Heights Robichaud, the 6-foot-6, 200-pound Hager came into his own against Trenton, piling up 16 points

PREP HOOP

and 10 rebounds in Plymouth's 49-43 victory. The Wildcats are now 1-1 heading into next week's Chelsea Holiday Tournament.

"Jake may have been a little nervous in our opener last week, but he didn't play like it tonight," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "He really stepped up and played with a lot of energy. I started five seniors tonight, so that may have motivated him a little

bit. He came off the bench and played extremely well."

Trenton led 11-8 after one quarter and 21-19 at the half. Plymouth essentially won the game in the third quarter when it out-scored its hosts, 11-3.

"We got after them a little bit more with our pressure defense in the third quarter," Van Wagoner revealed. "We were getting them in a lot of traps with our half-court pressure and we forced a lot of turnovers in the second half. Offensively, we were

pounding the ball inside to Jake."

Hager was the lone Wildcat to hit double figures in scoring. Other key contributors on the offensive end were Jim Wilbur (seven points), Brent Jones and D.J. Coleman (six each) and Austin Barnett and LeBroderick Caldwell, who scored four a piece.

Joe Morsello kept Trenton in the game by canning four long triples.

He finished with a game-high 17 points while 6-5 post player Nate Miller netted 13.

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Canton gymnasts open with victory

The Canton girls gymnastics team opened its 2005-06 season Monday night with a convincing 136.0-88.70 victory over Westland John Glenn.

The Chiefs, who were without the services of last season's top performer Alyssa Kelley, were paced by Jessie Murray,

who finished first in the floor exercise (9.05) and all-around (34.85), and second on the vault (8.65).

Kate Staley also turned in a stellar effort for the winners, winning the vault with an 8.85 and finishing second on the bars (8.55), floor (8.7) and all-

around (34.65). Other Chiefs who stood out were: Kara Ahern (first on the beam with a 8.8), Chelsey Selden (second on the beam with an 8.75), Kaitlyn Burns (second on the floor with an 8.7).

Even without Kelley, Canton dominated, taking the top four

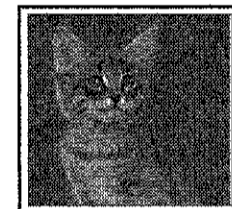
places in each event. The Rockets' top performers were Danielle Lawson, who compiled an all-around score of 30.9, and Danielle Haase, who had a 25.55 all-around score.

The Chiefs will return to action Saturday when they travel to Vassar.

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CHIEFS

FROM PAGE C1

the poor free-throw shooting was uncharacteristic of this team. In fact, it was the least of our worries coming into tonight.

"We're going to make up the game that got snowed out on Thursday, so we have back-to-back games this week. That means we have a lot to work on in practice Wednesday. We have to execute better and do a better job of getting to the rim."

Waidmann had no problem getting to the rim — and finishing once he got there. The 6-foot-5 post player connected on 7-of-8 shots from the floor while contributing a team-high eight rebounds.

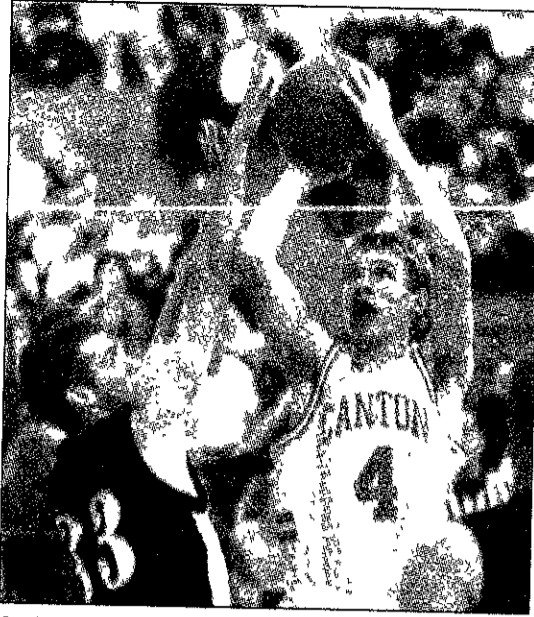
Bridges led the Chiefs' early charge, scoring half of their 14 first-quarter points. After the Falcons outscored their hosts 14-6 in the second stanza, Larsen and Paye stepped up in the third quarter, combining for 16 points to pace the Chiefs' 20-8 game-deciding onslaught.

Larsen, a lanky senior forward, struggled with his shooting stroke in the first half, missing all three of his shots. But when he buried a long triple from the left wing 75 seconds into the second half to put Canton up 25-20, it was like lighting the fuse to a stick of dynamite. Larsen found the bottom of the net on four of his next five shots and also added six rebounds.

Rochester trailed just 22-20 following Brandon Luczak's lay-up one minute into the third quarter, but Canton responded with an 18-3 run over the next six minutes to put the hammer down on their first win of the season.

Paye employed a unique defensive alignment that helped power his team's third-quarter success. He stuck the long-armed Waidmann on the perimeter of the Canton zone and dropped his two guards under the basket.

"We knew (Henning) liked to penetrate, so we



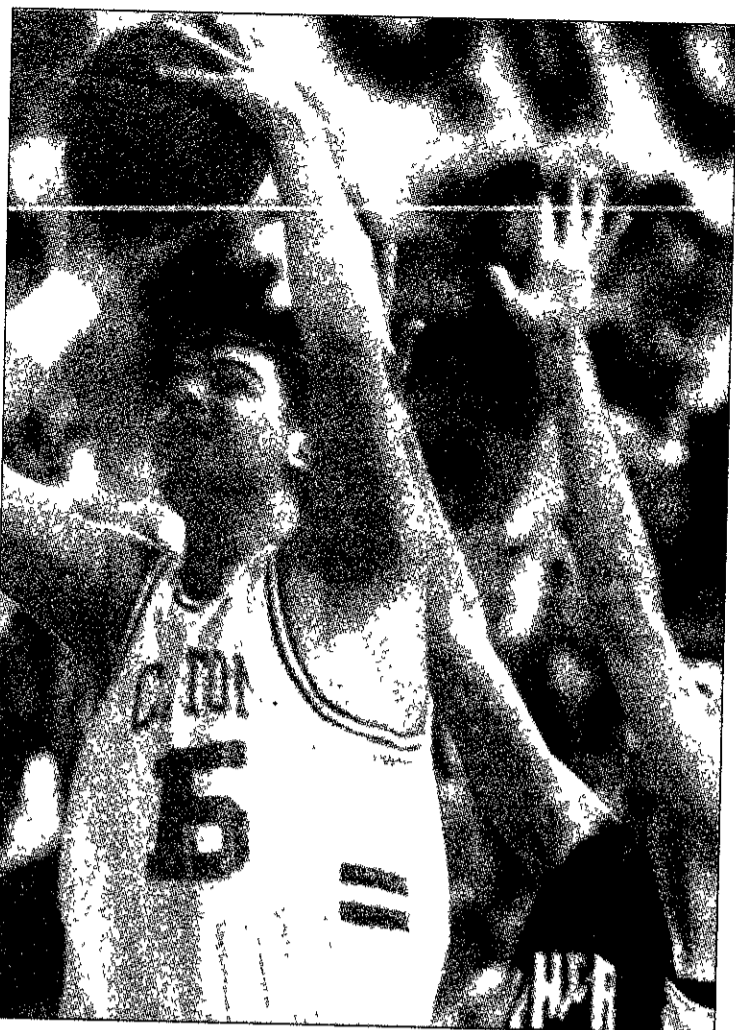
Canton's Ryan Langdon lofts a shot over the outstretched hand of Rochester's Rob Bule during Tuesday night's 13-point Chief victory.

thought we'd change things up and try it," Paye said, referring to the upside-down zone. "We work on it in practice a lot, so we thought we'd try it tonight. It seemed to work well."

Mike Long led the Falcons with 10 points. Mike Kurecka added eight while Luczak and Stephan Henning both netted seven.

After Rochester out-rebounded Canton, 18-13, in the first half, Paye implored his team to hit the boards harder during his halftime message. They did, finishing with a 34-27 rebounding edge. His son, Steve, led the way with five second-half caroms.

The Chiefs' shooting strokes were in mid-season form as they buried 23-of-49 shots (47 percent).



Canton's Ryan Waidmann muscles in two of his team-high 14 points in Tuesday's 53-40 victory over Rochester. Trying unsuccessfully to stop Waidmann is the Falcons' Rob Bule.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SPORTS ROUNDUP

SKATING LESSONS

Registration for the Plymouth Recreation Department's 2006 Winter II Basic Skills Skating Lessons will begin Dec. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Interested individuals can also register at the Cultural Center during normal business hours.

The classes will run from Jan. 9 through March 11 and offer participants an opportunity to learn to skate at every level — from beginning to advanced freestyle. Each class will be 25 minutes in length with an additional 35 minutes of practice time included either before or after the session. All classes will be held at the Plymouth Cultural Center Ice Arena, located at 525 Farmer in downtown Plymouth.

Fees for Plymouth residents are \$70. The fees for non-residents are \$90.

For additional information on class times and days, contact the City of Plymouth Recreation Department office at (734) 455-6620 (ext. 304); or visit the department's Web site at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

LET US KNOW

Have you or someone you know accomplished an athletic feat recently that is noteworthy? Or do you have an interesting sports-related hobby or job?

If so, contact Observer Sports Editor Ed Wright so he can let the community know about it in a future feature article.

To contact Wright, call him at (734) 953-2108 or e-mail him at ewright@hometownlife.com.

YOUTH LACROSSE

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department is offering a youth lacrosse program for boys and girls in grades third through eighth beginning in the spring 2006. The program will be instructional at the beginning and will add competitive scrimmages and games as the players' skills develop and they become more familiar with the rules.

The season will run from mid-April through mid-June with all practices and games

the entire month of January. For more information, visit the City of Plymouth's Web site at: www.ci.plymouth.mi.us; or call (734) 455-6620, Ext. 304.

HVS BREAK CAMPS

High Velocity Sports in Canton will be offering its popular school-break camps again this winter. Camps offered include all-sports, crafts, basketball and soccer.

The all-sport camp includes a variety of sports, including soccer, flag football, floor hockey, basketball, kickball, volleyball and an array of backyard games like capture-the-flag and hide-and-seek. The camp is offered in full-day (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) increments for 8- to 12-year-olds or half-day (9 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) increments for 5- to 8-year-olds.

The cost is \$45 per day or \$189 per week for the full-day sessions and \$25 per day and \$99 per week for the half-day camps.

The dates for the all-sports camps are Dec. 27-29, Jan. 2-6, Jan. 16, Feb. 27-March 3, April 14 and April 17-21.

For more information on the other HVS school-break camps, call (734) HV-SPORT or visit www.hvsports.com.

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New goalie a winner for Whalers, 6-3 Wildcat skaters sink Pinckney Pirates, 6-2

The Plymouth Whalers received 44 saves from new goaltender Justin Peters and two goals each from Gino Pisellini and Steve Ward en route to a 6-3 victory over Owen Sound in an Ontario Hockey League game played Saturday night before 2,860 at the Compuware Sports Arena.

Dan Collins and Andrew Fournier added single goals for Plymouth, while James Neal added three assists.

Peters -- in his Plymouth debut after being acquired in a trade Friday with Toronto -- was steady, allowing a hat trick to Owen Sound's Bobby Ryan, but shutting everyone else out.

The Whalers' victory -- cou-

pled with Saginaw's 2-1 loss to Barrie Saturday night -- moves the Whalers into a first-place tie with Saginaw (18-11-0-0) in the OHL's West Division. Plymouth is now 16-10-1-3.

The Attack dropped to 16-11-2-3, good enough for third place in the OHL's Midwest Division.

Ryan opened the scoring with his 21st goal at 12:43 of the first period, but Collins replied 33 seconds later with his team-leading 22nd goal of the year. Ward gave the Whalers their first lead, 2-1, with a shot from the slot that beat Kyle Knechtel at 16:21.

Good work deep in the Owen Sound zone by the line

of Fournier, Pisellini and Neal resulted in a 3-1 Plymouth lead at 2:00 of the second period when Fournier scored his 10th of the season on a wrap-around. Ryan cut Plymouth's advantage to 3-2 at 7:50 of the second with his second goal of the night on a hard shot from the right wing that beat Peters.

But Pisellini scored at 9:26 of the period to restore the Whalers' two-goal lead. Ryan came right back at 13:21 to complete the hat trick.

The key play of the game came with 8.5 seconds left in the second period and Plymouth clinging to a 4-3 lead. Pisellini won a face-off in the Owen Sound zone and

Evan Brophey found Ward at the left point. His hard shot beat Knechtel with 2.7 seconds left in the period to give the Whalers a comfortable 5-3 lead.

Pisellini completed the scoring with his second goal of the night and seventh of the season.

Owen Sound out-shot Plymouth, 47-24.

Plymouth returns to action tonight when it travels to Peterborough. On Friday, the Whalers will make a road-trip to Oshawa before moving on to Toronto for a Sunday afternoon contest. That game will pit the Whalers against former goalie Ryan Nie.

Pinckney Pirates, 6-2

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's hockey team shook off some rust and Pinckney Saturday afternoon at the Compuware Sports Arena.

Playing in just their second game in two weeks, the Wildcats rebounded to an early 3-1 lead before knocking off the Pirates, 6-2. Plymouth improved to 2-1-1 with the victory.

Christian Blick made the most of his first start in goal for the Wildcats, recording 25 saves for the winners.

"It was a nice win for us," said Plymouth coach Chuck Dubois. "We haven't played many games the past couple of weeks, but the boys came out and played well. We played on the Olympics-size rink, so it doesn't look like you're skating real well, but we played well. The team is coming together."

"We got some good goal-

PREP HOCKEY

tending out of Christian. We have a lot of depth at that position with him and Justin Desilets."

After the Pirates skated to an early 1-0 advantage, the Wildcats rebounded with three unanswered goals to gain a 3-1 lead after the first period. Mark Oliver knotted the game at 1-1 with 9:28 left in the first period before Jason O'Guinn scored a pair (7:35 and 3:10) to close out the stanza. Michael Manner, Nick Rosochacki and Brett Kavulich notched first-period assists.

John Knoerl gave the Wildcats a 4-1 lead six minutes into the second period off an assist by Manner. Brandon Winowiecki (unassisted) and Justin Michalek (Nick Cote and Billy Gauthier) added third-period insurance goals for the winners.

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE C1

player on the Plymouth Stingrays' PeeWee AA squad.

The Kowalskis' youngest son, 10-year-old Kory, prefers basketball to hockey, which gives his parents some variety when it comes to youth sports viewing.

"Hockey is a seven-days-a-week thing for us, but we love it," said Randy, who could probably drive to the Arctic Edge, Arctic Pond or Plymouth Cultural Center blind-folded thanks to the hundreds of trips he's made to the three rinks over the past several years.

"We're always on the go, taking the kids to practice or games. It was a life-saver when Kyle got his driver's license last year because he can drive the girls where they need to go now."

IN THE GENES

The three high school-aged Kowalskis aren't just hockey players -- they're *talented* hockey players. Kyle, a starting forward for the Chiefs, was voted by his teammates to serve as a tri-captain this season. The fast-skating two-year varsity player has more than lived up to the honor so far as he's been one of the Chiefs'

leading scorers while providing valuable leadership qualities off the ice.

"Last year, player-for-player, our team was probably more talented," Kyle said. "But this year's team plays together better as a unit. We rely on each other out on the ice."

"I like being a captain. I like being able to show the younger players how to get to the next level."

Kyle doesn't remember the first goal he ever scored as a youngster, but there is one hockey-related experience that will never be wiped from his memory bank.

"When I was 11, one of my teammates was picked to skate during one of the intermissions at a Red Wings game," he said. "Well, the kid got sick, and when they re-drew, I got picked. I missed the shot, but that's something I'll never forget."

PERFECT PENGUINS

The Kowalski sisters have played key roles in the Penguins' 4-0 start this season and their final-four appearance in last year's Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League post-season playoffs. Kristie, the team's only goaltender, has yet to allow a goal, while Keely is one of the team's

top defensemen.

"One of the things that makes Kristie a great goalie is her ability to remain calm, no matter what is going on around her," said PCS coach Lori Callahan. "She doesn't get excited easily, which is important for a goalie. Plus, she never gets down on her teammates. She's a team-first type of player."

"Keely is the same way. Although she would probably rather play forward than defense for us, she doesn't complain. I can rely on her to do her job no matter where I put her."

"The best thing about both girls is that they're very nice and personable."

Randy Kowalski said he didn't hesitate when it came time to sign up his 9-year-old twin daughters to their first organized ice hockey league six years ago.

"The girls had played roller hockey for a while, so it wasn't entirely new for them," he said. "The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association put on a clinic for girls. Kristie and Keely tried it and they fell in love with the sport right away."

"I'll never forget their first year with the Ann Arbor Huskies. The team was really good, so Kristie didn't get a lot

of action in goal. When she got bored, she'd lay down in front of the net and make snow angels in the ice shavings."

TIGHT BOND

Like most identical twins, Kristie and Keely share a kind of friendship that words can't describe.

"We share everything, even money," Kristie said. "If one of us baby-sits, we'll split the money with the other one. Because of the bond we have, I like it when Keely's playing defense in front of me. It's like being out there with my best friend."

The ice, so to speak, wasn't always smooth for the twins during their formative ice hockey days.

"The hardest part for me was learning how to stop on ice skates," said Keely. "But I liked it right away because it was so fast-paced."

The oldest three Kowalski siblings serve as outstanding role models for their younger brothers, Randy Kowalski said.

"They all get along really well," the proud father said. "Kurt idolizes Kyle. Whenever he gets a new uniform, he always makes sure he gets Kyle's number."

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MOTOWN'S NEWEST HOLIDAY TRADITION

This space donated by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Redford bowler dusts off his ball, rolls 300 game

The cardboard box was sitting in the garage, gathering dust when Jerry Hay of Redford noticed it and remembered that it had a bowling ball stashed inside.



Ten Pin Alley

Jerry cleaned it up last spring and used it a few times, even had a 300 game with it late last season. It was a Columbia 300 ARC and it worked well for him. He bowls in the Mayflower Wednesday Men's Senior Classic and used this ball Nov. 23 starting with a 299, leaving only a solid 10-pin on the 12th ball. His other games of 259 and 249 added up to a fine 807 series.

Conrad, 24, a member of the Sunday Printcraft League at Garden Lanes in Garden City, recently rolled his first 700 series with scores of 189-224-299.

Conrad left a ringing 10-pin on the last ball, just missing that elusive perfect game.

John Meza rolled 290-289-226 for a nice 805 set.

The feature on the Old Timers Tournament went to press before the event started.

That should beg to ask the question: "Where are the winning scores?"

Well, here they are as a field of over 600 competitors, including seven from San Diego, Calif. and 17 from Altoona, Pa., vied for honors.

The overall champion was 63-year-old Tom Strobl, who just happens to own the place. He bowled well, and won it fair and square with games of 247-267-239/751.

This year, a father-and-son

combination each took firsts in their respective age divisions.

Ken Gignac, 46, of White Lake captured the under-50 division on games of 256-255-244/755.

Meanwhile, his dad, Bud Gignac, 73, of Redford, won the 70-74 age group with 237-236-236/709.

Even though Ken's total was the highest, the overall champion must, by rule, be 50 or over.

Second place in the under-50 went to Tom Roberts, 42, of Allen Park, who finished with a 243-249-234/726.

Ernie Segura, Jr., 45, Brownstown, completed a set of 279-196-246/721, and his dad, Ernie Sr., teamed up to win both jackpots in the first game.

Jeff Pascoe, 41, of Rochester Hills tied Segura for third with 265-219-237/721.

In the largest amount of entries for any age group - 50-59 - Gregory Bashara, 51, of Plymouth came in first with

259-206-255/720, followed by Leroy Brown, 53, of Detroit, with 255-214-247/716; and Frank Muto, 51, of Dearborn, third, 255-207-227/689.

In the 60-64 group, it was 64-year-old Mike Callaway leading the way on games of 246-176-278/700.

Lino Baladad, 63, of Dearborn Heights, was runner-up with 258-224-215/697, while Joseph Sytniak, 64, also of Dearborn Heights, took third with 203-256-226/685.

In the 65-69 group, Bill Casey, 66, of St. Clair Shores, led with 237-236-205/678, while second place went to Walter Mieczkowski, 69, of Detroit, with 217-235-224/676. Harley Trumbull, 66, of New Boston, placed third with 161-263-243/667.

The 70-74 group featured Bud Gignac taking first, followed by George McNair, 71, from Clinton Township, 244-226-252/702, followed by

Donald P. Schmid, 70, of Shelby Township in third with 216-259-223/698.

In the 75-79 age bracket, Nicholas Perez, 75, of Detroit, won the title with a 208-245-253/706. Frank Gavie, 77, of Detroit, took second with 224-237-236/697. American Bowling Congress Hall-of-Famer Jimmie Schroeder, 76, of Tonawanda, N.Y. settled for third on games of 226-212-224/662.

In the 80 and over, Jack Dahlstrom, 81, of Redford, gained first place with 208-212-168/588, still edging ABC Hall-of-Famer Tony Lindemann, 86, from Harrison Township, who scored 190-185-209/584 and Bruno Gervasi, 81, of Trenton, who rolled games of 172-173-234/579.

Ted Kress and I were busy videotaping, and when the editing is finished, it is expected to run on some of the local cable TV stations in a few weeks.

I will try to keep you informed.

On the subject of TV bowling, the Professional Bowlers Association tour is now in full swing at 1 p.m. Sundays at 1 p.m. seen locally on ESPN-TV.

Up-coming schedule (unless you prefer to watch the Lions) includes: Dec. 11, Keystone State Championship (Mechanicsburg, Pa.); Dec. 18, Empire State Classic (Clifton Park, N.Y.); Jan. 8, Earl Anthony Medford (Ore.) Classic; Jan. 15, Dick Weber Open (Fountain Valley, Calif.); Jan. 22, Phoenix (Ariz.) Classic.

Meanwhile, the Detroit-area dates are March 15-19 for the Ace Hardware Championship at Taylor Lanes.

Entry forms for the Pro-Am will be out shortly.

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a director of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be reached at (248) 477-1889.

Getting in gear: Winter anglers anticipate 'first ice'

Winter conditions over the past couple weeks have anglers scrambling to get their ice gear ready for the season and that exciting fishing period affectionately referred to as "first ice."

"So just exactly what is "first ice," and does it really produce

some of the best fishing of the season?"

The answer is an unequivocal "yes."

Fishing during the first couple weeks of safe ice will produce some of the best results of the season, especially for pan-fish on some of the area's local



Outdoor Insights

Bill Parker

lakes. When the first layer of safe ice finally covers a lake the oxygen levels are still pretty high. This high level of O2 is what keeps the fish active and feeding.

During first ice, there will still be some plantlife remaining from the fall, which helps maintain oxygen levels.

In addition, early in the season while the ice is still thin and snowcover is light, sunlight will filter through the ice encouraging limited plant growth to continue. Again, this helps pump oxygen into the water, which in turn increases fish activity.

Once the mid-winter period sets in, O2 levels fall and fish activity slows considerably. Oh, you can still catch fish, but the action will pale in comparison to the furious action anglers are likely to encounter during the first couple weeks of safe ice.

But it's not just the oxygen levels that makes first ice so enticing. The commotion that will invade the ice when it gets thick enough for general recreation is minimal during the early season. Snowmobiles, ATVs, automobiles, power augers even ice skaters create a lot of noise that can spook fish beneath the ice. Without all the noise and activity from above, fish are less likely to be spooky or finicky.

THINK SAFETY FIRST While first ice is certainly a good time to wet a line, it's also

one of the most dangerous times to be on the ice. Lakes do not freeze evenly. Water depth, current and structures that extend into the water, like pilings and dock posts, can result in unsafe ice conditions. Where there is six inches of ice in one spot on a lake, there may be less than an inch just a few yards away.

It helps if you know the water on which you are fishing. If not, get a map of the lake at your local sporting goods store. Sportsmans Connection (www.sportsmansconnection.com) and Fishing Hot Spots (1-800-338-5957) have files and files of maps of Michigan lakes. Take note of areas to stay away from like riverbeds, river and stream mouths, springs and anywhere there is moving water. Always wear a life jacket when venturing out onto first ice. There are plenty of stylish and comfortable life jackets on the market today so you don't

have to resort to one of those bulky orange versions.

A pair of ice picks (a couple screwdrivers tied to opposite ends of a rope works well) is another important piece of equipment. They will come in handy if you fall through the ice and need to pull yourself out of the water. The picks can be jammed into the ice and will give you help getting out of a slippery, icy hole. Drape the rope over your shoulders while on the ice so the picks will always be handy. They won't do you any good if you fall through and the ice picks are on your sled.

Use your head and be smart when heading out to ice fish. There is no fish out there worth taking a plunge into icy water for. (Bill Parker covers the outdoors for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Send information to: Bill Parker, c/o Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009)

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS-DECEMBER 6, 2005

A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call
Members Present: Bennett, Caccamo, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Staff Present: Director Santomauro, Deputy Chief Golles, Deputy Chief Wilson, Sgt. Laurain, Barb Caruso, Lt. Nemecek, Officer Traylor, Officer DeGrand, Officer Alestra

Guest Present: Lt. Gerds, MSP, Lt. House, MSP

Adoption of Agenda Motion by Bennett, seconded by McLaughlin to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

STUDY SESSION TOPIC Director Santomauro gave a tour of the Special Operations Mobile Unit and also various equipment used by the Special Operations Team.

Item 1. Public Safety Update • Western Wayne Consortium Introductions Western Wayne Auto Theft Unit Western Wayne Community Response Team Western Wayne Narcotics Unit Special Threats Response Unit, topic of discussions were: Benefits of Consortiums Western Wayne Criminal Investigations, Auto Theft Unit, Community Response team, Narcotics Unit, WWCI Mission Statement: "The mission of Western Wayne Criminal Investigations is to encourage interagency cooperation between state, local and county law enforcement agencies to provide the communities we serve with effective regional drug, auto theft, and criminal surveillance enforcement programs." WWCI Organizational Chart, WWCI Operating Budget: Auto Theft Unit, \$1.4 Million budget this year, Narcotics and CRT, \$262,000 budget this year, Assignment to Western Wayne Units, Western Wayne Auto Theft Unit: Unit designed to detect, investigate, apprehend & prosecute individuals who commit auto theft-related crimes, Western Wayne Auto Theft Unit Participants, Auto Theft Unit Organizational Chart, Auto Theft Unit Funding, Auto Theft Unit Training, Last Year the Auto Theft Unit: Investigated 513 cases Arrested 57 criminals, Recovered 442 vehicles & 20 parts with a fair market value of \$4,468,197, How Does ATU Benefit Canton? Bait vehicle is monitored through computer system in Canton's dispatch area, Since deployment of bait vehicle it has been in Canton 50% of time Community Response Team (CRT) Western Wayne CRT Participants CRT Organizational Chart, CRT Funding, CRT Unit Training, How Does Canton Use CRT? Patrol division takes initial report, Detective Bureau & evidence technicians perform investigation, CRT is requested for support services, Surveillance, Search warrants, Arrest warrants, Narcotics Unit: What is Western Wayne Narcotics Unit? Investigates illegal drugs in service area, Develops investigations from tips received through officers or interviews, Works large scale narcotic cases, Western Wayne Narcotics Unit Participants, Narcotics Unit Organizational Chart, Narcotics Unit Funding, Narcotics Unit Training, Last Year the Narcotics Unit: Investigated 158 cases, Arrested 98 criminals, Seized drugs worth a total street value of \$2,400,801, How does WWNU Benefit Canton? Of the 158 cases investigated last year, 25% originated in Canton, \$105,923 forfeiture dollars back to Canton since 1998 Special Threats Response Unit: Multi-jurisdictional unit developed by Western Wayne County departments, Developed to handle high-risk incidents. STUR Membership, STUR Funding, STUR Operational Area: Over 150 square miles of coverage, Outside operational area if requested, Outside agencies billed for equipment & manpower, SOT van on site within 30 minutes of call, Qualification for STUR: Physical test, Firearms proficiency, Oral board interview, Recommendation to SOT Commander to attend SWAT school. STUR, SWAT School Course Outline: Hostage Negotiations, Ballistics, Tactical Medical, Chemical Agents, Protective Chemical Masks, Explosive/Bombs/B-Traps, Rappelling, Breaching Techniques, Submachine Gun, M-16/AR-15 Rifle, Scoped Sniper Rifle, Hostage Rescue, Diversionary Devices, Building Search Techniques, Arrest Teams, Body Armor, TOC, Scouting, Tactics for Containment, Use of Ballistic Shields, Drug Raid Planning, Less Lethal Weapons, Rural Team Movements, Alternate Entry Points, STUR On-Going Training, 2 Days a Month, Training Includes: Shooting a weapon system each training day, Basic Building searches, Hostage rescue clearing, Execution of high-risk search/arrest warrants, Legal update on SWAT issues, Training with consortium K-9 units, Live fire scenarios at range, Breaching techniques, Less lethal training, Rappelling training, Deployment of chemical agent, Night operations, Vehicle assaults, Joint training with surrounding agencies STUR Keys to Success. A video was shown of the training exercises that the potential members of the Special Operations Team are expected to pass in order to become a member of the SOT. There will be a Regular Board Meeting on December 13, 2005, 7:00 p.m. Administration Building, First Floor, Board Room, 1150 Canton Center S. Canton, Michigan 48188. This will be the last Board Meeting for the remainder of the year. The next study session will be on January 3, 2005.

