

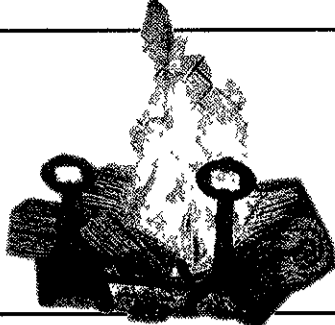
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Home is where the hearth is

AT HOME, PAGE B1



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THURSDAY December 22, 2005

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Holy land

Growing number of churches attracted to Canton

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

In buildings big and small, in churches and homes throughout the township, God is alive and well. This year, there has been a little explosion of church development in Canton, with four new buildings working their way through the planning process.

They will add to the 29 brick-and-mortar churches currently in the township, according to Jeff Goulet, township planner. And they are only part of the story. Goulet said it's impossible to tell how many congregations are meeting in places other than a church.

"These small start-up churches are everywhere," said Township Supervisor Tom Goulet. "They meet at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. They meet in schools. They meet at the Summit on the Park. They meet in people's homes. They sometimes even meet in other churches."

What holds them back from building a new church is likely the cost of land in Canton, which has become very expensive.

"We've had so much growth that land is becoming harder to find, especially parcels that would be large enough for a church. That means it's getting expensive, and when you're a small congregation, it's hard to raise enough money to put a building of any kind," Yack said.

The growth of churches in Canton has kept pace with the population growth, Yack said. The fact that four new congregations are in the planning and building process now has probably more to do with the fact that it took a long time for them to raise money, and by coincidence they were all ready to submit plans at the same time, he added.

"We're always dealing with churches here and there. They just came on the (Planning Commission) agendas all at once," Goulet said.

"We've been pretty much working with this group of churches for years. As the community grows and the population grows you're going to have an increased

PLEASE SEE CHURCHES, A3

'We welcome everyone.'

Pastor David Washington
Canton Christian Fellowship Church



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pastor David Washington Jr. displays site plans for the new Canton Christian Fellowship Church, which is expected to open next month.

Pastor sees Canton as the promised land

BY KURT KUBAN STAFF WRITER

When Pastor David Washington Jr. decided he was going to start his own church in his native metro Detroit, he knew right from the beginning he wanted it to be in Canton. He says it is what God had wanted him to do.

Next month, Washington expects to fulfill his pledge to the Almighty and open the doors of the Canton Christian Fellowship Church, which is located in the old state unemployment office at Joy Road and Ronda Drive. When he does, it will mark the culmination of long journey for Washington and his fledgling church.

The actual beginnings of the church took place in St. John Neumann Catholic Church in 2000, when Washington started a Bible study group. Back then, there were only 10 adults and 10 children, but the group quickly grew to twice that number. Since then, they have moved around a bit, first to the Canton CrossWinds Church in 2001 and to Eriksson Elementary School a year later.

Ever since, the congregation has been housed in the Good Shepherd Reformed Church in Westland, which they have shared with two other church



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Christian Fellowship, which will move from a temporary site in Westland, has renovated the former state unemployment office on Joy Road east of Lilley.

congregations.

"We chose that location because they had two sanctuaries over there. We went over there with a total of 35 people and quickly grew to 160. We have outgrown that facility," Washington said.

Washington, who is the son of a Baptist minister, grew up in Southfield and is a 1989 graduate of Birmingham Brother Rice, where he starred in basketball. He landed an athletic scholarship to play for Johnny Orr at Iowa State University, and he had dreams

PLEASE SEE PASTOR, A3

of becoming a professional basketball player.

He ended up transferring and ultimately graduating from Grand Rapids Baptist College (now Cornerstone University) with a business marketing degree. After college he landed a marketing job with Ford Motor Company and ended up in California. He also married his childhood sweetheart, Errica McPherson, who also grew up in Southfield. Together they have

"That's because Canton is such a young community," he said. This year the church baptized 200 people and will confirm 140 teenagers.

"The biggest challenge for me is getting more adult education

PLEASE SEE MISSION, A3

Catholic church's mission stays same as town changes

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

As the Canton community has grown, so has its largest Catholic church, St. Thomas à Becket. But despite growth and change, its mission has remained fairly constant, according to the

congregation's minister, Fr. Patrick Casey.

"The transitions in the community haven't changed my perspective," Casey said. "People move in and out and the players may change but the mission of the church does not. The mission is pretty stable."

Where the challenges lie is adapting services to meet the needs of the church community. Most churches, Casey said, have twice as many funerals in one year as they do weddings. But St. Thomas à Becket has just the opposite, with twice as many weddings as funerals.

Police search for cause behind fire

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

The investigation of a fire that damaged a Canton dry cleaning business, along with four other businesses earlier this month, is now out of the hands of the fire department and into the hands of the police.

"The detective bureau is handling that now," said Fire Chief Mike Rorabacher, adding that the fire investigation team, made up of fire and police personnel, investigates all fires. Rorabacher said he could not make comments about possible causes of the fire, which occurred Dec. 10 at a dry cleaning business located at 1690 S. Lilley, just north of Palmer Road.

The fire that did the damage to the building was the second fire at Leader Shirt Laundry on Dec. 10, Rorabacher said.

The first call came to the fire department just before 4 p.m., he said.

"The first fire was an accidental fire. The owner was doing some work on the building, some kind of cutting, and a small fire broke out," Rorabacher said.

Firefighters were on the scene for about an hour and a half, inspecting and clearing the building.

"Then we got a second call for service at that location," Rorabacher said. "That was at about 7:40 p.m. It was a significantly larger fire. That fire is currently under investigation. There was not a lot of structural damage but there was significant exposure damage to four different stores there."

The cause and origin of the fire is still being determined, according to Canton Police Sgt. Rick Pomorski.

Investigators have taken samples of materials in the building, and they have been sent to a laboratory for analysis.

"What's interesting in fire investigation, what we look for is burned up. It's that much more difficult to sift through clues," Pomorski said.

In the meantime, Canton chiropractor Dennis McCormack, whose office is adjacent to the dry cleaner's location in the Lilley Road strip mall, has had to relocate, due to the smoke and water damage his office sustained.

PLEASE SEE FIRE, A7

District restructures to reach failing students

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

Although Van Buren Public Schools administrators say the statistics regarding student performance and drop out are improving, they also said there is much room for improvement. The improvements will

'I think there's been a dawning recognition over the past five years that we could better meet our students' needs if we restructured.'

Kevin Kelly
Belleville High School Principal

come, officials hope, by adding a seventh class to Belleville High School's school day.

Earlier this month the Board of Education unanimously approved the plan to add another class period, beginning in the fall.

"I think there's been a dawning recognition over the past five years that we could better meet our students' needs if we restructured," Belleville High School Principal Kevin Kelly said.

"We looked at services, data of student achievement, took input and trends in education in general, and they all came together."

What the data pointed to was the expanded curriculum, which will enable students to take five more classes during the four years they are in high school, as well as allowing time for teachers to meet and collaborate to improve student performance, Kelly said. The teaching staff will have frequent periods

PLEASE SEE DISTRICT, A7

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Coming Sunday in PINK



Gear up for the season with PINK Picks from the North Pole

Holiday closings

All Canton Township offices are closed Friday, Dec. 23, through Monday, Dec. 26, and Friday, Dec. 30 through Monday, Jan. 2.

House approves bill

The Job Provider Bill