Adjourn Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo at 8:58 p.m. to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

THOMAS J. YACK, Supervisor

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Board Approval.

Publish: December 15, 2005

CE08397042

STORAGE USA

Notice is hereby given that on January 4th, 2006, Tate & Co Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Storage USA, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Storage USA reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Storage USA, 6729 CANTON CENTER RD., CANTON, MI 48187 AT 12:30 PM.

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| James Pullen Jr. C72 | 5x5 | TV, VCR, misc. |
| Tabitha McFarland D124 | 5x10 | Household goods |
| Carol Panik D136 | 5x10 | Dressers, boxes, hutch |
| Dominador Reyes E179 | 10x20 | 1996 Dodge Stratus & misc. |
| William Staten H281 | 10x10 | Couch, Asian hutch, coffee table |

Publish: December 15 & 22, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m., December 29th, 2005 for the following:

PURCHASE OF TWO (2) TRIPLE COMBINATION PUMPERS

Bid forms may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department counter or you may contact Mike Sheppard at (734) 394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: December 15, 2005

STOW & GO SELF STORAGE AUCTION NOTICE

Pursuant to State Law, Notice is hereby given that a public auction will be held at **STOW & GO SELF STORAGE, 41999 ANN ARBOR ROAD, PLYMOUTH, MI ON JANUARY 13, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.**, on past due tenants listed below. The entire contents of the following units will be auctioned and sold to the highest bidder on each individual unit. **CASH ONLY! DESCRIPTION IS BRIEF SUMMARY OF ITEMS, MAY OR MAY NOT CONTAIN MORE OR LESS ITEMS.**

UNIT #023 - LISA MORENO OF 12364 RISMAN DR. APT #104, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170
Boxes, children's toys, ladder, plastic chairs, xmas items, plastic storage tubs, other misc. items.

UNIT #251 - SCOTT MORRISON OF 9549 CEDAR ISLAND POND, WHITE LAKE TWP, MI 48386
Skateboard, skis, boxes, books, other misc. items.

UNIT #339 - JAMES ALTER OF P. O. BOX 512, DEARBORN HEIGHTS, MI 48127
Vacuum, 25 boxes, 5 bags of clothes, 5 plastic containers, 2 radios, fax machine, 3 brief cases, scale, wood, other misc. items.

UNIT #373 - AARON A. ROSE OF 1365 MC KINLEY, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170
Couch, chairs, boxes, bed, end tables, mattress, chest, suitcase, clothes, storage bins, buckets, skateboard, shop vac, dresser, other misc. items.

UNIT #619/668 - CLAUD STOPCHINSKI OF 42173 E. ANN ARBOR RD., PLYMOUTH, MI 48170
Pallets of computer printers/approx. 100. copies, other misc. items.

SALE DATE IS JANUARY 13, 2006 AT 10:00 A.M.

Publish: December 15 and 22, 2005

ADVERTISEMENT OF BIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH VOICE AND DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

The Charter Township of Plymouth is currently accepting bid proposals for Voice and Data Infrastructure for its new Township Hall/Police Station and Fire Station. The Request for Proposal may be obtained in the Office of the Clerk, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Bldg. #3, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Sealed bids are to be delivered to the Office of the Clerk no later than 3:00 pm on January 20, 2006.

Publish: December 15 & 18, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton 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 two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-5260

Publish: December 15, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Clerk's Department up to 3:00 p.m., January 5th, 2006 for the following:

PROCUREMENT CARD PROGRAM

Specifications are available at the Finance & Budget Department located on the third floor of the administration building, or you may call Mike Sheppard at (734) 394-5225. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of proposal opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: December 15, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed qualifications at the Department of Public Works until 5:00 p.m., Thursday December 29th, 2005 for the following:

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The specifications are available at the Public Works Department located on the 2nd floor of the Administration building. All qualifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the project name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of proposal opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: December 8 & 15, 2005

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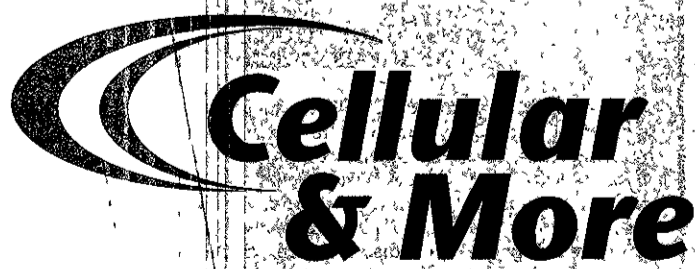
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800-CELL-MOR



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Sunday's the day for Lions fans to sta

Being a sports fan is often a helpless task. We can't control very much about what our favorite teams do. Certainly not their performance on the field of play, the trades, the draft picks, the ticket prices and many more variables we have literally zero impact on.

When it comes to the NFL, all we can do is decide whether to buy tickets or not, decide whether to watch on TV or not and decide whether or not to buy that snazzy new third jersey for 80 hard-earned dollars — let's hypothetically say it's black with Honolulu blue and silver trim.

This is why this week's contest at Ford Field has gained a lot of interest from media types like myself, who are always curious about the story behind the story and the game behind the game. The Lions' home finale features the 4-9 host team against one of the NFL's best stories, the 10-3 Cincinnati Bengals.



Greg Brady

TEAM ROLE MODEL

There used to be a time when the Bengals would find themselves lumped into jokes with the Lions and Cardinals when discussing the NFL's most pathetic franchises. Well, not anymore. The Bengals have a stingy defense, a future Pro Bowl quarterback in Chad Johnson and a durable and at times flashy running back in Rudi Johnson. In short, they're right now what every team is trying to build.

Assuming the Indianapolis Colts show some signs of being human at some point in the next few years, the Bengals may actually make it to their third Super Bowl,

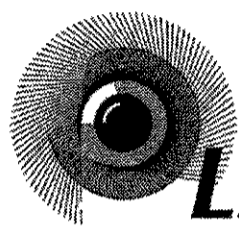
and when they do, they'll be happy to realize that Joe Montana has long since retired from the NFL to sell hotballs that you strap around your hips before you throw.

So it would seem the Lions have an inevitable plunge to a 4-10 record, and their fifth straight double-digit loss season, not accomplished since the 1994 Tampa Bay Buccaneers did so. Oh, Tampa did win the Super Bowl eight years later, so get ready for that parade down Woodward Avenue in 2018!

But a stranger sideshow is that the anger of the fans is going to be on full display, I predict, inside and outside the stadium. That's right, anger. Not apathy because, let's face it, Lions fans just don't seem fully capable of that. No matter how badly this team finishes the 2005 season, the same old excitement will be there

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AN AMERICAN RE-VOLUTION

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ome Draft Day 2006, especially with another Matt Millen special, the top 10 selection. Truth be told, it's almost impossible on purpose to be able to draft in the top 10 for five straight seasons, but Millen isn't special for nothing, is he? The same excitement will hold true when the Lions' schedule gets announced, when training camp opens, even, yes, the first preseason game, where apathy is supposed to overtake even the strongest and most ardent fans, at least in the second half. So the aforementioned "anger" will have to do instead, but in this case it just might get Lions fans what they want. Matt Millen is completely and utterly overmatched by his job. It's obvious by the majority of his player personnel moves. It's obvious during his press conferences. He would think it would be obvious in

his conversations with team owner William Clay Ford. But Ford has a thing for Millen; can there be any other explanation? Millen must be a great guy to hear old NFL stories from and to have dinner with, because goodness knows he's not the best of people to trust with the health of your franchise.

ANGRY FANS

Many people use the phrase "you can't fight city hall." Maybe not. But you can get everyone to notice that you want the mayor fired. That seems to be the plan this Sunday. My prediction is the CBS television cameras are going to have a very difficult time avoiding the army of people wearing "Fire Millen" T-shirts, or those passionate fans who will join Sean Baligian and others from WDFN in the Angry Man March, designed to let the

Fords know that change is necessary in this organization, and that if fans aren't going to be apathetic even during the worst five-year stretch in Lions history, then the owners certainly have no right to show similar indifference.

I do think if you speak loudly enough Sunday and are well-behaved about it, the Fords will have to listen. I've gone from thinking there's no way Matt Millen won't be running the Lions throughout the 2006 season, to thinking that if the noises and imagery are notable enough inside and outside Ford Field Sunday, that the Lions may have no choice but to contemplate a change and a one-way ticket back to Pennsylvania or a broadcast booth near you for Matthew Millen.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

DECEMBER

Toys needed

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen is collecting toys for Christmas gifts for approximately 1200 families with children from age infant to 12-years. New, unwrapped toys are preferred and will be displayed in a store-like fashion so parents have the opportunity to select gifts that are best for their children. Please donate toys that reflect non-violence. No guns or war toys. Sports equipment like basketballs and footballs is a great hit. Donations will be accepted up to Dec. 23, but distribution begins Dec. 21 and

continues to Dec. 23. Drop off toys at the Capuchin Services building at 6333 Medbury, Detroit or Jefferson Chevrolet, 2130 Jefferson, 6 blocks east of the Ren Cen. For more information, call (313) 579-2100, ext. 215.

Caroling

Presented by Single Adult Ministries sing at Sunshine Assisted Living on Haggerty Road, bus leaves parking lot at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville at 6:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. Call (248) 374-5920.

Seven levels of intimacy

Matthew Kelly talks about his book and the art of loving and joy of being loved 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 North Territorial, Plymouth. Tickets \$10, and benefit parish debt reduction. Call (734) 453-0326, ext. 221. For more information, visit www.matthewkelly.org.

Christmas cantata

7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 25535 Ford,

east of Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights. Admission is a donation of a toy for Toys for Tots.

St. Nicholas breakfast

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 17, hosted by senior high youth in the Fellowship Hall at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. Tickets \$4 (includes pancakes, sausage and beverages), free for children age 7 and under. Proceeds go toward the cost of the Spring Hill Winter Retreat for youth. For more information, call (734) 422-6038.

Fine arts festival

An afternoon of Christian youth entertainment and holiday shopping 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Westside Christian Academy, 9540 Bramell, one mile east of Telegraph, between Plymouth and Chicago. Call (313) 533-1956 or (313) 226-8109 for information or to obtain crafters table space.

Christmas opera

The Children's Ministry of New Hope

Baptist Church will perform a free Christmas opera titled "FA LA LA MOO!" 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at 33630 Michigan Ave., Wayne. It is the story of Jesus' birth told from the animals' perspective. For more information, call Allyn Verbal at (734) 728-2180.

Services

A Lake Pointe Christmas in Narnia, 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, the power to reverse the curse: deity, a mediator, a sacrifice, and 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24 faith to enter the wardrobe: courage, choice and trust, at the Lake Pointe Bible Church, 42150 Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth. Call (734) 420-0515.

Children's choir

Present Leon (Noel spelled backwards) 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at Bethel Baptist Christian Academy, 9540 Bramell, one mile east of Telegraph, between Plymouth and Chicago. Call (313) 533-1956 or (313) 226-8109 for information or to obtain crafters table space.

Victory voices

Christmas musical presented by the choir (grades 4-6) 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, story begins with the Nativity scene and rewrites to give the details and significance of the event which preceded Jesus' birth, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. For reservations, call (734) 464-6722.

Christmas collage

The concert of sacred and secular music takes place 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

Hanukkah party

12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, held by Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood. Lunch will be served, followed by a brief meeting. There will be games, prizes, music, Donations of toiletries requested for the needy. No charge for members. If interested in becoming a member of to RSVP, call (248) 477-8974. RSVP required by Dec. 14.

Wednesdays in Advent

Continue with 6 p.m. Taize Prayer and song followed by 6:30 p.m. program with meal, service project and prayer, Dec. 21, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

Coffeehouse

7-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23, an evening of relaxation and fun for singles, at Knox Hall, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Cost is \$5, includes snack, games, fellowship and specialty coffees Free Childcare. Call (248) 374-5920.

Christmas eve service

7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. For reservations, call (734) 464-6722. Nursery and childcare provided.

Services

5 p.m. children's nativity play at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Christmas Eve Dec. 24, 10 a.m. holy communion Christmas Day, Dec. 25, and 5 p.m. holy communion New Year's Eve Saturday, Dec. 31, and 10 a.m. holy communion New Year's Day, Jan. 1, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

Christmas Eve service

Festive Holy Eucharist 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24, at Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh, Livonia. Guest organist Joan Haggard. Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve services

5 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24; Christmas Day Service 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 25, and Holy Eucharist Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Jan. 1, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 11575 Belleville Road, Belleville. Call (734) 699-3361. Sunday Services 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages. Parents with Young Children Bible Study Sundays at 6 p.m. Dinner and childcare provided.

Christmas Eve service

Candlelight service 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24, Family Christmas Day Worship 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 25, at First Church of the Nazarene of Detroit, 21260 Haggerty, Northville. Call (248) 348-7600.

Birthday party

To celebrate Jesus' birthday 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 25, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, Redford. Clown, cake and fun galore. Call (313) 255-6330 for information.

Family Hanukkah party

5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26, at Congregation Beit Kodesh, 31840 West Seven Mile, Livonia. Dinner, music, games and prizes. Bring your family Menorah, candles will be provided. Cost is \$6 adults age 13 and up, \$3 ages 5-12, free for age 4 and under. Reservations required by Dec. 19. Call (248) 477-8974 or visit www.beitkodesh.org.

Friends in fellowship

Evening includes holiday dinner, Single Adult Ministries 2005 in Review show, entertainment by Keith Longbotham, punch reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, in Knox Hall, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Cost is \$26 per person. Free Childcare. Call (248) 374-5920.

World peace service

Unity of Livonia invited all people of peace to be at the church 6:30 a.m. New Year's Eve morning Saturday, Dec. 31, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. Continental breakfast after the service. Call (734) 421-1760.

New Year's Eve party

St. Mel Parish's 50th anniversary committee hosts the party that include dinner, asti spumante at midnight in the gym, 7506 Inkster, Dearborn Heights. Tickets \$25. Call (313) 274-0684 or (313) 274-7499.

Series on Spiritual Principals

Continues 7 p.m. Wednesday to Jan. 4, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. For more information, call (734) 421-1760.

JANUARY

Football open house

Begins noon Monday, Jan. 2, in Parlor C317 where there will be big screen TV's and plenty of snacks hosted by Single Adult Ministries. It ends after the Fiesta Bowl (around 8 p.m.) Bring desserts, appetizers, beverages and snacks if you can. Sub sandwiches and chili will be supplied, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Prayer conference

Christians from around the world will gather Jan. 4-6 for William Murphy Ministries, 2006 Intercessory Prayer Conference: Reclaiming the Church, the House of Prayer. Conference speakers are Bishop Murphy, Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant (Maryland) and Bishop Neil Ellis (Bahamas). Bishop Murphy Jr., pastor of New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church of Pontiac, believes the spirit of prayer will fall mightily on the thousands of expected attendees who will learn more effective intercessory prayer at the Ritz Carlton, at the Ritz Carlton, 300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn. Registration for adults is \$150, youths 12-years-old to 22-year-old college students \$50 if purchased by Jan. 4. Churches/intercessor teams and groups of up to 10 are admitted for \$500. Call (248) 335-6905 or visit www.williammurphyministries.org.

Kabbalah classes

Presented by the Sara Tugman Bais Chabad Torah Center, the classes begin 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 5595 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. The classes are open for both beginners and more advanced students. To register, call (248) 855-6170, ext. 1 or send e-mail to BCTC770@aol.com.

Cornish pasties

To raise funds Newburg United Methodist Church is making and selling pasties for \$3 each. They can be ordered by calling (734) 422-0149 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Jan. 10-11. Do not leave any orders on the answering machine. They will be ignored. Pick up times are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19 and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20 at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Poverty and prayer

Gerald Straub presents the story of his personal conversion and the use of his film talents in service to the poor 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, in the main church at Our Lady of Good Counsel, N. Territorial and Beck, Plymouth. Tickets \$10. Call (734) 453-0326, ext. 223 or send e-mail to leadch@olgcparis.net. Proceeds go to ongoing programs for the church's sister community in El Salvador.

ONGOING

Sunday services

Continue with traditional worship and children's Sunday School at 10 a.m., and adult Bible study at 8:30 a.m., at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road. Handicap accessible. Call (734) 421-7620.

Worship services

All are welcome to attend worship service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. Service is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday with an education hour all for ages at 9 a.m. Call (734) 422-1470.

Fall Sunday services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 9:30 a.m. Bible study, and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sunday school, at Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh, Livonia.

Unity of Livonia

Services 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays, at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.

Shabbat services

The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Bet Chaverim

Services are open to all living in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to attend services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 for information or visit www.betchaverim.com.

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lege students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday School for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday Services 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service 6:15 p.m. - Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner and child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat Rocks

A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit the Web site at www.adat-shalom.org.

English classes

Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.

Scripture from scratch

If you've always wanted to learn about the Bible from square one, here's square one 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays in the Activity Center at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road/Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950 to register.

Sunday school

Congregation Beit Kodesh (31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia) is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

Services

St. John Lutheran Church (23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills) invites the community to a new worship service 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Also, Sunday traditional worship services are 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; contemporary service is at 9:50 a.m.; and Sunday School hour for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584 for more information.

Single Point Ministries

For ages 30 and older, join more than 350 single adults 11:30 a.m. Sundays for fellowship and related topics in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee doughnuts and refreshments are present. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues 1 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4 p.m. Tuesdays at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia.

Bible talks

4 p.m. Sundays, at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

Worship services

All are welcome to attend worship services 10 a.m. Sundays at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

The Gap

A new youth Sunday School (God Always Present) at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford Road. Lessons are taught using various media, computers, story telling, games, cooking, music and art, and a small theater complete with popcorn making machine. Adult Bible study at 8:30 a.m. with a traditional service and The Gap at 10 a.m. Child care available. Mustard Seed contemporary service at 6 p.m. with refreshments served afterward. Call (734) 421-7620.

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The ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine. A safe and effective way to rid body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions. Learn the art of natural movement and breath to cultivate vital life energy. Classes at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Monday - movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday - Qigong meditation 10-11:15 a.m.; and Friday - Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticsarts.org.

Worship services

8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with an education hour 9:30-10:40 a.m., at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. Social hour follows each service. Call (734) 722-1735.

Detroit World Outreach

Nondenominational church with cutting edge drama productions, contemporary energized music, high-tech video and lighting, relevant life-changing messages, ministries for all ages; services times are 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday (Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m., junior high serves for grades six-eight at 10:45 a.m.), Wednesday services 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Family Night), and service for ages 18-28 at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at 23800 W. Chicago, Redford. Call (313) 255-2222 or visit www.wayofvictory.com.

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232

e-mail: OEObits@oe.homecomm.net



CARMEN FRANK YACONIS

Age 72, of Westland. Korean War Veteran; Marine Corps. Born January 11, 1933, passed December 10, 2005. Beloved husband of Florence Yaconis, Loving father of Keith, Carmelo (Pam), Mike, and Kevin (Kathy) Yaconis; grandfather of Vincent, Travis, Angela, Ethan, Sadie, and Thomas Yaconis. Carmen worked and dedicated his time until his illness by running a homeless shelter in Wayne County. He was always concerned with the health and well-being of others. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.



WILLIAM GRIDLEY

William Gridley died on December 10, 2005 at Georgian Bloomfield under the care of Cranbrook Hospice, MI. Gridley was born in Three Oaks, MI on May 9, 1920. He grew up in Benton Harbor and Mishawaka, MI. He was a graduate of Michigan State and entered the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1942. Serving on an LST as Gunnery Officer, he participated in taking over of Taranto, Italy, and the 2 day Normandy invasion. He obtained his CPA certificate while at the former accounting firm of Haskins and Sells. After several years as secretary/treasurer of Radioactive Products, he joined Chrysler Corporation where he rose to become assistant Corporate Controller, retiring in 1979. He was a member of Birmingham Senior Men's Club; active in Golf League and the Camera Group where he gave many slide shows of his extensive travels; leader and treasurer of Southeast-Michigan Spasmodic Torticollicis Assoc.; a 17 year volunteer at the Furniture Bank in Pontiac; 13 year member of NOMADS; and a supporter with his wife of many musical venues from Dixieland to opera. He is survived by Helen, his wife of 60 years; son Dr. Mark C., Tiffin, OH.; son George (Tina) and granddaughter Kristen of Chandler AZ.; brother Floyd (Marian), and nephew David of Maui, HI.; niece Janet (Richard) Van Eck of Bloomington, MI. Memorial Tributes may be made to Salvation Army, Furniture Bank, Pontiac, and Michigan Opera Theater. In accordance with family wishes, no service will be held. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Michigan.

JAMES J. DOBBY

Age 63, of Webberville, died Thurs. Dec. 8, 2005. He was born April 16, 1942, he was an independent general contractor doing home remodeling. He is survived by his Mother: Elsie, 2 children; Denise Solo and Michael Dobby, 2 Grandchildren and a sister; Anita Mamp. Private memorial services will be held. Arrangements by Niblack Funeral Home, Fowlerville. (517-223-8656)



RICHARD S. MAYES

Age 50, of Westland. Passed December 9, 2005 after his short battle with cancer. He was born in Detroit to Wilhelmine Kuncz and Monzo Mayes. Rick served in the U.S. Air Force, Sgt., Air Traffic Controller. Surviving are his wife, Rhonda, their two children, Erk and Rachel, and a third child, Kandace, and four grandchildren.

RUTH E. (nee. Miller) RAKE

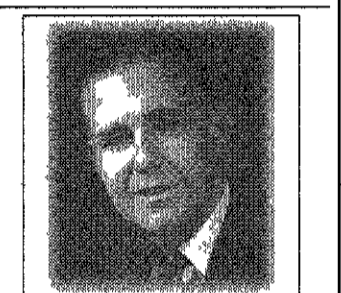
December 12, 2005 Age 84 of Birmingham. Wife of the late Erwin R. Dear mother of Janice E. Faigle (Gary), Joseph F. (Lisa), John R. and Julie L. Rhodes (Bob). Grandmother of Jessica, John, Samantha, Nathan, Andrea, Emilie, Olivia, John-Kent and Jameson. Sister of Edith Pintzke. Funeral service Thursday 11:00am at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile). Interment White Chapel Cemetery. Memorial tributes Macular Degeneration Foundation, Research Fund, P.O. Box 531313, Henderson, NV 89053. View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com

RUTH ERICKSON BROOKS

Passed away at the age of 90 on December 7, 2005, in Maryville, Tennessee. Ruth, a native of Montana, graduated from Wayne State University where she met her husband of 46 years, Dwight Brooks. They raised their family of five children in Birmingham. Ruth was an elementary gym teacher in the Detroit public schools during the 1930's and 40's and in the Bloomfield Hills schools during the 1970's. Ruth and Dwight retired to Renton, Washington, where Dwight died in 1984. Ruth loved walking in the mountains with her companions from the local women's hiking club and did so into her mid-eighties. She left behind her five children -- Tom, Chuck, Doug, Barbara and Martha, twelve grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. Her family greatly misses her and will always remember her firm but loving nature, devotion to family, playful spirit and vast energy. McCammon-Ammons-Click Funeral Home, Maryville 982-6812 www.mccammonammonslick.com

THOMAS MALEK

"Tommy" "Angel on Earth" Beloved son of Marcia and the late Thomas M. Dear brother of Tracy, Adam and Jaclyn. Special nephew of Adrian Czerwinski, Pat Krowisz (Bernie), Tom Czerwinski (Margie), Kathy Vertel (Lenny), Marilyn Tundo (Mike), Marvin Malek (Margie) and Roberta Blosch. Also survived by many cousins and friends. Funeral Mass was held Tuesday at St. Hugo of the Hills, Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to Juvenile Diabetes Foundation or Wing Lake School. For further information call A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



ANDREW V. O'KEEFE

A Birmingham resident for over 40 years, died December 9, 2005 at Lourdes Nursing Home, Waterford, of natural causes. He was 82 years old. A native of Fort Edward, NY, Mr. O'Keefe was a class of 1945 graduate of Syracuse University with degrees in Journalism and Political Science. Andrew served in the United States Navy during World War II and retired in 1972 as a Captain in the US Navy Reserve. Following World War II, Andrew married Anna McMillen, his wife of 53 years, and settled in Buffalo, NY. Mr. O'Keefe worked for The Buffalo Courier Express and The Associated Press before joining the General Motors Public Relations staff in 1952. He was transferred to Detroit in 1956, and returned from General Motors as the Director of Public Relations for the Buick Oldsmobile Cadillac Group in 1985. He continued to reside in Birmingham until his wife passed away in 1999. Mr. O'Keefe was a member of Holy Name Church, Birmingham, and served terms as President in both the Parish Council and the Finance Committee. He also was active with Boy Scout Troop 1012 in the parish for several years as a Troop Committee member. During his retirement, he enjoyed traveling with his wife and was active in the Birmingham Senior Men's Club, General Motors Executive Retiree Club ("The Club"), and the Patrol Craft Sailors Association. Mr. O'Keefe is survived by three daughters, Nora (Ronald) Miller of Mason, MI; Anne (Gerald) Drotter of Mason, OH; and Maureen (William) Dietlin of Fitchburg, WI; three sons, Andrew (Laure) of Langley, WA; Timothy (Evelyn) of Fair Haven, MI; and Kevin (Nancy) of Clarkston, MI; and ten grandchildren. Mr. O'Keefe is preceded in death by his wife, Anna and his sister, Alice Miles. Funeral was from Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon, Birmingham, and held on Wednesday at 10am. Visitation was at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Rd. (between 14-15 Mile Rd.) Tuesday 5-9pm. Prayer service was Tuesday at 7:30pm. Interment in All Saints Cemetery, Waterford. Memorials appreciated to Lourdes Nursing Home, 2300 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford, 48328, or the SEED Educational Fund of Holy Name School, 630 Harmon, Birmingham 48009.

OBITUARY POLICY
The first five "Billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)
Deadlines:
Friday 5 PM for Sunday
Wednesday Noon for Thursday
Call for more information call:
Charlotte Wilson
734-953-2232
or Liz Kuiser
734-953-2070
734-953-2067
866-818-7553

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends



HELEN ROSE RITO

Age 91, December 10, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Benjamin. Dear mother of Raymond F. (Diane), Nancy E. (Larry Sr.) Sabados, MaryLou Janiga, and the late Robert B. Dear mother-in-law of Aline. Grandmother of Susan, Christopher, Katharine, Christine, Carme, Patricia, Larry Jr., Angela, Amanda and Andrea. Dear Grandmother of 18. Loving sister of Frank Bartal. Secretary/Treasurer of Cherry Hill Seniors Bowling League for over 20 years. Funeral Services were Wednesday from the John N. Santenu & Son Funeral Home and Saint Dunstan Catholic Church.

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10:30 a.m. Worship
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SWF, 49, 5'5", full-figured, brown/brown, romantic, lovable, humorous, likes entertaining, traveling, family time. Seeking SM, 40-56, N/S, social drinker ok, who puts God first in his life, for possible LTR. ☎861408

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Attractive SWF 49, I enjoy movies, dining, skiing and skating. Seeking an attractive SWM, 45-55, who enjoys most activities. ☎869847

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SWF, 43, N/S, would like to meet an outgoing, friendly, non-smoking man, 35-53, who likes outdoors, bicycling, walking, family. ☎115795

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Are you a big, tall, handsome man? DWF, 47, very attractive, loving, fun, seeks SWM to share life together. ☎443339

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Attractive DBF, early 60s, feels much younger, N/S, loves music and dancing, stays physically active, would like to hear from friendly, honest man, 56-68, N/S. ☎672174

SEXY REDHEAD/GREAT LEGS

DWF, 54, 142lbs, 5'6", enjoys blues, animals, gardening, homeowner, no kids. Seeking SM, 5'10", N/S, social drinker for LTR. ☎548938

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SWF, 57, N/S, seeks intelligent, kind-hearted, young-at-heart WM, 57-68, N/S, who enjoys traveling, camping, boating (Great Lakes or ocean), music (Rock stars, and laughter). ☎759907

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Senior WF, retired, 5'4", active, honest, healthy. Need the attention of a WM, 65-75, enjoys everything, easy to please. So hurry up and call me! ☎449585

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Attractive DWF, late 40s, Cancer, N/S, seeks special, no games WM, 45+, N/S, for caring, quality committed relationship. Let's create sparks and watch them fly. ☎639272

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Possible relationship? Read on. SWF, 47, N/S, enjoys cooking, dining out, art museums, plays, reading, and traveling. Seeking honest WM, 42-57, N/S. ☎857253

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

SWF, 42, Aries, smoker, never married, looking for companionship. Seeking good-hearted, kind, hard-working SWM, 30-50. ☎819435

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SWF, youthful 43, down-to-earth, I enjoy camping, fishing, amusement parks, dining, blockbuster nights, etc. Seeking honest WM, 35-45, for dating, possible LTR. ☎865670

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SF, 65, looks 55, 5'2", unique, bright, w/many talents and interests. I'm well-traveled, very attractive, health-conscious. How about you? Seeking non-smoking counterpart, 62-70. ☎633527

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HI

SBF, 48, Aries, N/S, seeks man, 45-60, who loves movies, plays, and dining out. Let's spend some time together. ☎853245

SEEKING SECURE MAN

SF, 5'3", long red hair, semi-retired, Vietnam vet, looking for a real man, 35-60. Must be able to communicate and be affectionate. ☎860537

MYSTICAL WOMAN

Feminine SBF, 37, loving and lovable, 5'4", 135lbs, seeks creative, compassionate metaphysical, feminine woman for long talks, romantic weekends, love? ☎865148

FRIENDSHIP FIRST

SWF, 40, brown/brown, plus-size, likes walks, most movies, reading, cuddling, time with family and friends, more. Looking for WM, 35-48, for dating. ☎859885

STRIKING...

blue-eyed blond Slim, sensual, romantic, fun, caring, seeking attractive, fit, fun-loving male, 48-59. Friendship, LTR. I enjoy movies, walks, music, hugs, laughter, quiet times. Let's get to know each other! ☎962332

DOWN-TO-EARTH HOMEBOY

SBF, 37, 5', 160lbs, single mom of 2, nice smile, hard-working, N/S, seeks teddy-bear type SBM, 37-42, N/S, kids a+, for friendship, maybe LTR. ☎848200

GET TO KNOW ME

SBF, 39, 5'6", provides care for the elderly, N/S, loves action, mystery, and suspense movies. Seeking man, 25-45, for friendship, possible romance. ☎8653842

RESCUE ME!

SBF, 41, 5'5", average build, enjoys church, family, shopping, much more. Looking for SBM, 43-47, professionally employed, N/S, who knows how to treat a woman. ☎408835

FORMER MODEL

SWF, 50, 5'6", slender, intelligence, creativity, passion for music and dancing. Seeks partner 38-50, who is attractive and fit, to share this interests and more. ☎600106

CUTE AND CLASSY

SBF, mid-50s, seeks attractive gentleman, 50+, with similar interests. I love jogging, walks, concerts, quiet evenings. ☎574342

LIFE'S AN ADVENTURE

Active, sociable SWF, 44, 5'4", size 10, Auburn/green, mother, home/business owner, enjoys horror, foreign films, Middle-Eastern cuisine, the beach, reading, dancing, cycling. Seeking romantic, sociable, happy man open to life/love. ☎746704

WHERE ARE YOU?

Attractive SBF, 32, loves comedy clubs, movies, concerts, fishing, bowling, rollerblading and amusement parks, ISO SM, 32-39, race open, for LTR. Serious replies only. ☎695115

SINGLE MOM

WF, 20, one young son, likes watching tv, different kinds of music, more. Looking for WM, 20-25, for dating. ☎858473

LOVE CAN BUILD A BRIDGE

SWF, 55, romantic, caring, sensitive, N/S, with zest for life, is looking for Mr. Right. ISO S/DWM, 39-60, sincere about togetherness. ☎863279

GOOD MAN WANTED

Attractive SBF, marriage-minded, 5'6", average build, 40, Capricorn, N/S, seeks BM, 40-51, N/S, to enjoy life and more. ☎692032

BROWN SUGAR AND SPICE

SF, 47 years young, 5'5", very outgoing, loves family, fun, life. Would like to spend time with someone, 40-60, who loves jazz, concerts, movies, dinners, weekend get-aways. ☎208051

LIKE HAVING FUN?

SF, 5', 112lbs, blonde/green, looking for a romantic guy, 20-25, who is tall, handsome, nice and knows how to treat a lady. ☎845044

SOULMATE SEARCH

Slim, attractive, 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM, between the ages of 54-64, please respond. ☎589875

VERY OLD-FASHIONED

Widowed BF, 5'8", 185lbs, would like to meet a very nice man to be my good companion. ☎837276

SLIM AND PETITE

Easygoing, active DWF, retired, ISO fun male, 60+, who likes bridge, tennis, reading, hiking, animals, kids, popcorn, willing to don a tuxedo now and then. ☎271793

SEEKING COMPANIONSHIP

Loving, attractive SWCF, 74, trim, fun, N/D, N/S, homebody type, seeks lasting friendship and happiness with a quality gentleman in his 70s. Let's talk! ☎794040

HAPPY & SECURE

DCF, 68, 5'2", long dark brown/brown, N/S, N/D, with positive attitude, enjoys leisurely drives, movies, and dining out. Seeking man, 58-75, for LTR. ☎669606

GOOD LOOKER

Positive, caring, easygoing SBPF, 53 (looks younger), N/S, not into bars, enjoys jazz, old-school music, and fun times. Seeking special, secure man, 48-60, N/S, for laughter, good times and LTR. ☎725001

KIND HEART

Full-figured SF, 55, enjoys dancing and all types of music, likes working with animals, seeks good-natured single man, 44-60. ☎742466

LOVING LEO

Widowed WPF, 53, 5'9", brown/brown, N/S nursing home activities coordinator, enjoys boating, swimming, and Michigan State football games. Seeking WM, 50-62, with similar interests. ☎759316

59 YEARS

Old Entrepreneur
Pretty, charming SWF, successful, kind, compassionate, lots of fun, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any sincere, caucasian gentleman, 55-80, please respond. Hopefully we'll be each others soul mates. ☎592074

WILDFLOWER

SWF, 63, 5'6", average build, Aries, N/S, enjoys dancing, dining out, seeks WM, 58-75, N/S, with a sense of humor, for friendship, possible romance. ☎720594

A KIND HEART

SBF, 56, mother, enjoys dining in/out, swimming, horseback riding, camping, picnics. Seeking sociable, honest, fun, employed man, N/S, to share happiness, friendship and possible LTR. ☎780769

GET TO KNOW THIS...

petite, attractive SBF, 57, N/S, enjoys music, concerts, dining. Looking for SBM, 57-63, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎402995

A GREAT CATCH

Slim, attractive lady, 69, employed, full of vim/vigor, loves dancing, singing, the opera, concerts, fine dining, cooking in, walks, life in general. ISO loving, fun man w/good sense of humor. ☎860625

CAN U MAKE ME LAUGH?

Spontaneous SWF, 61, 5'4", average build, happy, independent, humorous, enjoys boating, cards, music, dining, walks, travel, golf. Seeking good-humored SM, w/similar interests, for companionship. ☎962703

THICK AND HEALTHY

SBF, 30, 5'5", 240lbs, N/S, N/D, no kids, employed. Seeking nice-looking SM, 20-35, w/no kids, N/S, for friendship, possibly more. ☎534802

HOMEBODY

SBF, 63, 5'8", 155lbs, retired (but does work part-time), very honest and caring. Scorpio, N/S, seeks BM, 58-65, honest and caring. ☎553674

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

OPEN TO ALMOST ANYTHING

Optimistic, outgoing SWM, 46, enjoys most activities, yet open to new ideas and adventures, seeks spirited, spontaneous SWF, age open. ☎547524

HAPPY DAD

Single father of three, 37, loves family, outdoors, biking, barbecues, cooking and more. Looking for a lovely WF, 30-45, to share happiness and life with. ☎715711

LETS TRY THIS OUT

Nice SWM, 40s, energetic, accommodating, easy to talk to, seeks a great lady for friendship and love. ☎258398

I'M A GOOD GUY WHO...

likes to have fun. SBM, 46, 5'4", 200lbs, Taurus, smoker, loves playing pool and gambling. Seeking WF, 30-35, smoker, who likes to have fun, too. ☎858825

ROMANCE AND YOU...

over due? If you are a SWF, 40-55, decent-looking, and somewhat romantic, then we might connect. This gentle, optimistic SWM could make you really happy. ☎799032

HAPPY GO LUCKY

Dance, flirt and have fun with me! SWM, 40s, seeks friendship with a good-natured, fun-to-be-with SWF, 35-50. ☎283848

ROMANCE AND REALITY

Handsome gent, SWM, 40s, one-of-a-kind, lots of great interests, willing to share them. Seeking special lady in my life to adore. ☎283228

JUST SOMEONE TO...

make your day better. Meet me with ease and confidence. Humorous, nice-looking gent, 40s, seeks nice SWF girlfriend. ☎609661

LONELY & READY

SWM, 49, Italian, heart of gold, Virgo, N/S, seeks WF 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. ☎860305

KIND, HANDSOME TEACHER

SWPM, 53, 6', 220lbs, light smoker, social drinker, looking for one good woman. Please call. Troy area. ☎864792

WELL, HELLO

SM, very young-looking 50, 5'7", 180lbs, medium build, employed, self-reliant, D/D-free, easygoing and easy to get along with, enjoys biking and cooking. Seeking S/DWF, 40-55, 200-350lbs. ☎597126

NEW DREAM TEAM?

Spend some time with this bright, enthusiastic, optimistic, yet realistic SWM, who is looking for a nice gal 40s or 50s. ☎550046

GET IN TOUCH

SBM, 24, 5'8", humble, down-to-earth and looking to meet a SF, 18-30. I would like to spend quality time with that special person, possibly more. ☎871380

COMPLETE ME

African-American male, 21, 5'7", 180lbs, father of one. I am loving, enjoy movies, music and reading. Seeking a woman 25-41, who is loving w/same interest. ☎871795

NO GAMES!!

SBM, 23, 5'10", athletic build. Looking for a mature, down-to-earth female, for a committed, mature relationship. ☎871888

SWM DESIRES SBF

Call me if you desire a nice shape, blue-eyed blonde, 50-year-old, 180lbs. Desires one on one for friendship and definitely romance. ☎777324

GENTLE AND CUTE

Active and attractive SWM, 58, good-natured, friendly gent enjoys outdoors, dancing, casinos, estate sales, etc. Seeking sincere, romantic, friendly lady. ☎341899

A GENTLEMAN

SWM, 39, N/S, works in the construction business, interested in sports, art, likes to have a lot of laughs, seeks SWF, 27-37. ☎808365

LOOKING FOR YOU

SBM, 45, seeks attractive, reliable, affectionate, SBF, not into games, who knows how to enjoy life and have fun. ☎866435

IRREGULAR JOE!

Literate, outdoorsy SWM, bespectacled, 49, 5'10", heavyset, refuses to grow up, honest, kind, passionate, into the arts, cycling, camping, playing pool, dancing, acoustic guitar, Mando Singer/Songwriter. Seeking someone equally Cerebral. ☎858985

LOOKING FOR ME?

Adventurous SWM, 44, brown/blue, handsome, humorous, fit, with eclectic interests. Looking for attractive, sexy, some what normal female, 30-50, for partnership. ☎863740

NICE GUY

SWM, 66, 5'6", 150lbs, manufacturers' representative, Libra, N/S, works out, enjoys movies, restaurants, and summer festivals. Seeking SWF, 50-65, N/S. ☎708126

A SPECIAL GUY

DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest S/DWF w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. ☎269646

LET'S BE FREE TOGETHER

SBM, 6', 220lbs, physically fit, retired, well-educated. I would like to meet a single female 52-62, who is understanding, loving and caring, for a LTR. ☎869189

MAN WITH PIZZAZZ...

Sincere, affectionate SWM, 40s, clear mind, fit body, enjoys artsy, cultural events, outdoor activities, seeking witty, pretty SWF, 35-55, for friendship and possible relationship. ☎517123

ROMANTIC BUT REALISTIC

Youthful, easygoing SWM, 46, likes movies, concerts, boating. Seeking attractive SWF, 40s-50s, with a lively spirit, good sense of humor, friendly, positive outlook. ☎642092

GREET AND MEET

SWM, 50, looks young, fit, active, enjoys fishing, picnics, water sports. Seeking easygoing, friendly, light-hearted SWF, age open. ☎241526

ADVENTUROUS

SWM, 41, seek SF to become friends, maybe more. She must be smart, have SOH. I love friends, family, music, life. If you want to share these, please call. ☎595394

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

College-educated SBM, 42, Virgo, N/S, N/D, very outgoing, no children, likes movies and golfing. Seeking WF, 25-44, N/S, for dating. ☎858557

HOPE SHE'S OUT THERE

Loving, respectful SM, 31, 5'9", brown complexion, hazel-brown eyes, well-built, nice smile, affectionate, employed, seeks a good-hearted, attractive, fun woman intelligent and compassionate, to share the good times with. ☎866168

ONLY THING MISSING IS U

SWM, 24, red/hazel, medium build, employed: Would like to meet a good woman to share my accomplishments with. I enjoy church, movies, pool, darts and would like to share interest also. ☎870463

COULD IT BE YOU?

SWM, 40s, 6', 175lbs, N/S, homeowner, auto worker, easygoing, honest and secure, enjoys hunting, Harleys and the outdoors. Seeking attractive slim/fit woman, 30-50, N/S, D/D-free, comfortable in high heels-tennis shoes ☎798519

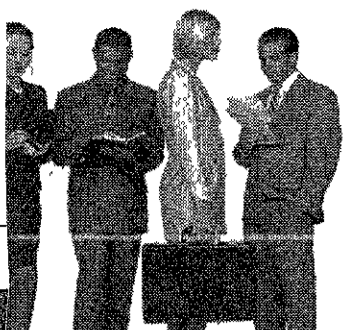
HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Independent, self-sufficient DWM, 45, sturdy build, carpenter, sociable, affectionate likes boating, walks, drives, cycling, cooking. Seeking a special lady to share the good things in life. ☎855207

SEEKS BROWN-EYED GIRL

Good-looking, friendly SWM, 41, 5'11", 180lbs, no children, N/S, easygoing, enjoys movies, music, travel, dining. Seeking very attractive, pretty SH/A/WF, 28-39, friendship, possible relationship. ☎760359

LET'S TRY IT OUT



Guide to Employment

To place your ad here contact us at careers@oe.homecomm.net or call 734-953-2079



CHECK OUT THESE EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES! For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

5000-5990
Employment
 INSIDE SALES
 Help Wanted-General 5000

★ ACCOUNTANT FULL-TIME
 Excellent position. Excellent benefits & work environment. Must have tax preparation accounting & computer exp. Southfield CPA firm. 12 Mile/Northwestern Hwy. Please call Jeff Jensen: (248) 354-3177. jjensen@gvsmith.com

ACCOUNTING POSITION PART TIME
 Southfield based publishing co. seeks someone for a part time accounting assistant position. Must have accounting experience (receivables, payables, payroll, etc.), be detail oriented, reliable, proficient in Microsoft Office, and have experience with accounting software. Fax resume and salary requirements to: 248-945-4701 Attn: Jennifer.

ACTIVITY ASSISTANT
 For retirement community. Part time, creative, w/flexible schedule, occasional weekends. CDL preferred. Apply at The Grand Court, 36550 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, MI 48335 or Fax Resume 248-476-7534

AD SALES
 Growing home improvement directory searching for energetic sales rep. Success will bring opportunity to grow with company. Email: opp44@comcast.net

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ASSISTANT MANGER
 needed for self storage facility in Canton. Computer experience and flexibility a must! Please call 734-459-6444 to schedule interview

AUTO MECHANICS
 Immediate positions available for a busy company in Redford. Must have 2 years exp. and have own tools. Call Now! (248)477-0512 ARCADIA

AUTOMOTIVE POSITIONS:
 ASE Certified Car Truck Technicians. Driveability Tech Benefits. Fax with resume 734-422-3136. Email: jay_ustine@hotmail.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR
 Leading non-profit seeks candidate for campaign coordinator position based in Madison Heights. Responsibilities include: event coordination, managing multiple tasks in a fast paced environment, public speaking, managing volunteers, some travel, working with the public. Work hours include some nights and weekends. Candidate must be detail oriented, reliable, team player, have good written and communication skills. College degree, volunteer work & one year fundraising experience a plus. Please fax or email resume & cover letter with salary requirements to: 248-582-2925 or duquette@hls.org

GIFT PLANNING COORDINATOR
 Retirement Community seeking fundraising and administrative coordinator with good communication and computer skills. B.S. or B.A. preferred. Interested candidates should send resume and cover letter to:
Fox Run Human Resources
 41100 Fox Run Road
 Novi, MI 48377
 or Fax to: 248-668-8710 EOE

CARPET CLEANER Night Shift
 Part or Full-time. Must have experience with Truck Mount (734) 525-3123

DIETARY SUPERVISOR
 For Retirement Community in Westland. Applicant must be a team player & have experience working with Seniors. Please fax resume to: 734-454-7513

DRIVER/REPO, with or without own truck. Clean driving record required. Good volume. Call: 419-843-8740

ELECTRICAL
 *Helpers *Journeyman/Master *Independent Contractors
 Call: 248-789-0954

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 1-800-579-SELL (7355)
 Observer & Eccentric

EXP'D CARPENTER
 With painting exp. 3-5 years experience. Please call 248-930-4357

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT HEAD
 Full time, financial degree, and excellent computer skills req. Send Resume to: Older Person's Commission 650 Letica Dr Rochester MI 48307 E.O.E 248-656-1403

FRONT DESK ALL POSITIONS
 For Country Inn & Suites in Novi. Apply with resume to: Haggerty Rd. (248) 596-9800

Help Wanted-General 5000

GENERAL LABOR/ WAREHOUSE WORKER
 ETNA Supply Company, a plumbing and waterworks distributor is looking for energetic and loyal warehouse workers. Duties may include shipping, receiving, loading and unloading trucks in and out doors as well as picking orders. Teamwork and commitment to accuracy is mandatory. Competitive pay and benefits. Please apply in person with resume at 29949 Beck Road Wixom, MI 48393

Retirement Community seeking fundraising and administrative coordinator with good communication and computer skills. B.S. or B.A. preferred. Interested candidates should send resume and cover letter to:
Fox Run Human Resources
 41100 Fox Run Road
 Novi, MI 48377
 or Fax to: 248-668-8710 EOE

GLASS & MIRROR INSTALLER
 For well established Southfield glass company. Must have exp. with mirror and shower enclosures. Excellent wages & benefits. 248-353-5770

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 1-800-579-SELL
www.hometownlife.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/ PRE-PRESS
 For Printing Company Exp preferred Quark PhotoShop Illustrator In Design or Max CSX Platform. Full time. Benefits. Southfield MI (248) 473-1414

Help Wanted-General 5000

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
 Looking for a hands-on Human Resource Manager with at least 5-10 years H.R. management experience to manage day-to-day functions for 350+ employees. Essential responsibilities include, recruitment selection, employee relations, compensation, benefit program administration, personnel policy development and personnel records management. Must have a working knowledge of fully insured and self insured medical plans, experience in ADP payroll (or similar), 401K plans, COBRA, HIPPA/FMLA, legal issues & compliance, safety issues, workers comp and OSHA.

Knowledge in Microsoft Office, Word, and Excel required. Effective communication and interpersonal skills required. Fax resume with salary requirements to:
HRM 734-374-5763

INFANT & TODDLER TEACHERS
 Exp. and early childhood degree Spanish teacher also for 3-6 year old children. Fax resume to 248-473-1528

INSIDE SALES
 Seeking a new career opportunity? The Harvard Drug Group has IMMEDIATE openings for inside (telemarketing) sales associates! The successful candidates will have:
 * A winning track record in business to business phone sales
 * Excellent Communication and Computer Skills
 * Prior experience in pharmaceutical sales is a plus!
 We offer:
 * A compensation package, which includes a competitive starting salary, commission on what you sell and many bonus opportunities.
 * A complete benefits package including medical, dental, prescription, life insurance, pension and 401K with Company match program.
 For consideration, fax your resume to our Recruiting Department at 734 743 7015 or Email to: sodocson@thdg.com
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 And floor exp. Part time. Call (734) 459 6052

Help Wanted-General 5000

Landscape Company Needs:
 Designer, Sales, Foreman. Must be fully qualified. Please send resumes to:
 Cimball Nursery, Inc.
 50145 Ford Rd.
 Canton, MI 48187
 (734)495-1700
 Fax (734)495-1131

Loan Officers
 Expanding Southfield broker. Looking to fill desks with great people. Experience helpful, but not necessary. Call 248-423-7775 x21

Machinist
 E.A.F., INC. is a company that fabricates out of extruded aluminum shapes, production component parts and aluminum plates. is currently looking to fill permanent full or part time position:
MACHINIST
 Working knowledge of Bridgeport, reading of machine drawing, GD & T and quality process control. Please send resume to:
E.A.F., INC.
 41156 Capital Ave
 Canton MI 48187
 Fax: 734-414-9630
 Email: apple@engineeredaluminumfab.com or fill out application @ above address

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TEAM NEEDED
 On-site resident management team needed for Westland area self storage facility. Hotel, retail, or sales experience required along with strong customer service, computer, janitorial, and maintenance skills. Must be enthusiastic, out-going, reliable, self starters and have strong work ethics. Residence provided (must live on-site), benefits included. Fax resume to: 248-855-0170 Attn: Westland Manager

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MARKETING DIRECTOR NEEDED!
 Growing home care agency looking for full-time Marketing Director for Metropolitan Detroit area. Experience in home care and knowledge of Medicare required. Please mail resume to: Superior Home Care, Inc. 17330 Northland Park Court, Suite 201 Southfield, MI 48075 or fax to: (248) 559-1604

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MEDICAL ASSISTANT
 Extra duty necessary. In English only. Benefits. Call Sharon at (248) 646-398.

Help Wanted-General 5000

MEMBER SERVICE REP
 Busy Credit Union has full time position for organized, self-starter. Must have credit union or banking experience. Able to process transactions, cross sell products and services, possess above average communication, computer and solution oriented skills, some knowledge of loans, and reliable transportation and dependability will be required for this multi-task position. Email resumes only to: Resume@priorityccu.com. No phone calls please. EOE

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TEAM NEEDED
 On-site resident management team needed for Westland area self storage facility. Hotel, retail, or sales experience required along with strong customer service, computer, janitorial, and maintenance skills. Must be enthusiastic, out-going, reliable, self starters and have strong work ethics. Residence provided (must live on-site), benefits included. Fax resume to: 248-855-0170 Attn: Westland Manager

Make this a reality...

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PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHER
 Dispatcher position available with Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety. Callaker/Radio/Dispatch of Police/Fire/EMS calls. Part time position open now. Establish list for full time vacancies to come. Experience preferred (CLEMIS CAD a bonus). Obtain application at: Beverly Hills DPS 18600 W. 13 Mile Road (w/o Southfield Rd.) 248-540-3490 or at www.beverlyhillspolice.com Return completed application to Betty Burgess By December 30th, 2005

RECRUITER ADMINISTRATIVE ASST RECEPTIONIST
 Expanding home care agency in Rochester Hills call 248-293-2435 or fax 248-293-2401

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Help Wanted-Computer/Info Systems 5010

SQL-SERVER SENIOR DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR
 The University of Michigan Health System is currently looking for an SQL-Server Senior Database Administrator.

The successful candidate will administer enterprise wide SQL-Server databases; assure availability, security, performance and recovery; provide support to developers, application support staff and vendors where needed; develop, document and enforce standard database practices and procedures; and provide troubleshooting and problem assistance as required and 24/7 on-call support on a rotation basis.

Applicant must have 3-5 years' SQL-Server administration in a production environment, Windows admin experience, BS Computer Science or related field, MCDBA Certification and the ability to work well independently and as part of a team.

Send resumes to: MCIT Human Resources ATTN: M-047210-SJ, 4251 Plymouth Road, Suite 3300, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105. A non-discriminatory, affirmative action employer.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 Strong computer skills & good phone manner. Fax resume to: (248) 737-3433 or email: kelly@kdspeech.com

BOOKKEEPER
 Self-motivated individual to handle Accounts Payable/Receivable, job costing, other general accounting matters in a small West Bloomfield real estate investment office. Proficient in Peachtree, QuickBooks & Excel. 2 days/week. Salary commensurate with experience. Email resume to: slong@grantperry.net

CLERICAL FULL TIME NURSING OFFICE POSITION
 In privately owned rehab/long term care facility. Duties include payroll, attendance tracking, schedules, and general office duties. The candidate must have computer skills & be able to multi-task between jobs at a quick pace but still provide top notch customer service. Please send your resumes via email westlandcc.com or psullivan@wstcc.com, fax: 734-728-9741, mail: Westland Convalescent Center, 38137 W. Warren Road, Westland MI 48185

CUSTOMER RELATIONS / ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
 Southfield based publishing co. seeks someone for a full-time customer relations/administrative position. Computer, communication and organization skills a must. Candidate must be comfortable making a high volume of customer relations phone calls. Fax resume and salary requirements: 248-945-4701

RECEPTIONIST
 Fulltime with benefits. Office in Livonia. General office duties. Call 734-464-3811 or fax 734-542-3711

RECEPTIONIST
 It's raining cats and dogs! F/T and P/T day and evening positions open for specialty and emergency veterinary (24hr) hospital in Southfield. Customer service, communication and compute exp necessary. Fax resume to 248-354-6566 or email to jobs@michvet.com

RECEPTIONIST/ RENTAL CLERK
 Truck Leasing Co. hiring full time Receptionist/Rental Clerk for busy Livonia office. Office, computer and positive phone skills required. Rental experience a plus. Fax resume to 313-584-5681 or Email: sourrier@tricoltruck.com

RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST
 Wordperfect and Microsoft. Part time. Law office in Troy. Fax resume to 248-643-8462

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

Dental Assistant Experienced
 Needed to join our Great Expressions Dental Center Family in our busy Walled Lake location. GEDC offers a positive team player environment along with excellent compensation & benefits. Email samantha.dawood@greatexpressions.com or fax or: (248) 203-1112

DENTAL / BUSINESS OFFICE
 Need someone with Dentech computer experience, insurance knowledge and financial arrangements. Full time. Southfield area. Please Call: Marie 248-352-7722

DENTAL ASSISTANT
 Canton family practice. 25-30 hours per week. No evenings or weekends. Exp'd only. Fax resume to 734-455-1261

Ask about our... HOT JOBS SPECIAL!

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST
 Need someone with easy dental computer exp., insurance knowledge & financial arrangements. Full-time. Southfield, MI. Fax: 248-557-5652 or call: 248-284-0140

FRONT OFFICE
 Friendly, busy pediatric dental office in Novi seeking full-time individual with dental or accounts receivable experience. Must be detail oriented. Computer experience a must. Dentech experience helpful. No evenings. Benefits. (248) 478-3232

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

ATTENTION ALL R.N.'S, LPN'S
 Health Partners Inc. needs you! Seeking caring and compassionate highly skilled staff to fill private duty cases located in W. Bloomfield. Must have 1 year current Vent exp. Good pay, some benefits. Please call Mon-Fri. 1-800-969-7723

FRONT DESK
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Health Center Manager
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SC's Davis scores 35 in win vs. Lorain

James Davis gave a glimpse Saturday of the reason why NBA scouts are showing some interest, but coach Carlos Briggs believes there's much more room for improvement from the 7-footer - even after scoring 35 points and pulling down 16 rebounds in Schoolcraft College's 108-62 victory Saturday at home over Lorain (Ohio) Community College.

The Minneapolis (Minn.) North product, who committed originally to the University of Minnesota before landing last season at Garden City CC (Kan.), also blocked 10 shots and dished out five assists as the Ocelots upped their overall record to 9-1.

"James played well, but he could play better," Briggs said of the transfer. "He can't afford to miss any time and he could play with a lot more energy and effort."

Wallace Hall and Ryan Williams chipped in with 20 and 15 points, respectively, for the Ocelots, who shot 48.9 percent from the floor (46-of-94), but only 21.7 from three-point range (5-of-23).

Hall, Williams and Jarred Axon, who chipped in with 23 points, each had eight rebounds in the win.

Axon and Marcus Jenkins also had five assists each, while Donnell Patterson scored nine points.

The Ocelots outrebounded Lorain, 61-22.

Carlos Perkins scored 18 for Lorain (record unknown).

Schoolcraft returns to action 7:30 p.m. Friday at unbeaten Lansing CC (9-0).

Lafata earns 200th victory as SC wins 2

Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team improved to 11-0 with a pair of victories last weekend at Holiday Classic hosted by Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Host KVCC as when LaShanda Thomas drained a last-second trey.

On Saturday, Schoolcraft came away with a 55-47 triumph over Edison State (Ohio), giving head coach Karen Lafata

her 200th career coaching victory.

Schoolcraft trailed Edison, 17-4, with about eight minutes remaining in the first half, but roared back to cut the margin to 23-18 at halftime.

The Lady Ocelots took over in the second half, hitting 11 of 13 from free-throw line.

For SC, Charlese Greer scored 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds while Tomica Hodge and Maricka Seay contributed nine and eight points, respectively.

Tallying 10 points for Edison (7-3) was Fannon Haley.

In the win over Kalamazoo CC (7-3), Greer and Mikki Williams led the way with 23 and 20 points, respectively.

MADONNA 74, URBANA (OHIO) 65: On Tuesday night, Madonna University (5-6) shot 75 percent from the free-throw line to earn a non-conference victory over visiting Urbana University (Ohio).

Stephanie Childs led the Crusaders (5-6) with 21 points, while Martina Franklin (Redford Union) and Sarah Thomson tallied 13 each. Lydia Prusinowski contributed 11.

Both Franklin and Childs led MU with seven rebounds each as the Crusaders led 42-24 in that category for the contest.

Guard Sam Riley led Urbana (3-6) with 19 points and Brittany Runner added 11.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

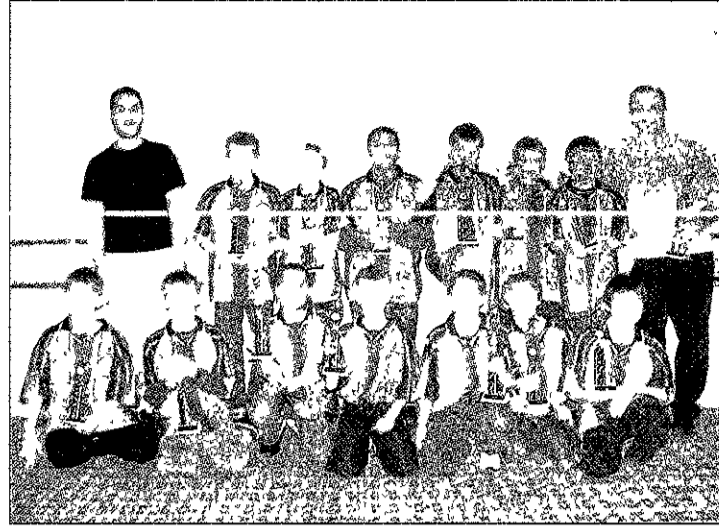
MADONNA 83, MARYGROVE 69: Derrick Mudri scored 15 points, while Danny Peters and Keith Hearn (Livonia Stevenson) each added 14 to lead Madonna University (4-6) to a win over Marygrove College (2-12) in Saturday's consolation final of the Hope College Sentinel Community Tournament.

Host Hope College ran its record to 9-0 by defeating Aquinas College in the championship, 83-75, behind tournament MVP Stephen Cramer's 24 points.

Charlie Henry added nine points for MU, which led 45-20 at halftime.

Adam Kerfoot also dished out five assists.

The Mustangs got 12 points from LaGary Brundidge and 11 rebounds from Daryl Gay.



Cheetahs champs

The Wayne-Westland under-11 Cheetahs finished 9-1 to walk away with the first-place trophy in the Great Lakes Soccer League's Huron Division. The Cheetahs' outscored their opponents, 60-4. Team members include (front row, from left): Tyler Fontana, Ethan Fogle, Nathan Phillips, Sean Hiles, Alec Shaw, Jordan Bickham, Dylan Nardone, assistant coach Hussein Gharibs; (back row, from left) Bobby Mason, Tyler Simpson, Brandon Marable, Ryan Tikey, Jeremy Gysel, Andre Thomas and coach Chris Hiles. Missing from photo is Tanner Meagham.



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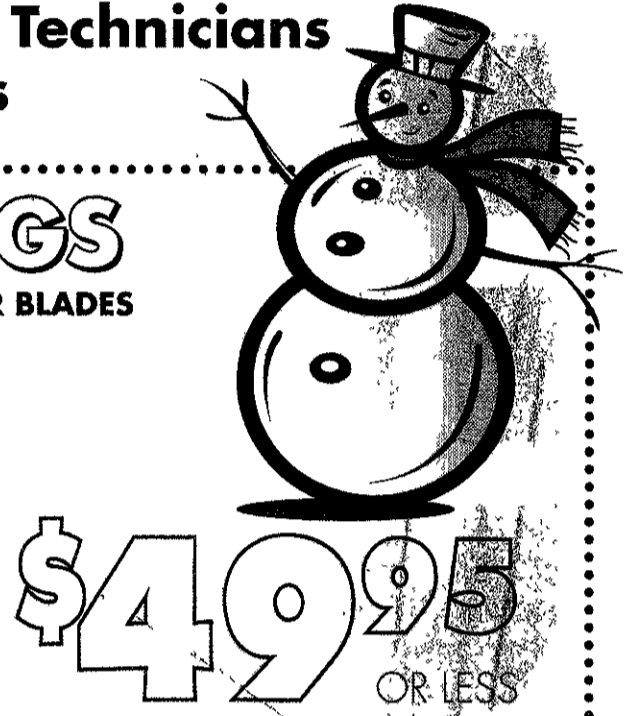
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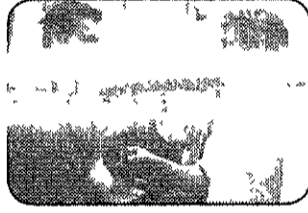
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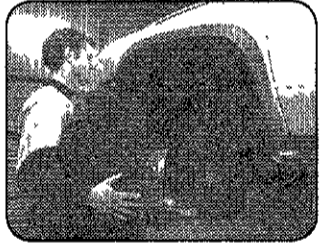
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Home sales show easing trend



Sales of existing homes eased in October with a moderate decline in both single-family and condo sales, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Total existing-home sales - including single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops - were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 7.09 million units in October, down 2.7 percent from September's pace of 7.29 million. Sales were 3.7 percent above the 6.84 million-unit level in October 2004.

"Our market is as soft as any across the country," said Realtor Nanci J. Rands, 2006 president of the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors. That said, she finds properties are still selling, including some homes that have been on the market several months.

"As a result, there are some very good values in the market today," said Rands, with Snyder Kinney Bennett & Keating of Birmingham.

David Lereah, NAR's chief economist, said markets are getting into better balance between demand and supply. "We are returning to more balanced markets between homebuyers and sellers, one that places buyers on a more even footing. Housing activity has peaked and is coming down a bit, and we expect further cooling in the coming months. We feel confident that housing is landing softly as rates continue to rise."

The national median existing-home price for all housing types - including single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops - was \$218,000 in October, rising 16.6 percent from October 2004 when the median price was \$187,000. The median is a typical market price where half of the homes sold for more and half

sold for less.

Total housing inventory levels rose 3.5 percent at the end of October to 2.87 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 4.9-month supply at the current sales pace.

"The rise in inventory means that buyers will have a wider choice available to them, and the significant price appreciation over October last year shows that demand is still there, as markets continue to balance themselves," said NAR President Thomas M. Stevens. "Buyers know that housing is a good investment," said Stevens, senior vice president of NRT Inc.

Rands cited good interest rates as a current draw. Buyers are sophisticated, she said, drawn by attractive locations of properties in good shape selling at or near price.

Other homes that have languished and seen price drops are selling as well. "It's everything across the board," Rands said. She added homes come on the market nearly every day of the year, and are sold during the holiday season.

With professional advice and proper pricing, homes do sell, she said. "People who are looking at this time of year are generally very motivated to buy."

Some Michiganders have second homes up north, and Rands has seen Chicago area residents buying in western Michigan from the southern state line all the way up to Traverse City.

According to Freddie Mac, the national average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage was 6.07 percent in October, up from 5.77 percent in September; the rate was 5.72 percent in October 2004.

Single-family home sales dropped 2.5 percent to a seasonally

adjusted annual rate of 6.23 million in October from 6.39 million in September, but were 3.3 percent above the 6.03 million-unit level in October 2004. The median single-family home price was \$216,200 in October, up 16.6 percent from a year ago.

Existing condominium and cooperative housing sales fell 4.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 862,000 units from a pace of 902,000 in September. Last month's sales activity was 6.7 percent above the 808,000-unit level in October 2004. The median condo price was \$229,800, up 15.3 percent from a year ago.

Regionally, existing-home sales fell 1.2 percent in the West in October to a pace of 1.64 million, and were 3.8 percent higher than October 2004. The median price in the West was \$316,000, up 16.2 percent from October 2004.

Total existing-home sales in the South declined 1.8 percent to an annual sales rate of 2.76 million units in October, and were 7 percent above October 2004. The median price in the South was \$196,000, up 18.1 percent from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the Midwest fell 1.9 percent to an annual pace of 1.58 million units in October, and were 1.3 percent higher than a year ago. The median price in the Midwest was \$170,000, which was 10.4 percent higher than October 2004.

Total existing-home sales in the Northeast declined 7.4 percent to a pace of 1.12 million units in October, and were unchanged compared to a year ago. The median existing-home price in the Northeast was \$252,000, up 10.5 percent from a year ago.

Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

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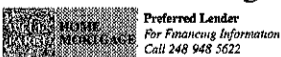
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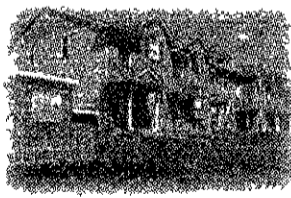
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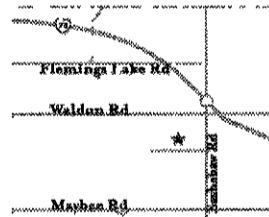


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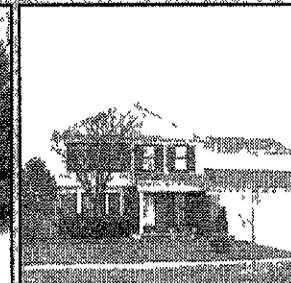
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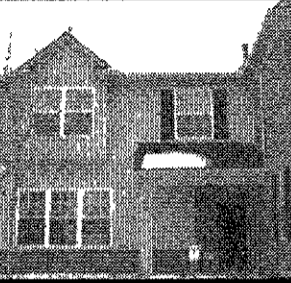
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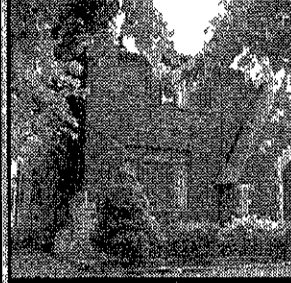
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CANTON \$175,000
Like new condo! Seller traveled & hardly used this 2003 built condo w/oft. Spacious oak kitchen w/appliances Cathedral ceiling, bath & WIC in master. Pleasant neutral tones. 1st floor laundry. Community pool. MLS# 25173409 734-453-6800 11453910



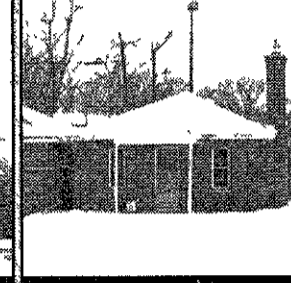
CANTON \$129,900
Crisp, clean 2 BR, 1.5 BR townhouse. Open flr plan, skylts over stair & main bath Bay window in breakfast area, gas f/p, partially fin bsmt Apples stay New roof & road paving, refinished deck. Private entrance. MLS# 25166578 734-453-6800 11076573



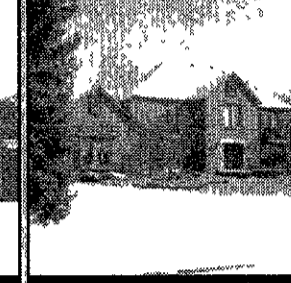
DETROIT \$189,900
Tree-lined sub Wood flrs under carpeting Cooper plumbing & updated elec New windows in 3 season rm Eat in kitchen, formal dng, new roof, newer apppls stay 3-4 in rms in bsmt, shlvgr utn kitch exdix-extra insln add/attic. MLS# 25170897 248-347-3050



DETROIT \$94,900
Super clean 4 Br all brick, updated with new windows, all new kit, golden oak cabinets & formica counters, freshly tone painted New roof, new furnace, new hwt & full bsmt all finished Living room all new drs. MLS# 25173327 248-347-3050



FARMINGTON \$64,900
Attention investors, bank owned & foreclosure buyers! Check the comps no 1 Br brick house even close to this price both sold or on the market Updates incl. newer windows & newer tear-off roof, use your imagination. MLS# 25173265 248-347-3050



FARMINGTON HILLS \$440,000
Hrdwd flrs in LR, DR & study, new 4 yr archit. shingles, new HWH, hi-eff furnace, C/A, newer carpet, 3.5 car side entry garage, fin bsmt, premium-sized wooded lot, multi-tier deck, 1st fr laundry & huge FR & mstr ste. MLS# 25170673 248-347-3050



FARMINGTON HILLS \$225,000
Upgrades incl. 2-way marble Fp, stair railings, open stairs to bsmt, maple cbnts in kitchen, maple floors in foyer, powder rm, dr, kitchen & hallway, pad & carpet & deck 2-story foyer, volume ceilings, C/A & 1st fl laundry. MLS# 25163987 248-347-3050



FARMINGTON HILLS \$169,900
Sprawling brick ranch! Home features 2 gas fireplaces. Updates: electrical, coat/outlets, CA gutters(05), roof(08), furnace(06) & newer HWH Freshly painted, move in condition 2 car attached garage Tons of storage. MLS# 25175140 734-453-6800



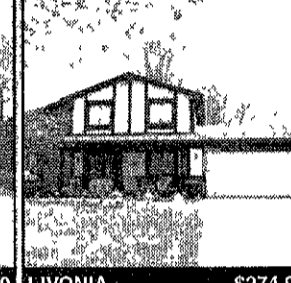
HURON \$490,000
Maple cabinets & flrs, limestone floors, volume ceilings, Anderson windows, 1st fr mstr ste, bonus rm lot or 4th bdrm, fin bsmt w/rec rm, office, game rm & home theatre, 2.5 acres, 3.5 car garage, hi-eff furnace & hwh. MLS# 25171039 248-347-3050



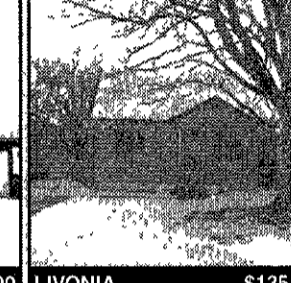
LIVONIA \$398,500
3,723 sq ft home in one of Livonia's most desired subs! 2nd floor master with elevator (great for handicapped or elderly parents). New carpet thruout and freshly painted (11/05) 3 BR's on 1st floor. Must see! MLS# 25169142 734-453-6800



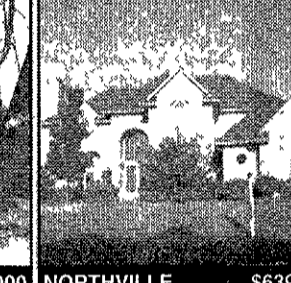
LIVONIA \$275,000
Detached ranch condo located on a cul-de-sac on a dead end street Open flr plan Hrdwd flrs t/o, 12' ceilings, apppls, lots of storage Frplc w/oak mantel Mstr ste has jetted tub and its own shwr 2nd BR has its own bath. MLS# 25171845 248-347-3050



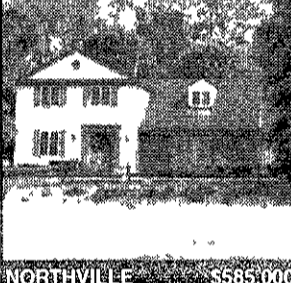
LIVONIA \$274,900
Well maintained Lr, formal Dr, 1st fr den & fam rm w/frpl Spacious eat-in kit, white cabinets, micro & dishwasher 2 doorwalls to multi-level deck Bsmt w/loads of storage '97 furnace, AC & roof. MLS# 25146215 248-347-3050



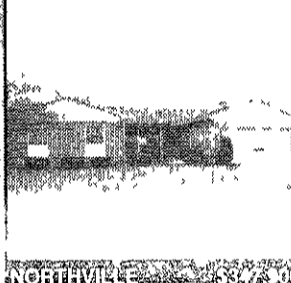
LIVONIA \$135,000
This home has all the updates Most done within the past 7 yrs Kitchen, bathroom, furnace & A/C Roof, windows, electrical & plumbing Neutral decor, home warranty provided by seller at closing. Appls negotiable. MLS# 25174815 248-347-3050



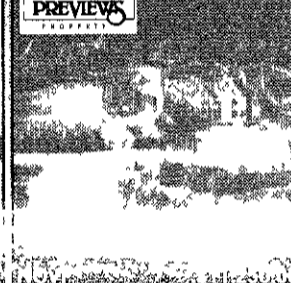
NORTHVILLE \$639,000
1st fl den off 2-st foyer Formal lr w/replace open to large formal dr Kitchen w/walk-in pantry, double ovens, glass door cabinets & huge island Mstr suite w/jetted tub, WIC. Fin w/o w/dorm, bath, exer rm & more! MLS# 25128479 248-347-3050



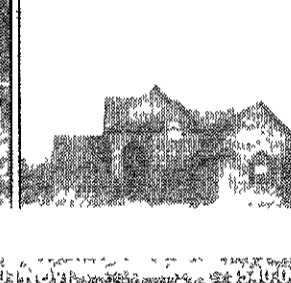
NORTHVILLE \$595,000
Five bdrm colonial on 1 acre 2.5 car att garage/2 car detached, kit w/maple cabs & granite counters, mstr bath w/acuzzi, half bath w/limestone fl & cherry cabs, bella windows t/o, new roof (tearoff) Country in the city! MLS# 25163214 248-347-3050



NORTHVILLE \$347,000
Completely updated 3-4 BR, 2.1 BA ranch backing to commons Updated kitchen-nook Family room w/fireplace & brand new carpet Brand new furnace/CA (11/05) Roof stripped (01) Approx 1400 sq ft in bsmt w/bar, BR etc. MLS# 25170318 734-453-6800



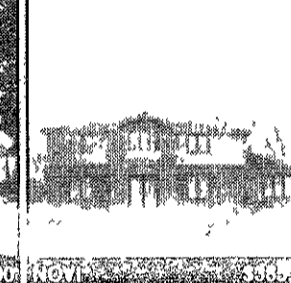
PREVIEW
Ultra-luxurious gated estate on 20 acres w/5 million in landscaping No expense was spared in creating this world of luxury You will love the inground pool w/windup slide Approx 24 million to reproduce. MLS# 25130534 734-453-6800



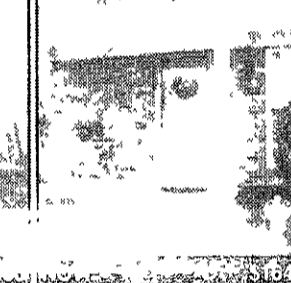
PREVIEW
Formal living/dining rm w/vaulted ceiling library, extensive moldings kitchen w/wide plank hrdwd, dble oven, family rm w/frpl, stunning mstr ste, 21x8 wic, finished LL w/theater rm & bath, perfect for au pair/in-law ste. MLS# 25170409 248-347-3050



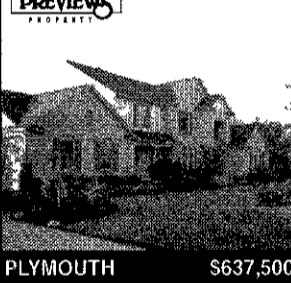
PREVIEW
On 1/2 acre lot! 2 story foyer, library/living rm w/frplc & French drs, kitchen w/new hrdwd flr, dining rm w/butters pantry, mstr ste w/frplc, vaulted ceiling, bath w/garden tub & 2 wics, guest ste w/frplc bath! MLS# 25173948 248-347-3050



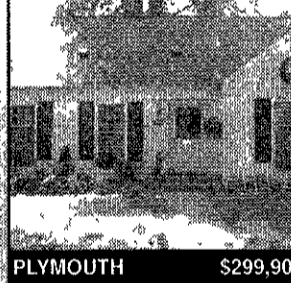
PREVIEW
Foyer w/hrdwd flr, formal living/dining rm, family rm w/vaulted ceiling bay window, brick surround frplc, kitchen w/island, eat-in nook, mstr bath w/jetted tub, wic, extra deep 3 1/2 car garage new roof, windows, AC, gazebo! MLS# 25164961 248-347-3050



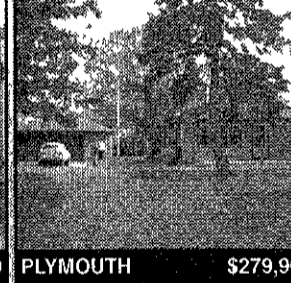
PREVIEW
2BR, 2.5BA end unit condo w/great location, Priv entry formal LR w/gas FP, mantel & formal DR Spac kit w/ots of cabs & brkfst space w/DW to priv patio, Mstr ste w/WIC & BA LL w/frn rec space, wet bar & frdge. MLS# 25127578 734-453-6800



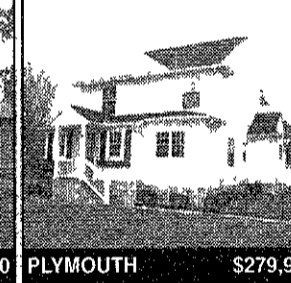
PLYMOUTH \$637,500
Stunningly elegant cape cod in "Country Club" backing to woods for complete privacy Gourmet kitchen-nook 2-way fireplace in great room to hearth room. 1st floor master. Double staircase. Extra block in walkout. MLS# 25164199 734-453-6800



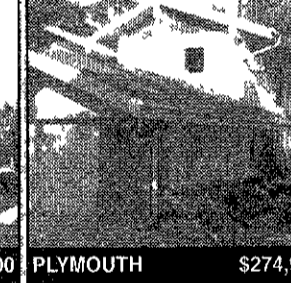
PLYMOUTH \$299,900
Charming downtown home w/oak hrdwd flrs, plaster walls, arched dnys, lg LR w/FP. Updates: roof, furnace, C/A, baths, kitchen & more. New 2nd fr w/7 clngs, crmc bath, office, crpt & mstr ste. Prof waterproofed bsmt. MLS# 25130277 734-453-6800



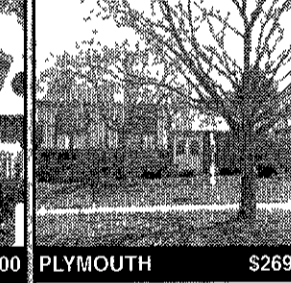
PLYMOUTH \$279,900
Beautiful home w/mechanic's dream garage, 3 BR, 2 BA on nearly 1 acre treed property. Recently updated roof, furnace, AC, windows & HWH Ready for a new family! Close to everything! MLS# 25169039 734-453-6800



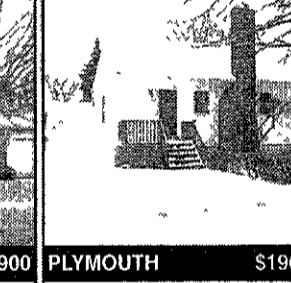
PLYMOUTH \$279,900
New from the floor joists up! Custom trim work, Braz cherry hrdwd flrs t/o most of 1st level Huge kitchen w/maple cbnts 1st fr office/den could be 4th BR w/closets 2 full baths Year rnd sun-room Deck, 2 car gar. MLS# 25148801 734-453-6800



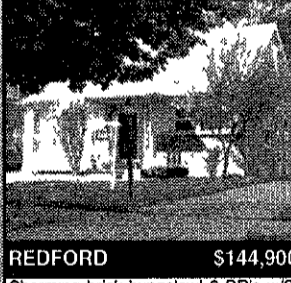
PLYMOUTH \$274,900
3 BR, 3.5 BA condo w/extras included by builder/owner Spacious end unit w/2 walkout decks & patio. Large living areas & cozy nooks 2 gas fireplaces. All on low traffic street. MLS# 25128829 734-453-6800



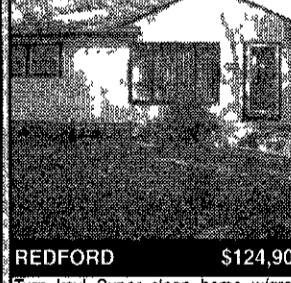
PLYMOUTH \$269,900
Trailwood quad-level! Spacious kitchen-nook w/plenty of cabinet-counter top space Maple floors in foyer & kitchen, FR w/FP, Formal dining room Landscaped w/ots of trees Great house! Great neighborhood! MLS# 25174255 734-453-6800



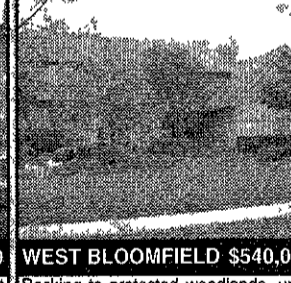
PLYMOUTH \$190,000
Walking distance to downtown Plymouth Rebuilt to the studs, new dry-wall, hrdwd flrs, maple drs, new windows, siding & roof 24x26 garage & large deck Gas insert frplc in full masonry chimney, Full bsmt. MLS# 25173436 248-347-3050



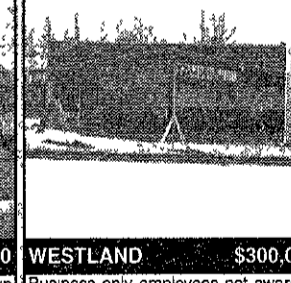
REDFORD \$144,900
Charming brick bungalow! 3 BR's w/S Redford Schools Features open floor plan, built-ins, hardwood flooring, finished basement w/separate laundry, updated bath, newer roof & all appliances. Fenced yard. MLS# 25177332 734-453-6800



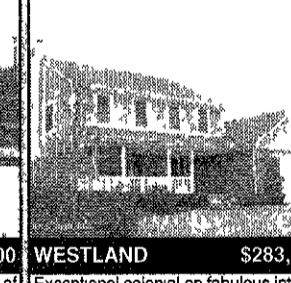
REDFORD \$124,900
Turn key! Super clean home w/great location. Tear off roof (05) new since 2000, siding, windows, doors, 2 car garage, jet tub, driveway & more! Bring your things & move right in! MLS# 25137520 734-453-6800



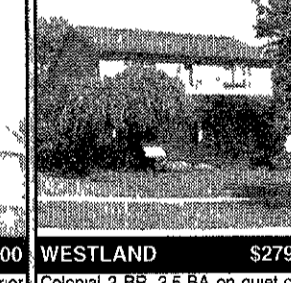
WEST BLOOMFIELD \$540,000
Backing to protected woodlands, unfinished w/bath rough-ins! New dim roof shingles, new granite island, 2-st foyer, deck, 2.5 car gar, gr w/terdrop ceiling w/gas fp, family rm w/fr, study and vaulted ceiling in mstr. MLS# 25170279 248-347-3050



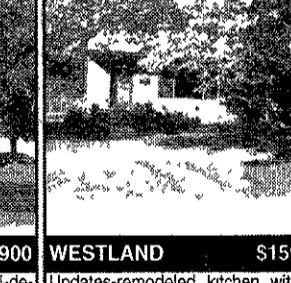
WESTLAND \$300,000
Business only employees not aware of sale! Opportunity is knocking & this business is rockin! Liquor license, fixtures & lottery Full kitchen & walk-in cooler. Great opportunity well established business & clientele. MLS# 25166340 248-347-3050



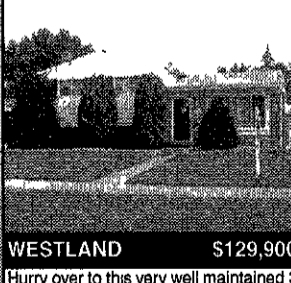
WESTLAND \$283,900
Exceptional colonial on fabulous interior setting offering a beautiful view of picturesque pond Light, bright kitchen-nook with Pergo floor Open great room with gas fireplace. Luxurious master with bath and tray ceiling. MLS# 25171696 734-453-6800



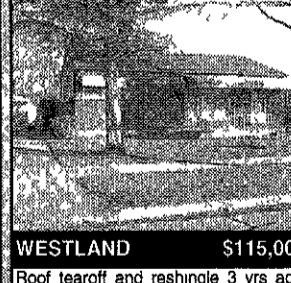
WESTLAND \$279,900
Colonial 2 BR, 2.5 BA on quiet cul-de-sac Fin bsmt w/office & rec room Huge master suite w/jacuzzi tub & separate shower. HDWD in kitchen/ceramic foyer Beautiful yd w/huge deck, paver walk & shed Livonia Schools. MLS# 25163201 734-453-6800 11034641



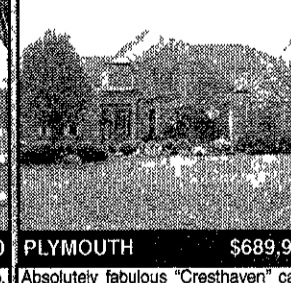
WESTLAND \$159,900
Updates-remodeled kitchen with new cabs, counters, appl, pergo flring, New windows, Hwh, electrical, roof, furnace and central air, interior paint 03 Nice hrdwd & under carpet Finished bsmt w/rec rm & storage. MLS# 25174024 248-347-3050



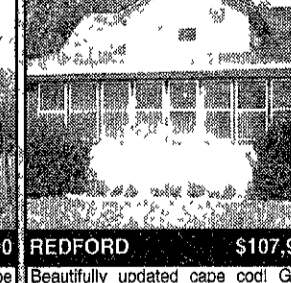
WESTLAND \$129,900
Hurry over to this very well maintained 3 BR, 1.5 BA located in very quiet neighborhood. Home has a lot to offer w/newer kitchen w/vinyl floor, ceramic splashboard, Vaulted clgs in kit & LR Private W/O patio off FR. MLS# 25156830 734-453-6800



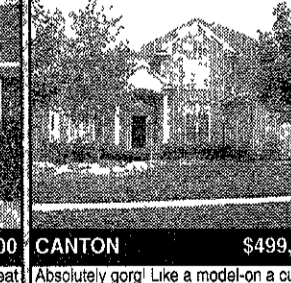
WESTLAND \$115,000
Roof tearoff and reshingle 3 yrs ago. New carpet in Lr w/ hardwood flrs throughout. Full basement with half bath. Freshly painted. New steel entry doors 3 years ago Fully fenced yard with covered concrete patio. MLS# 25173173 248-347-3050



PLYMOUTH \$689,900
Absolutely fabulous "Cresthaven" cape cod. 5 BR, 3.1 BA w/premium wooded setting Gourmet kitchen-nook w/sitting room, gas fireplace, hardwood floors & maple cabinets. 1st floor master 2 story great room... Walkout basement. MLS# 25175922



REDFORD \$107,900
Beautifully updated cape cod! Great starter home w/bsmt & garage Huge screened-in porch & fenced yard! Gorgeous maple kit w/ceramic tile & all appls. Updates: furnace (05), wndws, crpt (04). Glass block in bsmt. MLS# 25175496



CANTON \$499,900
Absolutely gorg! Like a model-on a cul-de-sac backing to commons Wow! Upgrades, LR w/lg bay wndw, huge DR-formal entertaining; FR w/fr to ceiling wndws, 12x12 windowed sun rm to enjoy outdoors, 2 story entry w/hw flrs thru kit 42" maple cabs, isl, dbl ovens Mstr w/WIC, jetted tub in 1st BA

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HOMES SOLD IN WAYNE COUNTY

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real-estate closings recorded the weeks of July 18-22, 2005, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.


| Canton | Garden City | Livonia | Plymouth | Westland |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7694 Admiralty \$242,000 | 31343 Brown \$153,000 | 33559 Eight Mile \$89,000 | 171 Blank \$403,000 | 1212 Alvin \$130,000 |
| 48537 Antique \$161,000 | 6600 Burnly \$148,000 | 33149 Allen \$179,000 | 41033 Greenbriar \$219,000 | 37155 Baker \$70,000 |
| 43971 Arlington \$213,000 | 33702 Donnelly \$159,000 | 14914 Auburndale \$150,000 | 41254 Greenbriar \$197,000 | 37155 Baker \$323,000 |
| 41554 Bedford \$149,000 | 28640 Florence \$147,000 | 9499 Bassett \$188,000 | 505 Hartsough \$380,000 | 33266 Barrington \$145,000 |
| 39466 Dorchester \$332,000 | 33441 Florence \$155,000 | | 9264 Marlowe \$170,000 | 1573 Berkshire \$140,000 |
| 1526 E Lakeview \$244,000 | 32271 Ford \$260,000 | | 45520 Moonlight \$376,000 | 163 Carson \$175,000 |
| 2037 Elmhurst \$90,000 | 615 Janice \$158,000 | | 333 Pacific \$219,000 | 7448 Central \$95,000 |
| 8106 Endicott \$176,000 | 28471 Leona \$135,000 | | 345 Pacific \$250,000 | 132 Darwin \$143,000 |
| 7051 Epping \$235,000 | 32735 Pardo \$157,000 | | 49852 Pointe Xing \$171,000 | 2581 Eardman \$194,000 |
| 7066 Foxcreek \$290,000 | | | 795 S Harvey \$335,000 | 34266 Fairchild \$190,000 |
| 51086 Gold Ridge \$130,000 | | | 9768 Tennyson \$347,000 | 8561 Haller \$182,000 |
| 45599 Graystone \$171,000 | | | 8919 Woodberry \$330,000 | 30342 Hanover \$128,000 |
| 41455 Haggerty Woods \$213,000 | | | | 30575 Hogan \$238,000 |
| 44387 Hanford \$153,000 | | | | 33769 Lacrosse \$176,000 |
| 8446 Holly \$178,000 | | | | 601 Lansdowne \$219,000 |
| 49539 Jackson \$110,000 | | | | 27700 Mackenzie \$189,000 |
| 1909 Jan \$138,000 | | | | 304 Marigold \$144,000 |
| 47720 Lindenhurst \$404,000 | | | | 35009 Nancy \$160,000 |
| 1532 Milbrook \$283,000 | | | | 8345 Opat \$281,000 |
| 8513 New Haven \$451,000 | | | | 35830 Palmer \$41,000 |
| 8122 Newbury \$201,000 | | | | 1940 Player \$179,000 |
| 41160 Northwind \$134,000 | | | | 203 S Christine \$107,000 |
| 41365 Northwind \$126,000 | | | | 225 S Marie \$163,000 |
| 2282 Pinecroft \$194,000 | | | | 632 S Merriman \$111,000 |
| 346 Robyn \$219,000 | | | | 38201 S Miller \$178,000 |
| 44527 Savery \$150,000 | | | | 32649 Steinhauer \$153,000 |
| 41591 Simcoe \$192,000 | | | | 30570 Stewart \$155,000 |
| 43418 Arbor Way \$136,000 | | | | |



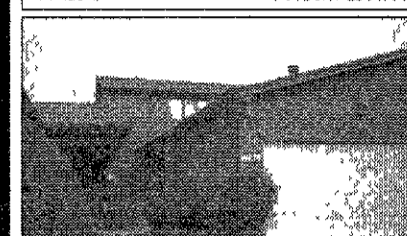
Birmingham 248-644-6300
Plymouth 734-455-6000
Recheater 248-631-3530
West Bloomfield 248-851-5500



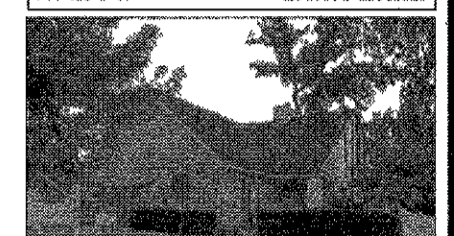
PLYMOUTH \$370,000
Move right into this fabulous Colonial with 3 car garage. Numerous replacements include windows, furnace, roof, hot water, kitchen cabinets & floor, carpet, 1st floor, utility.
734-455-6000 | P-PRSC00 251-48619



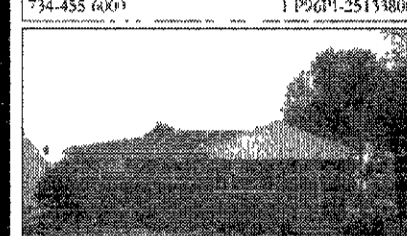
NORTHVILLE \$429,900
A must see! Gorgeous 3000+ sq. ft., with open floor plan. Entry provides breathtaking views of the tree line. Dual staircase provides access to kitchen & great room. Large 1st floor master w/spacious bath.
734-455-6000 | LP63110-25168621




PLYMOUTH \$227,900
Immaculate 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo with living room, dining room, family room w/ fireplace, finished basement, 2 car garage. It's all here! Walking distance to downtown. Unleash!
734-455-6000 | P-PRGM-25133801




GARDEN CITY \$243,000
Amazing custom home in Fall Timbers sub offers lots of open living space. Great room w/2 story ceiling & stone fireplace, white kitchen w/appliances. 1 small room off kitchen. Upper loft 650 sq ft.
734-455-6000 | LP01K-25112784




REDFORD \$155,500
Pack and move into this impeccable 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch with finished basement and 2 car garage. All of the work has been done for you. Updated from the tear off resulting to the under cabinet lighting.
734-455-6000 | LP12MA 25167*81



REDFORD \$145,900
Many updated! Awesome ranch w/ newer roof, gutters, vinyl siding, windows. Remodeled bath & eat-in kitchen w/ new appliances. Spacious lower level family room with room for 2nd bath. Fenced yard.
734-455-6000 | LP3RKA-25148756




NOVI \$142,000
A desirable townhouse! Neutral decor & newer carpeting throughout, updated kitchen & baths. Bedrooms w/walk in closets. Home office. Full private basement. Assoc. fee includes gas, water, trash, taxes.
734-455-6000 | P-PR21, 25161293



PLYMOUTH \$129,500
1st in town living. Completely redesigned and remodeled! Elegant living & dining rooms w/doors all to covered balconies. Open kitchen w/ all new appliances & granite peninsula. Convenient in-unit laundry.
734-455-6000 | LP70 25138258

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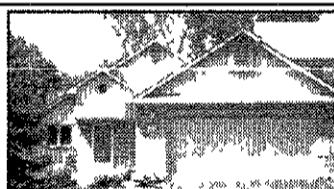
PEACEFUL SETTING Nestled in the heart of Castlewood! Featuring a vaulted ceiling great room, triple doorwall to the beautiful deck overlooking trees, luxury master, garage, pool, clubhouse and more. \$125,750 (C-737CA)




A WEALTH OF FEATURES! Expansive landscaping, mature trees, an inviting living room w/gorgeous fireplace, cathedral ceilings, formal dining, skylight, 1st floor laundry, zoned heating & cooling, a spectacular master and lots more. Truly perfect. \$350,000 (P-848CL)




GORGEOUS WESTLAND CONDO Immediate occupancy in this awesome 2 bdrm, 2 ba condo backing to the woods. Soaring ceilings, skylights, open floor plan, Andersen windows, large deck, huge walk in closets and all appliances. Great location. \$114,900 (C-296SH)




RANCH END UNIT Overlooking the woods with a huge floor plan 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, super clean with vaulted ceilings, ceramic baths, attached 2 car garage and a home warranty! Great location too. \$179,900 (C-032RI)




CONDO LIVING AT IT'S FINEST! This one has a beautifully done and spacious floor plan with many upgrades. Main level master and additional 2 bedrooms all with private baths. Ceramic and hardwoods. Backs to preserves. \$254,999 (C-725HE)




NEED A HOME FOR A LARGE FAMILY? This 2400+ sq ft home located on a large 110x300 lot backs the elementary school. (This home could be 5 bedrooms plus 3 full baths. Come see the beautiful great room with 10' ceilings and the 1st floor master. \$179,000 (P-610BR)



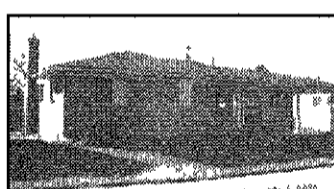
INVITING RANCH/DOUBLE LOT Updates abound in this outstanding ranch with a new oak and ceramic kitchen, cathedral ceilings, new windows, roof and furnace. Attached mechanic's dream garage. All on a huge lot. Just move in and enjoy! \$154,900 (C-933GI)




ECONOMICALLY PERFECT Squeaky clean 2 bedroom condo in excellent condition. Very affordable and includes all appliances. Attached garage is a bonus! Don't wait on this one, it won't last. \$84,900 (C-213CA)




EXCEPTIONALLY PRETTY Sharp contemporary on a private acre in exclusive Pilgrim Hills. 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, huge island kitchen, expansive tiered deck, 2.5 car garage and loads of updates. An absolute must see. \$369,900 (C-872TH)




UPDATED LIVONIA RANCH Beautiful ranch boasts new siding, gutters, furnace, C/A, HWH, & windows. New oak kitchen w/new appliances. New family room addition leading to 2 brick paver patios. Add to this 4 bdrms, hardwood floors, fireplace, & finished basement. You must see for yourself! \$214,900 (P-145BA)




SPARKLING COLONIAL Beautifully updated kitchen w/oak cabinetry, bright living room w/pergo style floor, vaulted family room w/fireplace & doorwall to patio overlooking a manicured yard. Really nice. Call today \$210,000 (C-371BE)




CHERRY GROVE CONDO Tons of space in this 2 bd, 2.5 bath condo w/a loft for additional living. Great room w/gas fp & balcony, formal dining area, huge eat-in kitchen w/island. Part finished basement with doorwall to backyard, 2 car garage, and private entrance. A must see! \$219,900 (P-846CH)



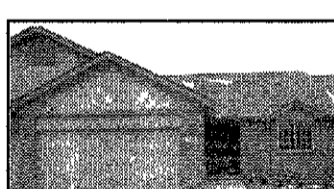
RING IN THE NEW YEAR IN STYLE! You'll toast your happiness this season when you open the doors to this 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath Pulte colonial. Trad floor plan w/kit featuring light cabs, island, pantry & all appl. Separate FR & formal DR or flex as a priv den. Mst ste. w/high ceilings & luxury size bath w/WIC. 1st fl laundry w/washer & dryer. \$279,900 (P-692CL)




PREMIUM WOODED LOT Why build when you can have this 98 built Pulte colonial. Best location & view in entire sub. Home offers 4 bd, 2.5 ba, 2 story exterior archway entrance w/soaring ceilings. Kit w/cherry cabs & hardwood. Step out on your patio to enjoy your priv wooded view. All this & much more. Livonia schools, priced under value for quick sale. \$309,900 (P-227CR)




WONDERFUL OPEN RANCH Totally updated ranch with an open floor plan. Awesome updated kitchen, glowing hardwood floors, finished basement with a wet bar, updated furnace and central air to help save on gas bills. \$169,900 (C-611DO)



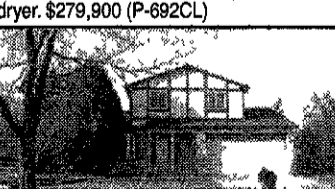
GREAT RANCH CONDO Located in desirable Pebble Creek of Canton. We have 2 ba, large master suite w/2 closets, dining area w/wood floor, Great Room w/cathedral ceiling & gorgeous fireplace. Large Kitchen w/appl & 1st floor laundry. 2 car attached garage & backs to common area. Call today for more details. \$244,900 (P-197FA)




BE IN BEFORE CHRISTMAS Enjoy Christmas in your new home! Charming bungalow in a great location. Nicely updated w/immediate occupancy. 3 bdrms, basement, garage, & all appliances included. Great Value! \$114,900 (P-358FI)




CUSTOM BUILT BRICK Home on almost an acre. 3 bds, large living room w/dining room area. Kitchen w/all appliances & nice eating area. Hardwoods, 1.5 baths, large Family room w/fp & built-in bookcases. 2 car garage plus a barn for extra storage. \$199,900 (P-256GL)




WELL MAINTAINED COLONIAL Situated on a quiet court in Canton. Neutral t/o, new carpet t/o, 3 bd, 1.5 ba, LR w/bay window, FR w/nat fp, kit w/updated vinyl, generous counter space, & oak cabs. Large nook with doorwall, Master bdrm w/double door entry & WIC. Large yard w/mature landscaping for privacy. A must see! \$209,900 (C-341ME)




BEAUTIFUL 55+ COMMUNITY Immaculate & neutral 2 bd ranch condo w/ full basement & carport. Updates include re-shingled roof, newer windows, C/A, newer kitchen appliances. Enjoy many activities at the clubhouse & summertime at the pool. \$132,900 (P679NE)




ENHANCED CHARLESTON MODEL Beautiful best describes this condo w/ rich cherry wood cabinetry & hardwood floors in the kitchen, formal dining room, cozy fireplace and an awesome view. Large master and a garage too. \$178,000 (C-999NO)



CHARMING AND AFFORDABLE Brck ranch with 3 bedrooms offering many updated items. Refinished hardwood floors, freshly painted interior, updated bath, new flooring in the kitchen, newer windows and doors. Home warranty. \$112,000 (P-548PA)



GREAT STARTER HOME One bedroom, one bath ranch with almost 600 square feet. All appliances remain including the air conditioner and humidifier. Finished 15x07 ft. upper room is perfect for a den or library (not included in sq. footage). \$49,900 (C-761PI)



IMMACULATE & INVITING! This spacious ranch condo boasts a view of protected wetlands & a walk to the lake. Professionally finished basement w/ additional bedroom, Quiet & serene lake town living. \$189,900 (P-012PI)

NORTHVILLE/NOVI
(248) 305-6090

CANTON
(734) 392-6000

FARMINGTON
(248) 478-6022

WESTLAND/GARDEN CITY
(734) 392-6000

PLYMOUTH
(734) 459-6000

LIVONIA
(734) 425-6060

Trade group assists Realtors with settlement procedures act

The National Association of Realtors has launched four new tools to help real estate professionals better understand and comply with the requirements of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) as part of NAR's

stand and comply with the requirements of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) as part of NAR's

RESPA Awareness Campaign. RESPA was enacted in 1974 to provide consumers with advance disclosure of closing

costs and prohibit kickbacks and excessive fees in the home-buying process. Over the last 18 months, the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development has stepped up its enforcement of the law.

"NAR takes RESPA very seriously and supports HUD's enforcement efforts. Our RESPA Awareness Campaign helps Realtors understand the do's and don'ts of the law when it comes to their day-to-day business," said NAR President Thomas M. Stevens, senior vice president of NRT Inc., from Vienna, Va. "We're doing all we can to help our members comply with RESPA."

NAR recently unveiled four new training tools that use specific examples to spell out what's allowed and what's not allowed under RESPA. The following tools are being distributed to large brokers and state associations:

■ **RESPA - A Guide to Complying with the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act.** This new pocket guide provides an overview of RESPA's requirements and prohibitions affecting real estate brokers and agents. It explains the scope of the act and the general prohibition on kickbacks and referral fees.

■ **RESPA Do's and Don'ts Pocket Card.** A quick reference tool that provides examples of activities permitted and not permitted under RESPA.

■ **Affiliated Business Arrangements Guide.** This new pocket guide lists specific exceptions to settlement business joint ventures under RESPA regulations and reviews HUD's response to affiliated business arrangements violations.

■ **Affiliated Business Arrangement Do's and Don'ts Pocket Card.** This is a quick reference tool that provides an overview of what RESPA allows and prohibits when it comes to settlement business

As part of the campaign, NAR is offering compliance seminars at NAR's Midyear and annual meetings as well as online Webcast compliance seminars twice a year. NAR held its first compliance seminar at the Realtors Midyear Legislative Meeting last May.

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Realtors can also find information on marketing agreements, affiliated business arrangements and general RESPA requirements at a new one-stop RESPA resource at www.Realtor.org/RESPA.

NAR participated in several RESPA roundtables organized by HUD last summer. NAR advocates a market-based approach to RESPA reform that encourages fair competition, protects consumer choice and provides full disclosure of costs and services in the mortgage transaction, including an enhanced good faith estimate.

The National Association of Realtors, "The Voice for Real Estate," is America's largest trade association, representing more than 1.2 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

| | 30 Yr. | Pts. | 15 Yr. | Pts. | Other | | 30 Yr. | Pts. | 15 Yr. | Pts. | Other |
|---|--------|-------|--------|-------|---------|--|--------|-------|--------|-------|---------|
| 1st Choice Mortgage Lending (734) 459-0762 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A | GMAC Mortgage Corp. (800) 568-4622 | 5.75 | 0 | 5.875 | 0 | J/A/V/F |
| 1st National Bank in Howell (517) 545-2207 | 6.125 | 2 | 5.625 | 2 | J/A | Golden Rule Mortgage (800) 991-9922 | 5.5 | 2.125 | 5 | 2 | J/A/V/F |
| A-Real Financial Corp. (800) 989-8918 | 5.5 | 2.25 | 4.875 | 2.5 | J/A | Goldstar Mortgage (800) 784-1074 | 5.875 | 0.25 | 5.5 | 0.125 | J/A/V/F |
| AAAX Discount Mortgage (877) 728-3569 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A | Group One Mortgage (734) 853-4000 | 6.25 | 0 | 5.875 | 0 | J/A/V/F |
| AP Financial (677) 234-0600 | 5.875 | 0.125 | 5.5 | 0.25 | J/A | Home Finance of America (800) 358-5626 | NR | NR | NR | NR | J/A |
| America's Premiere Mortgage (800) 585-8730 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A/V/F | Horizon Financial Group (866) 538-7887 | 5.75 | 2 | 5.125 | 2 | J/A |
| Ampius Mortgage Corp. (248) 740-2323 | 5.99 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A | JMC Mortgage Corp. (248) 469-4020 | 5.75 | 0 | 5.125 | 0 | J/A |
| Bay Pointe Mortgage Corp. (248) 652-3598 | NR | NR | NR | NR | J/A/V | Keystone Mortgage (866) 539-3733 | 5.5 | 2.5 | 5.25 | 2 | J/A |
| Brighton Commerce Bank (810) 220-8846 | 6 | 1 | 5.625 | 1 | J/A | LaSalle Bank Midwest (300) 486-3800 | 6 | 2 | 5.625 | 2 | J/A/V/F |
| Brinks Goldstar Mortgage (800) 785-4755 | 5.75 | 0.75 | 5.5 | 0.875 | J/A/V/F | Lira Financial (586) 228-0900 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A/V/F |
| Capital Mortgage Funding (248) 569-7283 | 6 | 2 | 5.625 | 1.875 | J/A/V/F | Macomb Schools & Gov. CU (586) 263-8800 | 5.75 | 2 | 5.375 | 2 | J/A |
| Captiva Group Mortgage Co. (248) 682-8643 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A | Mainstreet Mortgage (800) 900-1313 | 6.125 | 0 | 5.75 | 0 | J/A/V/F |
| Centerbrook Mortgage (248) 651-4150 | 6 | 0.125 | 5.625 | 0.125 | J/A | Manufacturers (586) 777-1000 | 5.825 | 2 | 5.125 | 2 | J/A |
| Charter One Bank (800) 342-5336 | 6.5 | 0 | 6.125 | 0 | J/A/V/F | Mortgages by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922 | 5.75 | 0.875 | 5.25 | 1 | J/A/V/F |
| Client Services by Golden Rule (800) 568-5805 | 5.625 | 1.5 | 5.125 | 1.5 | J/A/V/F | National City Bank (586) 625-0625 | 5.875 | 2 | 5.375 | 2.125 | J/A |
| Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-6113 | 6 | 2 | 5.825 | 2 | J | Northlawn Financial (248) 988-8488 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A/V/F |
| Community Bank of Dearborn (734) 981-0022 | 6.25 | 0 | 5.875 | 0 | J/A | Pathway Financial LLC (800) 726-2274 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A/F |
| Credit Union One (800) 544-5567 | 6.375 | 0 | 6 | 0 | J/A | Peoples Mortgage (800) 730-5087 | 5.875 | 0.125 | 5.5 | 0.25 | J/A |
| Dearborn Fed. Savings Bank (313) 365-3100 | 6.25 | 0 | 5.875 | 0 | J/A | Premiere Mortgage Funding (248) 359-2600 | 6 | 0 | 5.75 | 0 | J/A |
| DFCU Financial (800) 739-2770 | 5.875 | 2 | 5.375 | 2 | J/A | Prime Financial Group (248) 203-7010 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A/V/F |
| eREFI.com www.eREFI.com | 5.99 | 1 | 5.625 | 1 | R | Shore Mortgage (800) 378-6863 | 5.5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | J/A/V/F |
| Fifth Third Bank (800) 792-8830 | 6.25 | 0.375 | 5.875 | 0.25 | J/V/F | Sterling Bank & Trust (800) 826-5626 | 6.25 | 0 | 5.875 | 0 | J/F |
| First Alliance Mortgage Co. (800) 292-7357 | 6.25 | 0 | 5.875 | 0 | J/A/V/F | United Mortgage Group (586) 266-9500 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A |
| First International Inc. (248) 258-1584 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A | York Financial Inc. (888) 839-9675 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | J/A |

Above information available as of 12/13/05 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on \$150,000 loan with 20% down. Jumbo rates, ARM rates, specific payment calculations and most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com. All participating lenders are Equal Housing Lenders. Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo, A = Arms, V = VA, F = FHA, R = Reverse Mtg. and NR = Not Reported. © Copyright 2005 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved

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Ranch/Lofted Ranch Homes from \$290,000

- 1800-2100 sq. ft. plans available with first floor master suites
- 2 & 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2-car attached garages and basements
- Convenient to freeways, shopping and entertainment districts

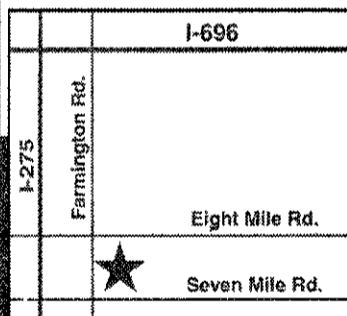
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Conveniently located in Livonia • Farmington Road, between 7 and 8 Mile Rds.

3% Realtor commissions paid half at purchase agreement, half at closing

Phoenix Land Development

Sales Hours: 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. Daily - Closed Thursdays.



DEARBORN HEIGHTS - All the updates are done on this cute 2 bedroom bungalow inc new kitchen new ceramic bath new carpet w/hardwood floors in living room window blinds in kitchen granite 2.5 car garage Owner providing city certs. \$94,500 (D51Hop)

REDFORD - Why rent when you may own this affordable 3 bdrm ranch with garage. Some of the improvements are: furnace, A/C, newer roof & windows, updated electrical, glass block bsmt windows. Appliances stay + home warranty included. \$94,900 (L97Bra)

CANTON - Beautiful new 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath cape cod w/great rm & large hearth rm w/see thru FP, 1st floor master w/dual walk-in closets, large kitchen w/walk-in pantry, granite island & oak floors, daylight basement, completely landscaped! \$554,200 (L700xf)

CANTON - Immediate occupancy on this updated 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath colonial. Huge master suite w/access to awesome bath w/jetted tub & dual showerheads, large deck w/benches in fenced yard, updated roof, siding, windows, A/C, carpet, etc. \$223,900 (L95Pye)

LIVONIA - Wow! \$25,000 in recent updates! 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch including roof gutters, lrg ktchn w/ply in bet s apt, new furn, hardwood floors in living room, new patio & prof landscaping + more \$199,900 (D29Gra)

WESTLAND - Great family home offering 3 bedrms, 2 baths, fabulous master w/huge walk-in closet & adjoining 20x15 sitting rm, huge 130x125 lot w/brick paver patio & walkway. Updates inc: kitchen, windows, shingles, elec box + more. \$164,900 (L40Boo)

FARMINGTON HILLS - Must be sold yesterday! Clean & sharp newer condo in Farmington Hills. Offers studio ceiling in living rm w/balcony overlooking beautiful wooded area, in-unit laundry rm, new carpet & freshly painted. This is a "10"! \$79,900 (L56Mid)

REDFORD - Priced \$8,000 below appraisal! This 3 bdrms, 2 full bath brick ranch offers new ktchn floor, newer carpet, newer windows, newer furnace, fin'd basement w/bath & 2nd kitchen. Seller will look at all reasonable offers! \$164,900 (L00Nor)

www.qualitygmac.com

Quality Real Estate

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(734) 462-3000

HOMES for the HOLIDAYS

NOVI

Luxury Detached Ranch Condo

In Kirkway Place located on Beck Road between 10 and 11 Mile Roads. Private setting with granite kitchen, hardwood floors, barreled ceiling in foyer, daylight lower level and many other extras. Must see.

For more information please call (248) 465-0225

\$508,400

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FERNDALE

SPECTACULAR POSSIBILITIES!

With huge price reduction. Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath (1st & 2nd floors). 1400 sq. ft., hardwood floors, cove ceilings, 2-car garage, basement, great floor plan.

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Canadian Lakes Year Around Resort Living

60' on the most beautiful lake in Michigan. Resort style amenities include clubhouse w/restaurant, indoor & outdoor pools, fitness center, ski slopes, access to 5 world class golf courses, the best fishing anywhere, wildlife galore, private airport & so much more!! 4 BR, 2 full bath home, breezeway with gorgeous views from all windows. Balcony off the master bedroom. Totally renovated from top-to-bottom, inside & out. Furniture included. Move right in!!

\$389,900

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CANTON TOWNSHIP

Unforgettable...

Christmas present for your loved ones on NE shore of Torch Lake, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, log-sided home with 122' frontage.

\$998,900

Call Joann Mayer 888-264-5611 or 231-620-1455

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- Brownstown Twp** 734-455-7000
FORMER BUILDERS MODEL 1 Dream Home Quality on Premium Lot awaiting the most discerning buyer. Custom evaluation loaded with upgrades - 4BR, 2.5BA, 3 car garage. (25129230) \$296,900
- Canton** 734-455-7000
WOODS AT CHERRY HILL VILLAGE 14BR/3.1BA Col. Spec. nestled in protected woodlands. 3 home styles available to build Holiday Bonus Upgrade of \$10,000 to buyer if PA is signed by 1/31/06. (24158216) \$499,900
- Canton** 734-591-9200
Pristine & spectacular. Backing to trees on cul-de-sac. Open fir plan. Lg FR w/wal of wndws, kit w/cherry cab, HW flrs. Mstr suite w/sitting rm, vaulted clngs, mstr BA w/jetted tub. (25140940) \$499,900
- Canton** 734-326-2000
NOT A COOKIE CUTTER VERSION OF EVERY OTH 2 Fmt doors, stamped concrete patio, lush landscaping, hrdwd fls, 2 stry GR w/brdg, 2 sided FP, 4 BR, 3.5 BA, part. fin bsmt, mstr w/jetted tub. (25163287) \$489,900
- Canton** 734-591-9200
Beautiful Windsor w/hdwd flrs, FR featuring a two way gas FP to study, Mstr has cath clng & lrg mstr ba w/jetted tub. Fin bsmt has full BA. Sealed paver patio & 2.5 car gar & 1 yr warr. (25171883) \$468,000
- Canton** 734-455-7000
FAIRWAYS WEST BEAUTY! 4BR/2.5BA Canton Colonial. Formal DR, GR, library. Mstr ste w/sitting rm/nursery. 3 car gar. Immed. occup. (25159689) \$429,900
- Canton** 734-326-2000
HARD TO FIND! It isn't often that a 4 BR Cape Cod in Glengarry becomes available! Great Rm w/Gas FP for cold Michigan winters, & 2 tiered Deck for Summer, D/R & Library. (25171376) \$359,900
- Canton** 248-348-6430
ATTRACTIVE AND INVITING COLONIAL. Meticulously cared for, on cul-de-sac, charming kit & brkfst area, LR w/vaulted ceiling cozy DR, comfortable FR, wonderful fin bsmt, 2 brick paver patios. 349-6200 (25151186) \$300,000
- Canton** 734-455-7000
FAMILY-FRIENDLY EXECUTIVE COLONIAL! Beautiful, Family-Friendly Executive Colonial! 4 lg bedrooms incl. a sumptuous master suite. 2.5 BA, new carpet, freshly painted, newer built. (25104771) \$294,000
- Canton** 734-455-7000
DIPLOMAS A PICTURE! 4BR Colonial with a Curved Staircase, Hardwood Floors, surrounded by trees. Great deck for entertaining. Well decorated and ready to move in. (25149937) \$269,957
- Canton** 734-455-7000
ATTRACTIVE 4BR N. CANTON COLONIAL Step up to one of North Canton's finest 4BR Colonials with family room, basement, 2 car garage and includes all appliances. (25171867) \$250,000
- Canton** 734-455-7000
CHERRY HILL VILLAGE BEAUTY! Priced way below cost. 2BR/2BA ranch condo w/20x40 bsmt. 2 car att gar. 1st flr Indry Kit w/hrdwd, maple cabs, stainless appliances and granite. Fabulous mstr ste. (25166871) \$244,900
- Canton** 248-348-6430
Call it home in Canton on a CT location! Many updates, 3 BR colonial. Huge FR, nat flrpic, ceramic floors, furnace, roof, A/C, H2O heater and gutters are all updated. Attached 2 car garage. 349-6200 (35153576) \$237,900
- Canton** 734-591-9200
New construction. Floor plans to choose from. Prices starting at 219,900. Located SE Corner of Jay & Sheldon (COLUMBIA) \$219,900
- Canton** 734-455-7000
CHECK THIS ONE OUT! 3BR Condo with master on the 1st floor. Hdwd floor in entry way, hallway and kitchen. 2.5 BA, full bsmt and loft. Ready to go! Hurry! (25139481) \$217,000
- Canton** 734-455-7000
A DREAM COME TRUE! 3BR Colonial w/ updated kitchen. Beautiful maple cabs & hrdwd flrs. Major updates complete and ready for you to move in. (25162144) \$214,900
- Canton** 734-455-7000
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS! 3BR/1.5BA, 1353 sq.ft. Canton Ranch. Wonderful fin. bsmt w/bar and lots of cabs. Open floor plan. Updated kit. Newer windows, siding, gutters, HWH. Priced to sell! (25168579) \$199,900
- Canton** 734-455-7000
MOVE RIGHT IN! A wonderful 2 BR, 2.5 Bath condo with full basement. Everything is done. One of the best locations in the complex. Hurry, and check out the view in back! (25131534) \$199,000
- Canton** 734-326-2000
WOW! 1,440 SQ FT OF PURE LUXURY w/these wonderful upgrades: appliance package, maple raised paneled cabinets, brushed chrome hardware, rollout shelves. 2 Big BR & 2BA loc. near the Pool. (25149374) \$162,900
- Canton** 248-348-6430
HUNTERS GROVE CONDO WITH COURT LOCATION! Well maintained end unit w/neutral decor. GR w/vaulted ceiling & gas flrpic. Huge loft/bdrm. Bright kitchen. All appliances included. Premium court location. 349-6200 (25138703) \$152,500
- Commerce Twp** 248-348-6430
NEWER CONDO IN COMMERCE TWP Beautiful condo w/lots of upgrades, including California closets, upgraded kitchen cabinets, appliances & more. Located in Commerce Twp. 349-6200 (25147221) \$178,900
- Dearborn** 248-348-6430
BEAUTIFUL BRICK 4 BR CAPE COD HOME Kit w/table space opens to FR w/nat flrpic. FR leads to brick paver patio. C/A, 2.5 baths. Partly fin bsmt. 1st flr bedroom. 349-6200 (25080502) \$227,500
- Dearborn** 248-348-6430
SUPER SHARP 5 BR 2.5 BATH HOME Totally remodeled from the inside out in 2004. New kit, baths, win, doors, roof, siding, plumbing, hrdwd flrs. 349-6200 (25136031) \$170,000
- Dearborn Heights** 734-326-2000
CRESTWOOD SCHOOLS & BEAUTIFUL Sharp, Updated 3 Bedroom Ranch w/ attached 2 car garage. 2 Sided FP in LR, Completely updated Kit w/ Pergo Fl, New Windows, Carpet, Paint, driveway. Spacious Rms. (25164829) \$144,900
- Dearborn Heights** 734-591-9200
Spotless brick bungalow in North Dearborn Heights. Home is located in Crestwood School District & features updated kit w/all appliances staying (25164903) \$132,000
- Dearborn Heights** 734-591-9200
A charming bungalow in the Westwood School District. Updated Kitchen & Bath, Newer hot water tank, entry doors, roof, & storm windows. Over sized garage and cement in 1998. (25070588) \$100,500
- Detroit** 734-326-2000
CURB APPEAL, CHARM, & QUALITY Fabulous Floor Plan, Fireplace, Bay Window, Master Suite, Finished Basement, C/A, Florida Room, In-ground sprinklers, & a garage too! Absolutely Perfect! (25135132) \$149,900
- Detroit** 734-326-2000
GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! Up North Recreation Investment Opportunity. 4 Units, Live in one. A 1/2 acre secluded property with a pond & an Island. Close to Bass Lake. \$105,000. (25071072) \$105,000
- Garden City** 734-591-9200
Gorgeous, tastefully decorated dream home. LR with Nat fireplace, DR w/doorwall to lg deck. Main flr Lndry Rm. Mstr BR w/WIC & bath, and much more! (25123739) \$231,500
- Garden City** 734-455-7000
SUPER HOME! You'll love this beautiful brick ranch. Fin. bsmt, 2 full baths. Newer roof, A/C, deck, copper plumbing, kit, carpet, circuit box, HWH...too many to list. Call today! (25139275) \$159,900
- Garden City** 734-455-7000
THIS IS A CHARMER! 2BR/1BA Ranch. Newer furn., C/A, electrical, bath, flooring, carpeting & more. Formal DR, eat-in kit, 15x13 Indry One-third acre, side deck, gar (25147665) \$177,900
- Garden City** 734-591-9200
Great move-in perfect little starter on large lot with 2+ car garage. Loads of updates & quality features. Call for complete list. (25129285) \$134,900
- Hazel Park** 734-591-9200
If you want to move into a home & relax, this 3 BR ranch is for you! Wonderful updates thru-out: Roof, kit, plumbing, elec. Beautifully finished bsmt w/1/2 BA, special patio effects in backyard & more (25102517) \$119,900
- Hazel Park** 248-348-6430
HAZEL PARK GEM 3 bedroom ranch on a double lot. Everything updated. Move in ready and under \$90,000. 349-6200 (25162338) \$89,900
- Inkster** 734-326-2000
PERFECT STARTER HOME Cozy & Comfortable 2 BR, Brick Ranch, has an Open Floor Plan, Fireplace, lg deck & Hot Tub off the Family Rm. Basement Partially Fin. w/ bar. All Appliances incl. (25115815) \$93,000
- Lathrup Village** 248-348-6430
CLEAN AND READY IN LATHRUP VILLAGE Move right in to this awesome ranch! 3 bedrooms, finished basement, hardwood floors and 2 car garage. 349-6200. (25148771) \$179,900
- Livonia** 734-591-9200
New Construction w/Fall Completion will include: 4BR, 2.5 BA, 2,464 sq ft, 2 car att garage, 9' walkout basement, maple cabs & granite counters. (25061491) (25057863) \$369,875
- Livonia** 734-591-9200
Location, quality, value & charm! Attractive 2400 sq ft brk Colonial, 4 BR, 2.5 BA, FR w/FP, 1st flr Indry, bsmt & 2 car att gar. New roof & doors. All appls stay. (25076879) 314,900
- Livonia** 248-349-6200
Desireable Woodcreek sub. Many updates. Furnace, A/C, H2O heater, updated kitchen, oak cabinets, lg Florida room, fin basement, lg treed lot & home warranty. 348-6430 (25166993) \$299,900
- Livonia** 734-591-9200
Hurry to this beautiful 4BR, 2.5 bath Colonial in Francavilla Sub! Fabulous curb appeal, FR w/FP open to kit. Bsmt. 2 car att gar. Clean great 500 sq ft deck. Liv. Stevenson HS. (25080889) \$289,900
- Livonia** 734-591-9200
3 bedroom brick ranch, backs to Hines Park. Screened in porch, fenced yard, C/A, full bsmt, 2 1/2 car gar. Newer roof, windows, A/C & furn. Well maintained, very clean. Immed occup. (25114292) \$177,500
- Livonia** 734-591-9200
3 bedroom brick bungalow. Updated great kitchen & bath! Livonia schools. (25167701) \$159,900
- Livonia** 734-591-9200
Great! Updated 3 bedroom ranch with Livonia Schools! 2 car garage. Fireplace, new roof, windows, furnace, kitchen, bath, etc. (25135123) \$154,900
- Livonia** 734-591-9200
BEAUTIFUL RANCH Loc in Sunningdale Park. 3BR, 1 BA, home had complete tear off "01" and other upgrades, inground pool, great back yard & huge bsmt. (25162406) \$149,900
- Livonia** 734-591-9200
A neat, well kept 8 yr old ranch, with a 1/4 acre lot. Updated floors in kit & carpeting, Pergo in hall. New bath tub insert. C/A, deck, full bsmt & home warranty. (25172761) \$142,500
- Livonia** 734-591-9200
Beautiful updated private entry 1st flr, 2 BR, 2 BA 971 sq ft condo. Scenic views of the private nature pond. All appl. stay. (25120925) \$119,000
- Northville** 734-591-9200
Absolutely Gorgeous! 4 BR, 3.5 BA. Gourmet kit w/granite isl., stain. steel appls & is open to BN w/bay wndw & drwall leading to brk pavers w/loads of boulders & pine trees! (25040232) \$579,900
- Northville** 248-348-6430
RAVINES OF NORTHVILLE EXECUTIVE HOME. 4 BR, 3.5 BA, Gourmet Kit w/granite island, FR w/vaulted ceiling & 2 skylights. Spacious mst. ste. Jack-n-Jill BA. 349-6200 (25160133) \$599,900
- Northville** 248-349-6200
OPEN FLOOR PLAN IN THIS CHARMING RANCH Beaut. maint., updated thruout, hrdwd flrs in kit, DR, & FR Super LL w/daylight windows. Country feeling, walk downtown. A great condo alternative. 348-6430 (25102582) \$299,999
- Northville** 248-348-6430
Great opportunity! Move right in to warmth & charm of plaster walls & cove ceilings. Relax by nat flrpic in LR. Updtd kit in 2002. W/in walking dist. to downtown. 349-6200 (25142621) \$224,900
- Northville** 248-348-6430
BEAUTIFUL CONDO Spacious 3 BR, 2.5 BA unit with a fin. bsmt. Updated kit, furn., A/C, H2O, wndws, Deck, FP, newer carpet. Everything you want! 349-6200 (25126841) \$199,900
- Northville** 248-348-6430
UPDATED CONDO READY FOR YOU TO MOVE IN 3 BR, 1.5 BA, neutral decor, newer kit, hdwd flrs, flpic w/mantle in spacious LR, all BR w/ceiling fans, part fin bsmt w/rec room. 349-6200 (25150121) \$174,000
- Novi** 248-348-6430
Beautiful Home 3300 sqft of luxury living! Quiet court setting overlooks woods. Flowing floor plan. Perfect for entertaining. Award winning Novi schools. 349-6200 (25162594) \$515,000
- Novi** 248-348-6430
ATTRACTIVE, COMFORTABLE & WELL KEPT HOME Lovely GR w/cathedral clg, formal DR, priv den, sunny kit & brkfst area, 4 nice BR, 2.5 BA, 1st flr Indry, spacious deck & plenty of room in the fin bsmt. 349-6200 (25114528) \$300,000
- Novi** 248-348-6430
CARRIAGE RANCH IN NOVI! GAR W/PRIV ENTRY Super shar. carriage ranch Open floor plan DR w/doorwall & balcony Att gar w/ priv entry All appl stay Pool clubhouse & tennis. Newer carpeting. 349-6200 (25101755) \$119,000
- Pinckney** 734-326-2000
Extraordinaire Fabulous 3 or 4 Bedroom Contemporary, Lg Eat-in Kitchen, 1st floor Laundry, 2 Baths, Awesome Finished Basement, 2 Fireplaces, Wet Bar, Deck & clean, clean! (25141502) \$209,900
- Plymouth** 248-348-6430
WONDERFULLY MAINTAINED RANCH Open floor plan w/neutral decor, spec. kit, GR w/ flrpic & vaulted ceiling, fin bsmt w/FR, craft rm & walk-in Cedar closet. 349-6200 (25132853) \$358,900
- Plymouth** 734-455-7000
WELCOME TO PRIVACY! Almost an acre surrounds this graceful 3 BR home. Two fireplaces, updated kitchen, oversized family rm, etc. Handicap friendly. Location, location. (25165781) \$298,900
- Plymouth** 734-455-7000
BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED AND UPDATED Spacious 3BR home in affordable Twin Arbors with outstanding 12 x 11 sunroom w/Pella windows and doorwall. (25134481) \$219,900
- Plymouth** 734-455-7000
SPACIOUS COLONIAL IN OLD ORCHARDS SUB 3BR, 1.5BA Easy access to I-275 & downtown Ply. New roof. White bay cabs, Corian sink. Cozy FR w/FP, bookshelves on sides of brick hearth. Dbl doors into Mstr. (25139267) \$199,900
- Plymouth** 734-455-7000
PRICED TO SELL...FAST! \$2,000 Holiday Bonus to buyer at closing. Walking distance to downtown Plymouth Upper ranch condo, vaulted ceiling, skylites, new furnace. Seller motivated!! (25139282) \$124,900
- Plymouth** 248-348-6430
Attn Investors/1st time homebuyers Best price in all of Plymouth! Yet right in the heart of it all! Great sub, low traffic street, surrounded by \$200,000 homes. 349-6200 (25140764) \$90,000
- Redford** 734-591-9200
3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2200+/- finished sft. Hardwood, FR w/ fireplace, Master w/ full bath, HUGE Florida room. Treed lot, great value! (25154185) \$174,900
- Redford** 734-591-9200
Lots of home for the money! 3 BR brick ranch, 2.5 BAs, full bsmt, & enclosed breezeway to att. gar. Put this one on your list to see! (25133401) \$158,900
- Redford** 734-591-9200
Home overlooks Lola Valley Park. 3 BR, brick ranch w/bsmt & 2 car gar. Updts incl: New roof on house & gar, new windows, all appl. stay. There is a landscaped & fenced yard. (25168135) \$149,900
- Redford** 248-348-6430
GREAT LOCATION. Here is your chance to own this 3 BR, brick ranch. 2 new BA, 2 car gar, full bsmt part fin., new cement drive & walk, hrdwd floors. Don't wait. 349-6200 (25141475) \$146,900
- Redford** 248-348-6430
PLEASANT 3 BR RANCH CLOSE TO SCHOOLS Freshly painted, newer carpet, kit flr, wndws & a/c; move-in ready! Full fin bsmt, 2 car det gar in fenced yard. All this at a bargain price. 349-6200 (25139161) \$139,900
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Brick Bungalow 3 BR, 2 BA, w/fin bsmt & lg lot. Home features F/P, C/A, vinyl wndws & more! (25126396) \$129,900
- Salem** 734-455-7000
SERENITY! Ten woodland acres w/wildlife and pond frame. Contemporary, fit for a King ... or YOU! (25156827) \$1,100,000
- Salem** 248-349-6200
HISTORIC COBBLESTONE MANOR HOUSE for lease. 4 BR, 2.5 BA, FR, LR, 3 car gar, 3900 sq ft, Ply/Canton schools. Sec deposit & credit report req. (25138658) \$1,995
- South Lyon** 248-349-6200
BEST OF THE BEST! GOLF COURSE CONDO Superb cond. & loc. at a great price. 1st flr mstr suite, fin w/o, home office .3.5 baths, maple kit & oak flrs. A "must see" opportunity. 349-6200 (25085147) \$409,900
- Southfield** 734-591-9200
Loads of updates in this 3 BR Colonial. Incl roof & siding w/transerable warr & wndws. All big things are done. Call for the list. Fla Rm, huge back yrd. (25167045) \$159,900
- Superior Twp** 248-348-6430
BETTER THAN NEW MOVE-IN ready. Landscape, deck, sprinklers, C/A, wndw treatments-all done. Brook model w/add. sq ft upgrade. Open fir plan, neutral, lg yard, commons playground. 349-6200 (25173626) \$215,000.
- Milford** 248-348-6430
SPARKLING CUSTOM COLONIAL IN HERITAGE AREA. Absolutely beautiful. This replica Historic home has 9 ft ceilings, wrap-around porch, sun-drench LR & FR. 349-6200 \$369,900
- Walled Lake** 248-348-6430
BEAUTIFUL 2 BR, 1.5 BA END UNIT CONDO Just move in & unpack! Freshly painted neutral decor t/o. Full brick wall fireplace in LR. Treed complex adjacent to city park. All appl. stay. 349-6200 (25124058) \$145,900
- Wayne** 734-591-9200
4 BR, 2.5 BA. Dutch Colonial Historical home. Walking distance to parks. Hardwood floors throughout house. 2 fireplaces, old world charm (25130803) \$223,900
- Wayne** 734-326-2000
BEAUTIFUL FAMILY FRIENDLY HOME! Lighted Deck. Hrdwd Foyer & Hallway, Isl Kit, MS w/Bath FP Bsmt ready for Dly wall framing complete, plumbed for full BA. Im occupancy (25149281) \$189,900
- Wayne** 734-326-2000
COUNTRY IN THE CITY! Gorgeous Wooded Ravine Lot. Full Brick Exterior, Cove Ceilings, Fireplace, Formal Dining Room, Fin. Bsmt, C/A & more. (PC 220612) (25127524) \$189,900
- Wayne** 734-326-2000
COUNTRY IN THE CITY 3 BR Ranch, 1.5 car gar & a 16x16 Shed. Newer Windows & Roof, Mud Rm, MBR w/ WIC, 257' Lot. (PC 221012) (25127909) \$97,000
- Westland** 734-326-2000
GREAT HOME, GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD, GREAT SC Loc. in the Livonia School System, this roomy home has upgrds galore! Brand New Carpeting on the 1st flr & Fin. Bsmt. Home Warranty Included. (25167350) \$199,900
- Westland** 734-591-9200
Newer Construction Condo w/loads of updates. Fully fin bsmt w/bar, Egress wndw. Home features gas fireplace, deck, cer. tile, hdwd flrs, stain. steel appliances & much more. (25074971) \$199,900
- Westland** 734-591-9200
Great Starter home! 3 BR, 1.5 BA Liv schools, walk to parks, schools & churches. Clean & neat neighborhood. Fin. bsmt w/wet bar & pool table. Lg deck w/hot tub. (25131493) \$164,900
- Westland** 734-591-9200
Charming 3BR brick ranch with full bsmt. Home features FR w/FP, deep lot, 2 car gar, hardwood floors, newer roof, glass blk wndws & more. (25104228) \$149,900
- Westland** 734-326-2000
YOU REALLY GOTTA SEE THIS! Contemporary Open Floor Plan with an Awesome Kit, 3 BR, Great Fin. Bsmt, C/A, Gar, & Curb Appeal too! (25104178) \$149,900
- Westland** 734-326-2000
ABSOLUTELY FANTABULOUS Cleanest, Sharpest House on the Block. 3 BR, 2 WIC, DR, LR, FR, 2 Car Gar, Beaut. Fenced Lot. 1400 sq ft in move-in cond. (25165648) \$139,900
- Westland** 734-326-2000
GREAT RETURN FOR A SMALL INVESTMENT! This Duplex is in Great Shape! Newer Roof & Plumbing, Vinyl Siding. Both Sides are Rented. This one won't last long. Hurry! (25123915) \$109,900
- Westland** 734-326-2000
GREAT RETURN ON A SMALL INVESTMENT! This Duplex is in Great Shape! New Roof, New Furnace in 1 Unit, Updated Kit, & BA in the Other. Both Units are Rented. (25123925) \$99,900
- Westland** 734-326-2000
BUDGET WISE? You will appreciate this 2 BR Brick Ranch with full bsmt. Newer Carpeting, Windows & Remodeled Kitchen & Bath. (25060976) \$84,900
- Westland** 734-326-2000
GROUND LEVEL CONDO W/POND VIEW 2 BR, 2 BA Condo is Freshly Painted w/newer Carpet & Windows. Clean & Bright with Pond View. Come See. (25086196) \$84,000
- Wixom** 248-348-6430
PARK-LIKE SETTING FOR THIS GREAT CONDO Backs to a nature preserve, hrdwd t/o, neutral * light kit. Soaring cing in GR w/FP. All appl. stay. 349-6200 (25162103) \$234,900



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4 bdrm. Colonial on 77 acre cul-de-sac. Granite kitchen, freshly painted in & out, 3+ car garage. Great location!
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3 bdrm., 1.5 bath brick ranch w/dining room & appliances. Newer furnace, C/A, roof & more. Bsmnt. w/pantry & workshop. Garage. Immediate occupancy. \$119,900 (ST267)

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Southfield/Lathrup 3390

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Nice 3 bdrm., 3.5 bath brick ranch. Family room w/fireplace. Updated roof, windows, kitchen floor, paint & more. Nicely finished bsmnt. w/full bath & extra bdrm. 2 car attached garage. \$212,900 (MA294)

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Westland 3445

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734-718-7244
Century 21 Row
734-464-7111

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Real Estate Display.....Wed. Dec., 21- 5 pm
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Liner Ad.....Fri., Dec. 23- Noon

Thursday, December 29 Publication (Delivered Wednesday)
Real Estate Display.....Fri., Dec. 23- 3 pm
Auto Display.....Tues., Dec. 27- Noon
Recruitment Display...Tues., Dec. 27- 3 pm
Liner Ad.....Tues., Dec. 27- 6 pm

Sunday, January 1 Publication
Real Estate Display.....Wed., Dec. 28- 5 pm
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| | |
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Free rent until Jan 31, 2006 No application fee with this ad! Immediate occupancy available (734) 455-7100

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Westland
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with FREE HEAT! FREE RENT! FREE WATER \$199
MOVES YOU IN!
1 Bdrm \$489
2 Bdrm, \$599
(734) 729-6520
Mon-Fri 8-6pm, Sat 10-2
* CONDITIONS APPLY

4000

FARMINGTON HILLS - Park Motel. Furnished rooms, efficiency & apts from \$150/wk. No deposit. 248-474-1324

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SOUTH LYON CONDO
Clean 1 bdrm., washer/dryer, carpet, no pets. 248-380-5405, 248-719-3293

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Westland
FREE RENT UNTIL 2-1-06 CALL NOW!
WESTLAND & WAYNE
Free heat, water, gas. 1 & 2 bdrm apts 1 bdrm \$535, 2 bdrm \$595/mo 734-326-2770

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Westland
WESTLAND CAPRI WINTER SPECIAL
FIRST MONTH RENT FREE
California Style Apts.
• 1 bedroom from \$565
• Water included
• Cathedral ceilings
• Balconies
• Carpet
• Fully carpeted
• Vertical blinds
• Great location to malls
• Livonia school system
(734) 261-5410

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Westland
FOREST LANE APTS
\$99 moves you in!
*WITH APPROVED CREDIT
6200 Wayne Rd
FREE HEAT!
Studio \$470
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Westland
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MOVES YOU IN!
1 Bdrm \$489
2 Bdrm, \$599
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Mon-Fri 8-6pm, Sat 10-2
* CONDITIONS APPLY

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Studio \$470
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(734) 729-6520
Mon-Fri 8-6pm, Sat 10-2
* CONDITIONS APPLY

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with FREE HEAT! FREE RENT! FREE WATER \$199
MOVES YOU IN!
1 Bdrm \$489
2 Bdrm, \$599
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Discretion's called for: Attorney has limits in divulging information

Q. We have a co-owner in a condominium and our association attorney will not give me any information about pending litigation. Is that right? I thought he represented me.

A. The Community Association attorney represents an organization, namely the Community Association, which is presumably a separate corporate entity. That attorney owes his or her duty to that corporate entity and not to any individual shareholders or members. The Community Association attorney has an obligation to provide information to the duly elected Board of Directors who are operating under a fiduciary duty to maintain confidentiality with

information that is necessary to be kept confidential for the best interest of the corporate entity. However, that does not apply to individual members and that is why it is important that the association attorney not divulge any information to individual members which has not been authorized by the corporate body running the association to receive that information.

Q. I took a trip down to the Danube and arrived in Budapest and noticed a number of high rises on both the Buda and Pest sides. Do you have any information?

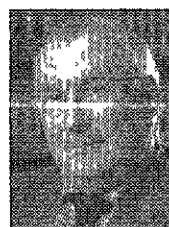
A. Generally, housing in Hungary is cheaper than several of the other central European countries. A reasonable apartment/condominium in a

high rise overlooking the Danube may run between \$150,000-\$200,000 for a five room apartment. Obviously there is more luxurious housing available in certain areas of the city, particularly, overlooking the island park which hugs both sides of Budapest. They will be converting officially to the euro

which will make housing and the cost of living more expensive in the next year or so. You are best advised to consider it an investment at this time particularly before Hungary joins the European union when prices are expected to go up substantially.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the

author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com.



Real Estate Inquires

Robert Meisner

Realtors to gather in New Orleans in fall

Realtors from throughout the United States will convene in New Orleans on Nov. 8-13, 2006, as originally scheduled, bringing as much as \$34 million in convention revenues and demonstrating Realtors' commitment to rebuilding the city.

The leadership of the National Association of Realtors voted recently to stick with New Orleans rather than to seek an alternative site for the convention and exposition, and to mount a national education campaign to encourage Realtors and exhibitors to attend.

"Realtors care about communities. We can set no better example to the nation than by keeping our promise to New Orleans and its people to hold our 2006 annual meeting there," said NAR President Tom Stevens of Vienna, Va.

Stevens said he has met with local New Orleans authorities to review the damage and reconstruction efforts following Hurricane Katrina and to assess their ability to meet the needs of NAR and its members. He said that downtown, the French Quarter and the Garden District largely escaped flooding, and that essential services have been fully restored in those areas.

The conference center and conference hotels are bustling with hundreds of workmen repairing hurricane destruction, and accelerating planned pre-Katrina renovations. Restaurants are reopening on a daily basis, and plans are under way for Mardi Gras in February, he said.

"The health and safety of our members are our primary con-

The NAR president and staff traveled to New Orleans last month to see for themselves whether the city and its convention facilities will be ready.

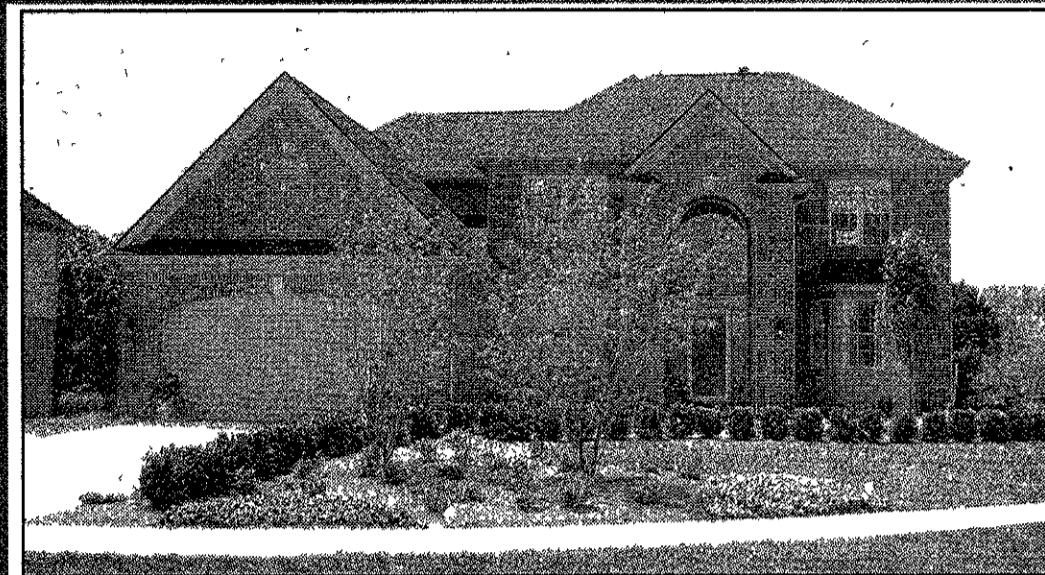
cerns. We have done our research and we are convinced New Orleans will be a safe and healthful venue for our convention," Stevens said. Starting in June there will be citywide conferences, many attracting more than 20,000 attendees, well before the NAR annual meeting in November. Some 26,477 Realtors, exhibitors and guests attended NAR's 2005 annual meeting and expo held in San Francisco last October.

The NAR president and staff traveled to New Orleans last month to see for themselves whether the city and its convention facilities will be ready. "And they will," said Stevens. "It's amazing how fast the city has pulled together and the progress they have made to get things back to normal."

"Our annual meeting will help to provide jobs for residents to rebuild their lives and revenues for the city to restore services. We will have a wonderful conference as we celebrate the rebirth of this legendary American city," Stevens said.

NAR will provide members continuous reports on the rebuilding efforts in New Orleans during the year to assure Realtors that the city will be ready for them in November.

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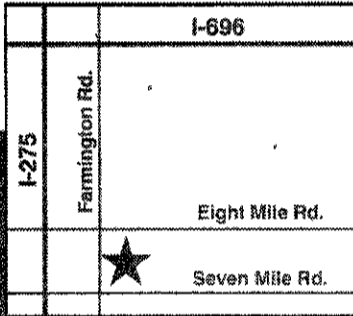
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NORTHVILLE

4 BEDROOM, 3.5 BATH COLONIAL. Cathedral ceiling great room with gas fireplace, kitchen, granite counters, butler's pantry, library w/oak shelves. Master suite with luxury bath, walk-in closet, princess suite, Jack 'N' Jill bath. Walkout bsmt. (BIN92) \$699,900

PLYMOUTH TWP

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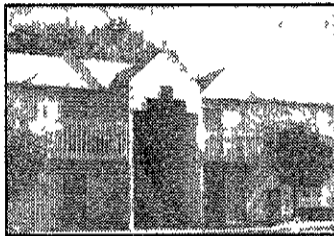
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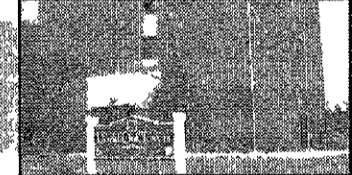
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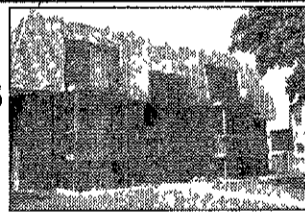
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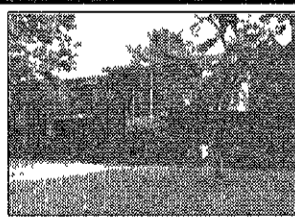
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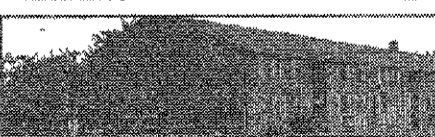
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| <p>REDFORD Charming And Clean 3 bedroom bungalow sitting on a double lot offers newer roof, some windows & refinished hardwood floors. Huge fenced yard with deck & a garage. Partially finished basement & all appliances stay. (E26KEE) 734-455-5600 \$111,800</p> | <p>SUPERIOR TWP. Surround Yourself w/Nature Sitting on approximately 14 acres. This 2001 cape cod offers 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, master w/WIC & garden tub. Dining room with view from deck, also 2.5 car attached garage, huge extra deep walk out LL, more. (E44HAR) 248-349-5600 \$479,500</p> | <p>FARMINGTON HILLS Gorgeous Ranch This Pottery Barn influence has numerous updates, hwdw flrs almost everywhere, lovely kitchen w/appls & bit-n-wine cab, mstr bdrm w/stunning bath, finished attic & bsmt + 2 car attached garage on approx. 86 acre. (E919MI) 734-455-5600 \$249,900</p> | <p>SOUTH LYON Centennial Farm Condo Two full baths, C/A, garage with loads of storage. Florida room, finished LL with guest room and family room. Laundry currently moved to walk-in closet. Clubhouse and beach on Crooked Lake. (E75CAM) 248-349-5600 \$119,900</p> | <p>NORTHVILLE Historic Impeccable best describes this impressive home. Newer windows, roof, furnace, electrical. Large rooms hardwood floor, W/O upstairs in MBR, bonus room upstairs. All this plus an income property over 3 car gar. (E05RAN) 248-349-5600 \$449,000</p> |
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| <p>CANTON Gorgeous Condo Overlooking park. Shows like a model! Built in 2002 offering 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, att garage with storage, vaulted ceiling, GR, balcony, hardwood floors, open kitchen w/island, all appls, DR, many upgrades. C/A. (E66CON) 734-455-5600 \$214,900</p> | <p>FARMINGTON HILLS Elegance At Its Best Sharp 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with large deck & 2 car sitting on approx 3/4 acre wooded lot. 1st floor laundry, fireplace in great room, prof fin bsmt, new closet organizer in master bedroom + home warranty. (E11BRI) 734-455-5600 \$267,900</p> | <p>PLYMOUTH Spacious Beacon Hill Home With 4 bedrooms & 3 full baths. Great floor plan, 3 season screened-in Florida room, finished lower level with wet bar, central vac, newer roof, 2 bay windows, 2 car attached garage, family room with fireplace. (E41BEA) 734-455-5600 \$354,900</p> | <p>NORTHVILLE Great End Unit Ranch Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo w/FFL. Nice deck w/wood views. Large living room w/vaulted ceiling. Nice kitchen w/breakfast nook & pantry. Formal dining room. Full basement & 2 car attached garage. (E21WAL) 248-349-5600 \$284,900</p> | <p>FARMINGTON HILLS Cozy Ranch On Large Lot 2 bedroom home on double lot in great neighborhood. Farmington schools. Two car attached garage w/220 line. Nice deck & fenced yard. Large eat-in kitchen w/doorwall. Oversized laundry. One year warranty. (E32FLA) 248-349-5600 \$147,900</p> |
| <p>NOV Opportunity Knock Take a look at this diamond in the rough. Walk across the street to launch your own business. Enjoy this approx. 70 acre sports lake. Minutes from M-6 connector and shopping at 12 Oaks Mall. (E47LAK) 248-349-5600 \$170,000</p> | <p>PLYMOUTH in the heart of town 2 story home in 1994 presents vintage front porch. GR w/gas fireplace kit w/hwdw & ceramic backsplash & island. Taster patio, master ste w/cath ceiling, prof fin LL & 2nd fl laundry, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths & 2 car gar. (E92PEN) 734-455-5600 \$365,000</p> | <p>CLINTON TWP Numerous Updates From kitchen & bath tile to C/A & furnace + hardwood floors & freshly painted. Finished basement & a garage, all offered in this 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick/aluminum ranch. (E08WOO) 734-455-5600 \$124,900</p> | <p>LIVONIA Move-In Ready This spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has a large living room w/hardwood floors, family room & dining room w/newer carpet, updated C/A, HWT paint & more. Walk-out LL to yard & 2 car garage. 1 year warranty. (E14GRE) 248-349-5600 \$199,900</p> | <p>NOV Opportunity Knock Take a look at this diamond in the rough. Walk across the street to launch your own business. Enjoy this approx. 70 acre sports lake. Minutes from M-6 connector and shopping at 12 Oaks Mall. (E47LAK) 248-349-5600 \$170,000</p> |
| <p>NOVI South Pointe Condo Adult comm 50+ offers 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, updated across Walled Lake with private beach & gazebo. Ground level intercom & secured lobby. Community room for entertaining & planned activities. All appls. (E27SOU) 734-455-5600 \$124,900</p> | <p>LIVONIA Wonderfully Updated Home Lovely home features wood flrs in LR, DR & kit. All appls stay. FR w/wat frplc & doorwall to patio & park-like yard. Updates galore included furnace w/elec filtration, roof, bath, siding, most windows, C/A, more. (E95SUN) 734-455-5600 \$239,900</p> | <p>NORTHVILLE Northville Hills Golf Club Gorgeous custom home features granite island kitchen, Florida room, butlers pantry, finished basement with full bar and putting green. Master with glamour bath and dual shower. Great family neighborhood. (E88TRO) 248-349-5600 \$979,000</p> | <p>LIVONIA A Home You'll Treasure Beautiful light & bright - feels like home! 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car att garage & basement. Updated throughout with newer kitchen and both baths. Some newer windows. Shiny hardwood floors. Spacious FR w/wrplc. (E03LAD) 248-349-5600 \$243,900</p> | <p>GARDEN CITY Tree-Lined Streets! 3 bdrm ranch home. Lg LR w/Anderson bay window. Refaced w/oak cab drs, pull-out, B-I dishwasher & stove in Cozy FR w/Anderson d-wall to patio. 90% plus furn, C/A, hto 2.5 car gar w/opener. 1 yr HPP. (E37BRO) 248-349-5600 \$139,900</p> |
| <p>GARDEN CITY Great Updated Bungalow 2 bedroom home offers newer 2 car garage and drive, beautiful updated kitchen, bath, furnace, A/C, roof, laminated hardwood floor, carpet, entry doors, siding, trim, plumbing, deck and much more. (E19JAM) 734-455-5600 \$129,900</p> | <p>REDFORD Pride Of Ownership Beautifully decorated 3 bedroom, 2 full bath all brick ranch w/tons of updates: kitchen, bath, windows, roof, tear off & newer deck. All this + 2.5 car garage, partially finished basement, most appliances & a HPP. (E59LUC) 734-455-5600 \$152,900</p> | <p>FARMINGTON An Ideal Location Cozy and comfortable ground floor condo in the heart of town. Freshly painted in neutral tones. New kitchen and entry hall floor, large bedroom, screened sun porch and overlooks landscaped common area. One car garage. (E53KIN) 248-349-5600 \$70,900</p> | <p>WIXOM Adult Co-Op Ranch Move in condition with gorgeous kitchen. All appls stay. Neptune washer/dryer. Wallside windows. Newer furnace & C/A. Newer roof. Screened-in back porch. 55 & older adult community. (E90HEL) 248-349-5600 \$69,000</p> | <p>WATERFORD Must See! 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch. Move in condition. Large deck w/2 sliding glass doors. Large MBR w/WIC. New roof '04, vinyl windows '00, ceramic tile in bath. Hwdw flrs in LR. 2 car attached garage. Immed occp w/warr. (E36HAM) 248-349-5600 \$165,000</p> |
| <p>BELLEVILLE Awesome Bi-Level With water view offers 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with open floor plan, oak kitchen with vaulted ceilings and master suite. 2 car attached garage + playscape and much more. (E35VIC) 734-455-5600 \$179,900</p> | <p>WOODHAVEN Gorgeous Brick Colonial Bt in '98 offers 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car attached garage, full basement plumbed for bath, C/A, formal DR, FR w/wrplc, LR & office. Private yo w/ropr sprinklers. Kitchen w/newer cabs & countertop, doorwall to never patio in June 2005 & newer roof in 2003. (E46LEI) 734-455-5600 \$289,000</p> | <p>NORTHVILLE Stonewater! Custom Curtis estate Loaded w/upgrades! Dripping with beautiful eye candy! Custom crown moldings, woodwork, granite, marble, lighting, appliances. Fully landscaped. Custom deck, private lot. Must see. (E22OVE) 248-349-5600 \$749,900</p> | <p>WEST BLOOMFIELD Bring Your Fussiest Buyer 4 BR, 2.5 BA colonial on prem lot, beautiful landscaping w/yard. Spacious GR w/wrplc, private study w/French drs, lg kit w/eat-in area to deck. Lg mstr ste w/dressing area, huge WIC & new glam bath. 3 car side entry gar. (E20MIL) 248-349-5600 \$449,900</p> | <p>NORTHVILLE Waterfront Beauty! Spring Hill Lake Estate! Finest value in Stonewater! Premium lot! Custom lighting, neutral decor, amazing lake views! Lovely hwdw flrs. MBR waiting rm, glam bath w/elec tub. Custom Interiors, deck & car gar. (E15CLA) 248-349-5600 \$769,900</p> |
| <p>ROCKWOOD Palatial Beauty Brick 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath with full basement, master ste w/WIC, bath & celt ceilings, dual staircase, attached garage, 2 car garage, 2 story ceramic foyer, sprinklers, glass block windows in bsmt, FFL & large lot. Desirable area. (E79HER) 734-455-5600 \$275,000</p> | <p>CANTON Curb Appeal & Updates All offered in this 4 bedroom colonial w/2 car attached garage, basement, FR w/gas frplc, formal DR, spacious kitchen w/newer cabs & countertop, doorwall to never patio in June 2005 & newer roof in 2003. (E69IRO) 734-455-5600 \$234,900</p> | <p>NOVI Wonderful 4 BR, 2.5 BA colonial in one of Novi's most popular subs. Boasts traditional floor plan w/warm & inviting FR w/cath ceilings overlooking wooded yard. Recent updates include roof & furnace, garage door & opener. (E82HEA) 248-349-5600 \$320,000</p> | <p>BROWNSTOWN Beauty From Door To Deck Brick ranch condo new in '05. Open island kitchen, GR w/wrplc, FFL, 2 BR, 2 BA, 2 car att garage, C/A, sprinklers & deck. Beautiful quiet setting. Shopping and restaurants within walking distance. Must see! (E70WES) 248-349-5600 \$178,500</p> | <p>ALLEN PARK Not Your Standard Ranch 3 bedroom brick ranch w/unique open floor plan, snack bar, ceramic kitchen & recently remodeled bath. Newer windows, roof, furnace & A/C. Enjoy the cozy 4 season rm. Relax in a bubble bath in your Jacuzzi tub. Serene. (E22BEC) 248-349-5600 \$159,900</p> |
| <p>VAN BUREN Outstanding Condo 2 bedroom, 2 full bath ranch condo with attached garage, 2 story entry w/ceramic floor opens to LR, master suite w/cath ceiling bath & WIC, large oak kitchen, FFL, doorwall to newer deck & attached garage. (E32WHE) 734-455-5600 \$159,900</p> | <p>CANTON Absolutely Stunning 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath colonial with 2 car garage on large lot with partially finished basement, newer landscaping and many updates since '98. 1 year home warranty. Seller is motivated! (E84WOR) 734-455-5600 \$214,900</p> | <p>BRIGHTON Front Porch Memories Start here! Picturesque w/ approx. 1.15 acre lot. This tastefully decorated & spacious home is just what you've looking for. Great floor plan with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, FR, lg kit/din area, updates. All appls & warranty. (E09OLY) 248-349-5600 \$229,900</p> | <p>BROWNSTOWN Beauty From Door To Deck Brick ranch condo new in 2005. Open island kitchen, GR w/wrplc, FFL, 2 BR, 2 BA, 2 car attached garage, C/A, sprinklers & deck. Beautiful quiet setting. Shopping & restaurants within walking distance. Must see! (E98WES) 248-349-5600 \$178,500</p> | <p>LIVONIA Beautiful Brick Cape Cod 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-story home w/lots of updates. Newer roof, windows, carpeting & HWT. Fireplace in both FR & LR. Spacious DR. Huge country lot with many gardens. Two car attached garage. 1 yr warranty. (E56WHI) 248-349-5600 \$199,900</p> |

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- | | | | | | | | |
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Observer & Eccentric



Apartments

HOMETOWNlife.com

This Classification continues from Section F

Homes For Rent 4050

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
6198 Maybun 3 bdrm brick ranch. 1 car garage, fenced Avail. immediately. \$695 SHOWING: Sunday @ 4pm Wednesday @ 6PM. Call: 248-703-5870. 248-647-9726

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
Dearborn schools, 1700sq ft, 3 bdrm, 2 bath brick ranch w/ fireplace, 1st floor laundry, wooded lot Attached garage, 1550+ security 734-231-9220

DEARBORN HTS. - Powers, 3 bdrm, 1 bath, bsmt, garage & shed, fenced yard. \$950/mo. (734) 716-5257

DEARBORN HTS. Westpoint, 3 bdrm, Mich. bsmt, updated, vinyl, great location, land contract, rent/buy/land contract. \$1000/mo. 734-716-5257

Detroit - Investors Welcome
3 bedroom bungalow, basement, Warrendale Immediate occupancy. Rent to own/buy, 248-931-7840, 248-921-2432

DETROIT 16927 Winston, 6 & Telegraph 3 bdrm, 1000 sq ft. w/bsmt, \$695/mo. \$1500 move in (313) 492-0311

DETROIT W of Telegraph 2-3 homes, 2 to 3 bdrms, bsmt \$500, \$650, \$775. Call Iris, 248-474-6414

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FARMINGTON HILLS 1 bdrm, 1 bath w/ office & deck, appliances, large yard, pets negotiable \$650, 248-669-3012

FARMINGTON HILLS 1560 sq ft colonial 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 2 car attached, lg fenced yard \$1350/mo. 248-388-7869

Homes For Rent 4050

FARMINGTON HILLS
8 Mile & Grand River 2 bdrm ranch. Attached garage, bsmt, new windows, hardwood floors. \$825+ deposit. References 248-348-0066

FARMINGTON HILLS-Rent To Own 2 bdrm, 1.5 car garage, large lot, \$700/mo 248-328-0492, 248-760-8051

FERDALE 2 master bdrm fireplace, new kitchen w/appliances Bsmt w/wood oak floors \$900 248-350-2499

FERDALE- RENT TO OWN HOUSE. 3 Bdrms, bath, 1 garage, Central air VIEW IN JAN, MOVE IN FEB \$995 248-926-8876

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New homes for rent 1 month free and \$100 off FIRST 6 months. All appliances and a/c included. Pets Welcome 888-304-0078 College Park Estates \$1074 Mott Rd, Canton MI 48188 (Between Gaddies & Mich Ave off Ridge Road). *on select homes Skyline/Clayton Retailer

GARDEN CITY
3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 2.5 car garage \$1175/mo plus \$175 security (734) 564-1010

GARDEN CITY Charming 3 bdrm, breakfast nook, dining room, hardwood floors, full bsmt, 1.5 car garage off 1/4 acre fenced lot. 313-363-7516

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

GARDEN CITY
Newly remodeled, 2 bdrm home, 1 car garage, \$850/mo (313) 350-5227

Homes For Rent 4050

INKSTER HOMES
3 bdrm, bsmt, garage. Wayne Schools \$850-1000 8am-7pm 734-844-6587

INKSTER Remodeled 3 bdrm brick ranch, 2 car garage. Avail now option to buy avail, \$600 248-788-1823.

Livonia \$1,275 w/\$500 move in. Beautiful ranch w/3 bdrm 1.5 baths. Attached garage. Hix/Joy area Mark Regal, Agent Direct 734-718-6178

LIVONIA -3 bdrm, 2 bath brick ranch. Fireplace, wood floors, all appliances FL room. \$1200. 313-999-4719

LIVONIA 3 Bdrm ranch, 2 car garage, freshly remodeled. Fenced Option to buy on LC \$1000/mo. 313-805-5309

LIVONIA 3 bdrm ranch, carpeted C/A, fenced, garage, \$975/mo + security 248-684-4398, 248-259-1556

LIVONIA 3 bdrm, brick ranch, 2 bath, Livonia schools, lg. garage, hardwood \$1095/mo, avail Jan 15, 810-923-9057

LIVONIA Country
Homes Estates 3 bdrm 1.5 bath brick ranch 1081 sq ft. All appliances. C/A, fenced, garage. Part finished full bsmt No pets, non-smoking OPEN HOUSE Sun., noon-5pm, 15638 Liverpool. \$1200 + \$2500 deposit. Immediate occupancy 734-421-0283 or 731-0433

MILFORD
3 bed, 1.5 bath with full basement in downtown Milford, \$1,150 per month. 318 Main Street Kevin 248-535-2004 Real Estate One

Homes For Rent 4050

NOVI 5 acre home, tri-level, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, Walled Lake Schools, \$1300/mo + utilities (248) 888-8400

NOVI Beautifully remodeled 3 bdrm. Spacious loft as 4th bdrm. 3.5 baths, finished bsmt, deck w/hot tub Great location S. of 9 Mile E. of Meadowbrook. 22209 Cascade \$2000mo. 248-830-6082

DAK PARK Cute & remodeled 2 bdrm ranch, immediate occupancy Option to buy avail \$550. 248-788-1823

PLYMOUTH - 3 bdrm, 1 bath, garage, fenced corner lot new appliances, paint, carpet & doors \$1050. (734) 459-4822

PLYMOUTH - 3 bdrm, bsmt, stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer \$850/mo. + \$600 security After Noon 734-459-6788

PLYMOUTH Downtown, 2 bdrm, 1300 sq ft, updated, townhouse w/bsmt, c/a, appliances, \$900 (734) 716-5257

PLYMOUTH Near downtown 2 Bdrm Appliances, bsmt, garage. Fenced yard. No pets. \$650 mo (734) 453-7962

REDFORD
3 Bdrm, 1.5 bath brick ranch Could be 0 down \$675/mo. Call Misti 734-521-0194

REDFORD - Very nice, very clean, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath ranch. Joy Rd & Beech Drive, lg bsmt, fenced yard. All pets welcome. \$997 + security. Immediate occupancy. Open house Sunday, Dec 18, 2pm-4pm 24934 Dover 734-864-1612, leave message

Redford 19435 Pomclana Sharp 2 Bedroom, Basement, Garage, Large Lot \$695 mo 248-476-6498

REDFORD 3 bdrm, 1 bath & 2 bdrm, 1 bath, 1 1/2 mo. security Bwth 6 & 7 Mile and Beech Daily (248) 681-9523

Homes For Rent 4050

REDFORD 3 bdrm, 1 bath Fenced yard. Appliances. \$850 mo + security 248-217-2117

REDFORD 3 bdrm, fresh paint Bsmt, garage, fenced Clean Sec 8 OK. \$930 mo, 1-1/2 mo sec. 734-397-8074

ROCHESTER HILLS
352 Willow Grove, Condo. Central air, Quiet, 3 bdrm, 1.5 baths, finished bsmt, attached garage, private fenced courtyard entrance, rear deck, pool, clubhouse Walk to 2 Schools, No pets. Non-smoking. Includes. water, heat, appliances. All-Furnished option available! \$1,200 248-608-5432

ROYAL OAK - 3 bdrm, finished bsmt, garage, fenced yard, more \$1085/mo. Possible option. (248) 642-0838

ROYAL OAK - DOWNTOWN
3 bed., 1.5 bath. Everything brand new. Spectacular \$1275/mo 248-931-6824

SOUTHFIELD - IMMACULATE
1750 sq ft ranch, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, appliances \$1400. 11/Evergreen 248-789-3453

SOUTHFIELD Ideal 3 bdrm, 1 bath brick ranch, 1 car garage, fenced 12/Southfield, \$900/mo (248) 737-2114

TAYLOR Sharp 3 bdrm brick ranch, bsmt, attached 2 car garage, formal dining, 2 baths. Option \$950. 248-788-1823

WATERFORD 1 bdrm home near park, marina, pets OK \$490/mo 248-346-3518

WAYNE 2houses each 2 bdrm, \$850 & \$900, fenced yard, garage, pets ok with sec dep (734) 722-8943

Homes For Rent 4050

WEST BLOOMFIELD
4467 APPLE VALLEY. Newly remodeled 2700 sq. ft. 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath, family room, fireplace, appliances. 2.5 car attached garage, deck, C/A 313-920-6966. 248-593-0064

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WEST BLOOMFIELD 5 bdrms, 3.5 bath quad-level Remodeled. 2.5 car garage Maple & Orchard Lake \$2000 Price reduced. Immediate Occup. Move-in spec 248-577-5725

WEST BLOOMFIELD - 5 bdrm, 2 bath, all appliances, hardwood floors, 2 car garage Birmingham Schools Lake privileges \$1545/mo 248-693-8737

WESTLAND Delton St. 3 Bdrm, fenced yard, updated, appliances \$700/mo includes water. (734) 716-5257

WESTLAND - 2 bdrm, bsmt, attached storage, kitchen appliances, 1816 Second St, \$850/mo. 734-502-3357

WESTLAND 2 bdrm duplex, garage, new windows, appliances, fenced yard, no pets. \$550/mo 734-522-5246

WESTLAND 2 bdrm, carpeted, 2 car garage, gas heat, laundry room, \$775/mo+ security, utilities. 734-453-2032

WESTLAND 3 Bdrm duplex, nice, clean, carpet, fenced Avail now \$700 monthly 313-418-9905

WESTLAND 3 Bdrm w/hot tub, could be 0 down \$775/mo. Ask about our 3 month special Call Jennifer. 734-521-0184

WESTLAND 3 Bdrm Good area clean. Garage. \$1200/mo Section 8 OK. Immed. Occup (734) 697-5165

Homes For Rent 4050

WESTLAND 4 Bdrm, 1.5 bath, full bsmt, stove & refrigerator. No pets or smoking \$1000/mo + utilities Call (734) 383-4127

WESTLAND A nice family area, extra clean 3 BR, basement, garage, air, appliances, washer/dryer, screened in porch \$1125/mo 248-982-4210

WESTLAND Fairfield Glade Sub. Deluxe 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath luxury home. \$1450/mo + sec Also will rent with option to buy (248) 344-2120

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Rent to Own. 30249 N. Jean 3 bdrm, bsmt, 2.5 car. Appliances \$1200/mo 734-306-2006

WESTLAND - Elbridge. 2 Bdrm, 1 bath, fenced yard, appliances, updated. \$600-\$650/mo. includes water. (734) 716-5257

Lakefront/Waterfront Homes Rental 4060

CASS LAKE lakefront 2 bdrm home Dining room, fireplace, attached 2 car garage 248-762-0023

Mobile Home Rentals 4070

CANTON We have new homes for rent Pets welcome Call Sandy at Sun Homes for details at 888-304-8941 Skyline/Clayton Retailer

Southern Rentals 4090

JENSEN BEACH FLA Ocean front condo, corner unit, 4 floor, 2 bdrm, 2 bath. Avail. for Jan 05. \$2700/mo. (248) 698-4134

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CANTON - Near I-275 Non-smoking & non-drinking male Quiet. \$295/mo New No lease 734-394-1557

Farmington Hills professional roommates wanted. Furnished, clean, nice home. HUGE ROOM, \$395 nice, safe, convenient area. Incl. utilities, cleaning, lawn, cable, high speed internet 813-205-9926

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1 & 2 room windowed offices, utilities included 734-422-2321

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440 sq ft 9 Mile & Novi Road area Utilities incl \$475/mo. 248-349-0260 ext 202

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CANTON - RETAIL
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Lease/Option To Buy 4580

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Mercedes Benz of Novi,
corner of Grand River & Haggerty

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Needed for Gordon Chevrolet New Car Department. Good driving record a must, some experience preferred Good pay & benefits Retirees welcome Contact James Schrom: 734-458-5218

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Help Wanted-General 5000

CHILD CARE ASSISTANT
Teach & Infant Assistant Teacher Learn While You Earn! The Learning Tree offers employees an Education reimbursement program, on-site training along with 401K Retirement Plan Medical/Dental Benefits Paid Vacation/Holidays, and Personal Days Raise Reviews BiYearly Bonus Program Call 734-261-1951 or apply in person.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Experienced and qualified & FULLTIME TEACHERS At Tutor Time in Plymouth Call 734-420-2700 or email judge1@hotmail.com EOE

Help Wanted-General 5000

CHILD CARE ASSISTANT
Teach & Infant Assistant Teacher Learn While You Earn! The Learning Tree offers employees an Education reimbursement program, on-site training along with 401K Retirement Plan Medical/Dental Benefits Paid Vacation/Holidays, and Personal Days Raise Reviews BiYearly Bonus Program Call 734-261-1951 or apply in person.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Experienced and qualified & FULLTIME TEACHERS At Tutor Time in Plymouth Call 734-420-2700 or email judge1@hotmail.com EOE

Help Wanted-General 5000

COMMUNITY MANAGER
If you have diplomacy and tact, like to influence others and are results oriented, please fax your resume and cover letter to: Community Manager Berger Realty Group, Inc (248) 905-5511 or email to humresnew2@hotmail.com Responsible for leasing marketing, tenant retention safety issues staff and team building/enforcement

SERVICE TECHNICIAN
With experience for Michigan's largest factory-built home service company based in Novi Must have excellent customer relation skills & knowledge of home construction standards. Adequate tools needed for completing repairs Benefits Fax resume to Service (248) 349-4519

Customer Sales/Service Attention Students HOLIDAY HELP \$17.25 Base/APPT.
Winter Break work program, 1-5+ weeks, flexible schedules, all ages 18+, conditions apply, secure summer position. 248-426-4405 248-674-1193

For the best auto classifications check out the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper. "It's all about RESULTS!"

Help Wanted-General 5000

CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALISTS
Expanding Payroll Service Company seeks individuals with good communication, math, telephone and computer skills Experience in payroll helpful Health insurance and 401(K) Reply with salary requirements to admn@baysystems.net or PAY SYSTEMS, HR Dept, 16000 W Nine Mile Rd Suite 302 Southfield MI, 48075

DIETARY AIDE
For Senior Housing in Northville Part-time afternoon

DIRECT CARE Entry level management position in Livonia supporting 3 men with developmental disabilities; training and monitoring workers, providing direct support to people, advocacy, home management, budget control; must be able to work with people you support, after hours on-call responsibility; must be available to cover ALL shifts, must have CLS training transcript, diploma/GED; valid, MI driver's license, must be insurable, call 734-728-4201, and mention this ad

Direct Care: Positions available working with people in their homes, competitive pay & benefits, all shifts, paid training, great people, meaningful work 734-728-4201



ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Company in Plymouth is currently recruiting for an A/R Specialist. Responsibilities will include analyzing customer accounts for discrepancies and daily interaction with customers to resolve delinquent accounts and billing disputes. Previous A/R or collection experience required. Supervisory background a plus.

Submit your resume with salary requirements to:
Attn: A/R
PO Box 701248 • Plymouth, MI 48170
or Fax: 734-416-3810
or e-mail: hr_manufacturing@hotmail.com

MOTORCOACH DRIVERS
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Now Hiring Full Time Year-Round Positions

- Average Annual Earnings \$30,000+
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No Experience Necessary Must

- Be able to pass DOT Physical
- Have a clean driving record
- Have a consistent work history
- Be able to work with people
- Be willing to travel out of town
- Minimum - 24 years of age

Will be accepting applications Dec. 12-19th daily 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Job Seminar and Interviews scheduled on site December 19th. Starts at 8:00 p.m. sharp. 26885 Smith Road, Romulus - just north of I-94 Middlebelt exit.

ROUTE SALES AND SERVICE/ROUTE DELIVERY

Full service Beverage/Refreshment Company in Plymouth is looking for talented individuals to manage established routes. Requirements for this position include excellent customer service skills, sales skills, a good driving record and the desire to grow within our company. Previous leadership experience a plus! CDL a plus! This is an entry-level position with advancement opportunities available.

Please mail your resume to:
Attn: Route Delivery #11
PO Box 701248
Plymouth, MI 48170
or fax: (734) 416-3810
or e-mail: hr_manufacturing@hotmail.com

For the opportunity to advertise on this page please call
Terry Randall (734) 953-2079
or email: **careers@oe.homecomm.net**

Observer & Eccentric



Employment

HOMETOWNLife.com

Help Wanted-General 6000

POLICY

All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 591-0900.) The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors is given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after the FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity." Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice

Help Wanted-General 6000

DRYWALL TRADESMAN M/F

Experienced in repairs, spotting & warranty work. 313-732-5068 313-732-7397

ELECTRICIAN - MASTER

Great pay & benefits available. Call: 248-789-0954

"It's All About Results" Observer & Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL

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careerbuilder.com

FRONT DESK ALL POSITIONS

For Country Inn & Suites in Novi Apply within 21625 Haggerty Rd. (248) 596-9800

Front Desk Staff/ Assistant Manager Hilton Inn Southfield

Located corner of American Dr and Franklin Rd Apply in person

GIFT PLANNING COORDINATOR

Retirement Community seeking fundraising and administrative coordinator with good communication and computer skills. B.S. or BA preferred. Interested candidates should send resume and cover letter to

Fox Run Human Resources
41100 Fox Run Road
Novi, MI 48377
or
Fax to: 248-668-8710
EOE

GLASS & MIRROR INSTALLER

For well established Southfield glass company. Must have exp with mirror and shower enclosures. Excellent wages & benefits. 248-353-5770

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRE-PRESS

For Printing Company. Exp preferred. Great PhotoShop skills. Please send resume to: 248-473-1414

HAIR SALON PROFESSIONAL Stylists, Manicurist & Assistants

Looking for a positive change? Currently scheduling confidential interviews.
Contact Heather 248-477-6000

HAIR STYLISTS

Now hiring for Canton, Plymouth, S Livonia & Westland locations. Guaranteed hourly rate. Please call Steve: (734) 595-6003

Help Wanted-General 6000

HANDYMAN

Wanted for Livonia area Hotel, Plumbing, electrical experience preferred. Call: 734-261-6800 ask for Gary.

HEATING & COOLING Residential

New Construction, Apprentice & Experienced installers. (810) 632-9022

HOME HEALTH AIDES NEEDED!

WellsBrooke Home Care is rapidly growing and looking for experienced Health Care Professionals for cases located in Southeast Michigan. We offer flexible hours and competitive wages. If interested fax resume to Sarah at 734-525-5966 or email sbauman@WellsBrooke.com

HOUSEKEEPERS

Part-time for American House Senior Living in Northville. Call Judy 248-449-1480

HOUSEKEEPING/ LEASING

We are looking for a highly energetic individual with a great personality to join the housekeeping/leasing team at our Canton apartment community. Apply at Franklin Palmer 1681 Columbus, Canton Phone (734) 397-0200

INSIDE SALES

Opening for an experienced person. This is an established territory that has full potential of making in excess of \$75,000 Full benefits are provided. Once again we do not want to train but want self-starter, motivated person. Call 9am-5pm 313-533-4455

INSTRUCTOR

Degreed individual needed to work after school program. Part Time Visit: www.excelinstitute.com Email resume: rdilidne@excelinstitute.com

INSULATION INSTALLER WANTED

Exp. preferred but not required Call 734-525-4170

JANITORIAL - BUILDING & AREA MANAGERS

Full & Part Time evenings. Must have management & training exp. 248-912-1200

JANITORIAL - Office Cleaning, Wixom area

Part-time evening hours. \$8.00/hr. Call (248)960-1718

JANITORS/CLEANERS

\$8.00/Hour P/T, M-F, 5:00pm-9:00pm PLYMOUTH 734-283-6934

Landscape Company Needs: Designer, Sales, Foreman

Must be fully qualified. Please send resumes to: Cimber Nursery Inc 50145 101st Rd Canton, MI 48187 (734)495-1700 Fax (734)495-1131

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Full time, no exper Req'd, We train, M/F, age 17-34, Good pay, excellent benefits, educational and travel opportunities. Call (734) 729-0450, AN ARMY OF ONE U.S Army

LEASE CONSULTANT-PART TIME

Farmington Hills area. Must work Saturdays. Please fax brief resume to 248-553-4209

Help Wanted-General 6000

Leasing Agent

Full Time for Westland Apts. Full Benefits Included. Leasing/ Customer Service exp. Preferred. May work Saturdays. 734-455-7200

Leasing Consultant

For retirement community in Westland. Enthusiastic, pleasant, hardworking, organized, energetic and a real go-getter. Full-time with Saturdays. Fax resume to (734) 729-9840. Equal Opportunity Employer

LEASING POSITION

For Apt. community in Westland. Full time benefits available. 401K. Experience preferred. Call 734-459-6600 Ask for Martha

Loan Officers

Expanding Southfield broker Looking to fill desks with great people. Experience helpful, but not necessary. Call 248-423-7775 x21

LOAN OFFICERS

Mortgage Company at Southfield (10 mile/ahser) has openings for Loan Officers & Processors. Call Mike at 313-282-4644

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK FOR YOU! 1-800-579-SELL

Loan Originators

100% COMMISSION Unlimited Leads Signing Bonus Send resume to mbilas@avantagetrust.us or fax 313-537-3118 Phillip/Mike

MACHINISTS ALL AROUND, LATHE, MILL

Fulltime Must have exp. Benefits. Apply at: 813 Manufacturers Dr. Westland. 734-729-5700

MAINTENANCE & CLEANING

Apartment complex in Wayne looking for a couple to do maintenance and cleaning. Good pay. Apartment included. Call (734) 326-2770

MAINTENANCE

Farmington apt community seeking exp maintenance person. Must have exp and be knowledgeable of plumbing, electrical, appliance, HVAC repair and apartment prep. Permanent full time position. Competitive compensation package. Fax resume to 248 474 1372

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC

for townhouse style complex in Westland. Must have good driving record and capable of basic plumbing, carpentry and electrical. Send brief resume or apply in person to Holiday Park Co-op 34850 Fountain Blvd Westland, MI 48185

MAINTENANCE

Needed for Novi apt community. Must have minimum of 2 years experience in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, & HVAC. Must have strong leadership capabilities, a valid driver's license and ability to pass a background check. Apt available after 30 days, includes benefits and advancement opportunity. Fax resume to Denise at (248) 569-1508.

Help Wanted-General 6000

MAINTENANCE

Needed for Plymouth apt. community. Must have minimum of 2 years experience in carpentry, plumbing, electrical & HVAC. Must have strong leadership capabilities, a valid driver's license and ability to pass a background check. Apt. available after 30 days, includes benefits and advancement opportunity. Fax resume to Denise at (248) 569-1508.

MAINTENANCE/JANITORIAL PERSON

- full time, 6 days. Apply 31117 Plymouth Rd, Livonia Or call 734-425-2246.



MARKETING DIRECTOR NEEDED!

Growing home care agency looking for full-time Marketing Director for Metropolitan Detroit area. Experience in home care and knowledge of Medicare required. Please mail resume to: Superior Home Care, Inc. 17330 Northland Park Court, Suite 201 Southfield, MI 48075 or fax to: (248) 559-1604

MECHANIC

Experience with gravel train and semi's. Call Mon-Fri, 9am-4:30pm (734) 455-4036

MECHANIC

Full time, no exper Req'd, We train, M/F, age 17-34, Good pay, excellent benefits, educational and travel opportunities. Call (734) 729-0450, AN ARMY OF ONE, U.S Army

PAINTERS WANTED - Full or part time

Experience preferred or will train Troy area Call 734-612-9910.

PARALEGAL/LEGAL ASSISTANT

Part time for real estate related practice including mortgage foreclosures, land contracts & evictions. Would prefer at least a program graduate or paralegal exp. Email resume to sbrown@stotablaw.com or fax 248-642-9001

PARKING ATTENDANTS

\$9 per hr minimum. Must have own transportation, knowledge of stock shift. 248-682-1800

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Experienced wedding photographers to photograph weddings for studio that has been in business for 103 yrs. Please contact Lisa or Clean at 248-948-9500 on Mon, Tues, or Thur., 9-3pm

PLUMBER - APPRENTICE

Needed immediately. Minimal skills needed. Call 734-659-7248

PLUMBERS / DRAIN CLEANERS

Minimum 2 yrs. exp. Call Nick @ 1-888-655-6700

PRESS OPERATOR

Busy Southfield print shop needs experienced Heidelberg Press Operator to run a 40" five color Heidelberg Press, Cutter & Bindery Personnel. Full Time position w/competitive wages and benefits. Fax Resume 248-799-3869 Attn: O.B. Or Email: pwgwr@parkwestgallery.com.

Help Wanted-General 6000

PURCHASING AGENTS or BILLING EXPERTS

A unique Cost Reduction Company looking for purchasing agents or billing experts to negotiate with customers & vendors. Salary & benefits. Fax resume to 248-307-0212, email lw@audittbills.com

Recruiter/Researcher Boyden Detroit Part-Time

Michigan's largest retained executive search firm is looking to expand our staff. We are seeking a Recruiter/Researcher to be located in our Birmingham, MI office. Candidates must be able to work a flexible schedule (16 to 30 hours/week). College degree preferred. Qualified applicants should have a minimum of five yrs business experience, excellent verbal and written communication skills and the ability to work on a variety of projects simultaneously. If you feel you meet these qualifications, please send your resume and salary requirements to:

Barbara A. Swan
Research Director
Boyden Detroit
344 N. Old Woodward,
Suite 304
Birmingham, MI 48009
bswan@boyden.com

ROOFERS - Exp. roofers & laborers needed

Secured Westland apt. community. Must be a hard worker & willing to perform a variety of tasks. (734) 722-4700.

TRUCK DRIVERS SPARTAN STORES

Has openings for full time truck drivers. We offer a competitive wage and benefit package. A valid Class A-CDL operator's license is required. Candidates must have 3 years all weather driving experience and meet DOT qualifications. Qualified applicants should apply in person. Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM at 9075 Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI

ROUTER / DISPATCHER

Daily dispatching & reporting, using high end software. Maintaining detailed records & logs of department activities, dispatch trucks answer phone/radio.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelors degree in Business/MIS or related field minimum 2 yrs. in related industry
- Proficient in MS Office especially MS Excel & MS Access
- Ability to quickly adapt to changes in work environment

COMPENSATION:

- Salary based on experience
- 401K
- Complete medical care package

Send Resume to: skodi@ubcrlc.com

Security Officers & Armed Guards NOW HIRING

GSI

For Concerts, Festivals, Special Events

Livonia, Farmington, Novi Areas

Immediate Openings

Gallagher Security, Inc

9:00am-5:00pm (248) 322-9673

Call Monday through Friday

SHIPPING & RECEIVING / WAREHOUSE

Entry-level position. Excellent for recent high school grad. Must be self-motivated, w/good handwriting, communication skills. Requires good driving record. Downriver Refrigeration Supply, 38170 N. Executive Dr., Westland. Apply in person Tues/Thurs. 9:30 AM - 6 PM 734-728-0795

SIDING CREW

Hardie siding experience preferred. Call: 734-717-5927

Help Wanted-General 6000

SPRAY INSTALLERS

Gale Insulation - Masco contractor services is looking for exp. Spray Installers. Wixom/Beck area, N. of I96. Must have good driving record. Full benefit package offered. Call Vince 248-960-9777.

STILL SEARCHING?



For Career Marketplace on the front cover of the Employment section for more careers!

TILE PERSON - EXPERIENCED

Part-time for medium-size Westland apt. community. Must be a hard worker & willing to perform a variety of tasks. (734) 722-4700.

TRUCK DRIVERS SPARTAN STORES

Has openings for full time truck drivers. We offer a competitive wage and benefit package. A valid Class A-CDL operator's license is required. Candidates must have 3 years all weather driving experience and meet DOT qualifications. Qualified applicants should apply in person. Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM at 9075 Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 6020

BOOKKEEPER

Self-motivated individual to handle Accounts Payable/Receivable, job costing, other general accounting matters in a small West Bloomfield real estate investment office. Proficient in Peachtree, QuickBooks & Excel. 2 days/week. Salary commensurate with experience. Email resume to: slong@grantparry.net

CLERICAL Growing Oak Park company seeks individual with working knowledge of a small office environment

Pleasant phone manner, strong computer skills, and ability to multi-task a must. Knowledge of lumber and building materials a plus. Fax resume to: (248) 398-4038. Include salary requirements.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT WEIGHT WATCHERS

has a part-time (30 hrs/week) position available in our Farmington Hills corporate headquarters office-Sales Department. Proficiency with MS Word & Excel experience required. Great customer service skills and background in sales needed. Must have exceptional organizational skills, able to multi-task and willing to be flexible. Knowledge of the Weight Watchers Program is a definite plus! Email resume along with salary requirements to: NGRbeck@wvgroup.com or Fax 248-324-1502. EOE

CLERICAL-PART-TIME

For our outpatient services in Westland, evenings, weekends. High school diploma, good customer service, general office/organization skills. Send resume to: Hegra Programs, Inc., 8623 N. Wayne Rd., Ste 200, Westland, MI 48185

Clerical/Administrative

Earn \$12-\$48/hr. Full benefits, paid training. Positions with US Government available Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife and more! 1-800-320-9353 ext 2002.

FRONT DESK

South Oakland County tennis club seeks mature, energetic, team oriented staff member. Candidates must be detail oriented and possess the following skills: excellent communication skills and the ability to multi-task. Fulltime only M-Fri, 3pm-close. Medical benefit package available. Please fax resumes to: (248) 626-0947

LEGAL SECRETARY/ ASSISTANT

Farmington Hills Corporation seeks full-time Corporate Legal Secretary. Excellent typing, filing, computer and organizational skills are desired. Must be able to work independently. A positive attitude is a plus. Send resume to: [redacted] experience with a law firm preferred. Salary is negotiable. Generous benefit package provided. Our company is the leader in employee satisfaction. Please email resume to: Robert@cpartner.com or fax to Attention: Robert at 248-426-0641. View our company website at www.americanclaner.com

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

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Full time, energetic, friendly, self motivated individual needed to assist manager in growing a large, fast paced real estate office in Northville. Real estate experience a plus. Benefits included. Call Lloyd, 248-347-3050. Coldwell Banker Schweitzer

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 6020

RECEPTIONIST

Fulltime with benefits. Office in Livonia. General office duties. Call 734-464-3811 or fax 734-542-3711

RECEPTIONIST

Needed for busy family practice in Plymouth. Please send resume to P.O. Box 700890 Plymouth MI, 48170

RECEPTIONIST/ RENTAL CLERK

Truck Leasing Co. hiring full time Receptionist/Rental Clerk for busy Livonia office. Office, computer and positive phone skills required. Rental experience a plus. Fax resume to 313-584-5681 or Email: scurrier@trifcotruck.com

RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST

Wordperfect and Microsoft. Part time. Law office in Troy. Fax resume to 248-643-8462

Secretarial/ Computer Operator

Some technology background a +. For court reporting firm. Fax resume: 248-644-1120 Attn: Meredith

Help Wanted-Dental 6040

DENTAL / BUSINESS OFFICE

Need someone with Dentech computer experience, insurance knowledge and financial arrangements. Full time. Southfield area. Please Call: Marie 248-352-7722

DENTAL ASSISTANT

A Friendly & Quality oriented Livonia Prosthodontic office is looking to increase it's full-time staff. We are looking for an enthusiastic, dependable individual w/ some 4-handed dental assisting experience. Ann: (734) 427-6270

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Canton family practice. 25-30 hours per week. No evenings or weekends. Exp'd only. Fax resume to 734-455-1281

Dental Assistant

Friendly Farmington office seeking part time Dental Assistant Exp preferred Fax resume 248-478-9489

DENTAL ASSISTANT

OUTSTANDING Opportunity to join a progressive Novi dental office. We are looking for a personable, enthusiastic, hardworking individual to become a member of our top-notch team. We are a cosmetic & restorative practice that is growing and need a vibrant person to join us. Salary commensurate with experience. We also offer medical, dental, & retirement plans and vacation. We are open Mon-Fri. Thursday call our fax interested persons fax resume to 248-427-9007

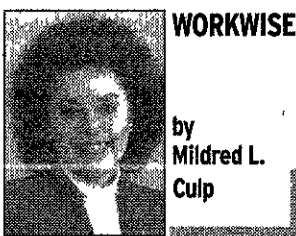
DENTAL HYGIENIST

Dependable outgoing person needed for Wed & Fridays Troy (248) 649-2868

DENTAL INSURANCE BILLER/RECEPTIONIST

Dental exp necessary, small

BANISHING THE CO-WORKER BLUES



WORKWISE
by Mildred L. Culp

You can't face the New Year working beside your lousy co-worker. She's been at the company for 25 years, not likely to be fired. Her mantra to you consists of "I used to" and "We used to." She usurps your authority. She's frozen and you're tired of the cold.

What's behind this? Bill Lee, president of Lee Resources Inc., in Greenville, S.C., comments that "corporations, when announcing a newly-hired manager, often make such lofty predictions (about the person) that current managers consciously or unconsciously hope he will fail."

The problem could also be psychological. Susan Hodgkinson of The Personal Brand Company in Boston points out that these behaviors "can often be traced to underlying needs the person has. Larger business issues have gotten lost in pursuit of her own preservation, safety and security. She undermines for validation, protecting her own space." Lawler Kang agrees. Author of "Passion at Work" (Prentice Hall, \$24.99), he says

that she may be a "curmudgeon who has lost passion, merely working for a paycheck, somewhat disenfranchised with the purpose, mission and passion of the group."

OPTIONS

You have them. It's never too late to make an ally. "Try to see things from the curmudgeon's point of view," Kang says. "Put yourself in her shoes. You don't want to necessarily see that she is fired, but you want to achieve a greater sense of harmony in the workplace." Lee agrees, saying, "Take time to understand where she's coming from." Then, he adds, replace the Golden Rule with the Platinum equivalent: "Show an interest in her -- family, interests, hobbies, background, etc. Talk to her about what SHE likes to talk about... HER interests. Even if you have to do some research at home at night, come to work armed with information that she would enjoy knowing about or discussing."

If the personal touch fails, ask for her advice. "To gain favorable attention," Lee states, "give it. Ask for permission to contact her for advice on situations -- 'I know you know the ropes.' Winning over a co-worker can be a lot like selling a prospective customer; so asking questions

can be quite effective." Remember the value of a shared lunch.

Another option is to speak with her directly about the problem, Hodgkinson and Lee state. Point out "that she's violating my lines of authority," the latter states. Hodgkinson mentions that, out of insecurity, she may deny that this is happening. Lee suggests that when someone goes to her to complain about you, the two of you should brainstorm to come up with the best response. Offer to do the same when someone comes to you with a complaint about her. He further adds that you might ask, "Could you find it in your heart to support me? If you don't, come to me, because I appreciate your insight and ideas." Consider recruiting her to your campaign for a high-impact contribution. Hodgkinson comments that she might see it as a way to reposition herself there.

If these tactics don't work, speak with your manager. Kang recommends beginning with the fact that you respect your co-worker's work, then asking what you and the manager can do to make you more productive. Hodgkinson suggests communicating that this problem is undermining your productivity, taking both of you away from customers. "Give



Bill Lee, president of Lee Resources Inc., suggest you take time to understand your co-worker

the manager options and ideas about what you could try," Kang states.

The last tactic to try: "If you've tried all of these suggestions and still nothing changes (or if no one is listening to you), re-evaluate your own position." Lee remarks that this may be her modus operandi with others, and if your manager says that the situation is your responsibility, you know what to do.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp comments upon the workplace in national media. Copyright 2005 Passage Media.)

Help Wanted-Dental 6040

DOCTOR/HYGIENE COORDINATOR
Full time, Southfield 2 yrs. exp. with pleasant personality & smiles offered. Great pay & bonuses-Dentrix. Fax resume. (248) 357-6014

FRONT OFFICE
Friendly, busy pediatric dental office in Novi seeking full-time individual with dental or accounts receivable experience. Must be detail oriented. Computer experience a must. Dentech experience helpful. No evenings. Benefits. (248) 478-3232

OFFICE MANAGER/TEAM LEADER
Upscale dental office in Southfield. Must have good treatment presentation skills & be enthusiastic, full time. Great pay and bonuses. Dentrix Fax resume 248-357-6014

Help Wanted-Medical 6060

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
Immediate, full time with benefits. Missy computer system. Madison Heights Warren area. Fax resume to Attn. Lynda 248-336-8479

NURSE MANAGER
Faith-based nursing home seeks experienced RN. Great pay & benefits. Fulltime Lutheran Home-Livonia 28910 Plymouth Road or fax resume. 734-425-6024 or call: 734-425-4814

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN
Part-time. Hospital experience required. Must be able to type. No weekends. Fax resume Strath Hospital Southfield, MI Attn: Pharmacist at: (248) 357-0915

RECEPTIONIST
Growing, private optometry practice in Novi seeking Part-Time person. Strong customer service & multi-tasking skills. Exp. a plus. Fax resume: 248-347-7801 or email drcrossman@toycare.com

Help Wanted-Medical 6080

LOOK FOR MORE
THE ONLY LISTING'S AT **CAREERBUILDER.COM**

STILL SEARCHING?
For Career MarketPlace on the front cover of the Employment section for more careers!
Observer & Eccentric

LPN

Busy medical office in Southfield seeks LPN. Must be caring and sensitive to patients needs. Excellent organizational skills and research experience a definite plus. Exec benefit package; includes: medical, dental, 401K & more. For immediate consideration, send resume to: Practice Administrator, 28080 Grand River Ave Suite 300 W Farmington Hills, MI. 48336

Medical Receptionist

For busy Westland practice. Seeking mature detail-oriented team player. Must be able to work independently and multi-task. Medical insurance background, computer and phone skills required. Full-time/benefits. Fax resume and cover letter to: 734-526-3876

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Part/Full-time in Dermatology office in Farmington Hills. Exp. a must. (248) 553-2900

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

EXP A MUST Two Dr family practices. Apr. 26 hrs/week. Westland area 734-729-1150

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Experience necessary, in Bingham Farms, benefits call Sharon at: (248) 646-5985

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Full or part time Experienced & Certified for Livonia Pediatric/Allergy office. Fax resumes (248) 855-5368

Help Wanted-Medical 6060

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
Immediate, full time with benefits. Missy computer system. Madison Heights Warren area. Fax resume to Attn. Lynda 248-336-8479

NURSE MANAGER
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Part-time. Hospital experience required. Must be able to type. No weekends. Fax resume Strath Hospital Southfield, MI Attn: Pharmacist at: (248) 357-0915

RECEPTIONIST
Growing, private optometry practice in Novi seeking Part-Time person. Strong customer service & multi-tasking skills. Exp. a plus. Fax resume: 248-347-7801 or email drcrossman@toycare.com

Help Wanted-Medical 6080

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NEW KING PILLOW TOP MATTRESS SET
New in bag, only \$250
Deliverable, 734-891-8481

BED - SPLIT KING SIZE BED
9 dresser w/ mirror, 5 drawer
bureau chest, 1 end table, mat-
tress & hardly used. Like new
cond \$700 248-651-0774

NOVI Tree top Meadow apts
Sat 9-3, 41980 Manor Park Dr
128 (N.W. Meadowbrook &
10 Mile) Entire contents of apt
Couch, dresser, dining table

WEDDING DRESS - Stunning,
satin, laced & beaded, w/ train
& plastic cover for small
frame, worth \$2000, asking
\$500. 248-417-1458

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offer Microwave (Sharp),
black, turn table, \$25.
Washer/Dryer, less than 1 yr.
old, \$300 248-666-5016

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
BED - A QUEEN PILLOW
TOP MATTRESS SET.
New in plastic, sell \$150.
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HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
BEDROOM FURNITURE
1940/50's - 2 dressers,
nightstand, and mirror \$200
248-546-6563

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
BEDROOM SET Dark wood, 2
twin beds, 6 drawer dresser
with mirror & nightstand
(734) 729-3078

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
BOOKS, Christmas Decora-
tions, oak finish storage cabi-
net, office supplies
734-728-2061

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
BRIARWOOD CHEST couch w/
2 loafers, table w/ 4 chairs,
tanning bed (you disassem-
ble) \$350 ea 248-477-2571

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
DINING ROOM table pecan
oval, 62 opens to 120", 6
chairs, 54" china cabinet,
\$550 248-477-3061

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
BED - KING SIZE \$300/best
offer Microwave (Sharp),
black, turn table, \$25.
Washer/Dryer, less than 1 yr.
old, \$300 248-666-5016

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DINING ROOM table pecan
oval, 62 opens to 120", 6
chairs, 54" china cabinet,
\$550 248-477-3061

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
FURNITURE - Dark oak king
frame w/new mattress,
armoire, 2 night stands,
dresser w/2 mirrors, \$1200.
Dark oak 6 ft. table, 3 leaves,
4 slide & 2 arm chairs, sar-
ver china cabinet, \$1000.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
FURNITURE - Lane dining
table, 6 chairs, china cabinet,
\$1000/best. Wood twin plat-
form bed w/drawers \$75 &
desk \$50 248-788-1100

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
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twin race car bed \$175.
Couch, loveseat, chair &
ottoman, neutral color \$200.
(734) 729-3078

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
FURNITURE Moving! Broynhill
couch exc cond, \$350, blue
& white. Matching blue
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\$450. Shirley 734-421-0955

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
FURNITURE Newer black
leather sofa, loveseat, 40"
ottoman, glass dining room
table & chairs, coffee tables,
complete bdrm, corner curio
248-737-2952

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FURNITURE-MOVING SALE
Must go now! New entertain-
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section couch, papasan
chairs Grandfather clock &
more Laura (248) 225-7171

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HIGH END CONTEMPORARY
FURNITURE Practically brand
new from Gormans Dining
room living room and family
room sets \$3500-3800

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china cabinet Pd \$3000 asking
\$975 734-367-0556

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Mirror, King w/ mattress &
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\$1K Hutch, glass w/ lites,
all oak, golden \$400 Roll Top
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HOUSEHOLD GOODS (7160)
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all rooms incl. 3 bdrm sets
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Singer, Heavy duty, for sale.
Good condition. (248) 352-
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WINE CELLAR CABINET 35w
x 25" d 85" h. 336+ bottle
storage. Temperature con-
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leave message

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Queen Anne style, Ethan
Allen Asking \$225/ both.
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FRIDGE - WHITE,
SIDE BY SIDE.
Exec cond \$350
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dryer, only used 3 months,
paid \$900 Selling for \$400
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Side-by-side Clean! \$290
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Appliances (7180)
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Dogs 7840

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The Hummer H3

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BY DALE BUSS

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Then, after General Motors bought the Hummer franchise a few years ago, the new owners sensibly extended the Hummer franchise downward in both size and price. Thus the H2 was smaller and significantly more affordable than the original Hummer, but it still created very much the sense of driving a fuel-hogging behemoth that everyone else on the road instinctively gave great sway.

But GM didn't get it quite right with H3. Its designers simply extended the shrinkage paradigm that Hummer had been using, making this vehicle yet again smaller than the H2 and more reasonably priced.

The problem is that they went one step too far and created a number of compromises from which the H3 - despite its heritage and its still-massive scale - can't fully recover. For those reasons, it's a vehicle that is difficult to recommend even though suggested retail prices start at about \$29,500, rising to about \$39,000 with all the factory options. That is a good \$10,000 to \$20,000 less than most H2s.

From the outside, at least, H3 cuts an impressive profile befitting the brand's outsized persona. The front bumper is big and beefy with a metal grate that is apparently meant to crash through feeble fences or mow down herds of wildebeests. H3 retains the extremely wide stance and low center of gravity that are so crucial to the form and function of its forebears. So you've got the same problems parking the vehicle as with the other two, and you're almost as likely to turn heads on the road.

Once you're inside, the feeling of physical invincibility - what one reviewer has called the "pillbox" effect - is still there in H3 just as with H1 and H2. But the problem with H3 is that the space the vehi-



H3 owners will enjoy the vehicles responsive handling and the power available from a five-cylinder, 3.5 - litre engine.

cle interior has to work with has been reduced, and some of the problems of shrinking the Hummer format finally come into play.

For example, while the huge sunroof overhead the front seats is wonderful in H3, other aspects of front seating are not. I found that the clearance available under the top of the front door opening, for the driver to slide into his seat, is way too low; it's actually physically difficult for a normal-height man like me, of normal dexterity, to get into that seat easily. The lack of a running board, and yet the reasonably great height of the trip from the ground to the front door, contribute to the difficulty. And I'm part of the market that H3 wants!

Things worsen as you move back inside the vehicle. The door opening to the second row of seats, front to back, is cut too short on the bottom rear, meaning that it's even more difficult for second-row passengers to enter the vehicle than it is for front-row occupants. And once they're inside, second-row passengers will find H3's seats not all that spacious or comfortable, and the so-called fifth-passenger seat actually has convex-shaped upholstery.

And when you go to the very rear of the vehicle, you'll find that the rear door is far too difficult to close, probably because the spare tire's weight on the door makes it so. Also, it doesn't swing all the way open, 180 degrees from its closed position, as the massive rear door on the H2 does.

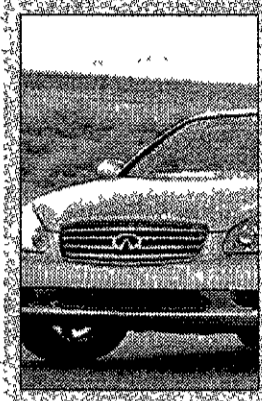
Other shortcomings include the fact that the windows are extremely short top to bottom, making it difficult for rear passengers to see out.

For all of those logistical obstacles, H3 owners will enjoy the vehicle's responsive handling and the power available from a five-cylinder, 3.5-liter engine that makes H3 a very comfortable cruiser at highway speeds, rated at 220 horsepower overall. And in a dramatic departure for this brand at least, H3's fuel mileage comes in at 16 miles a gallon in the city and 19 on the highway for the automatic-transmission version, one mpg better in each category for the manual.

In any event, GM should stop the shrinkage process with H3 and find some other way to modify the Hummer line.

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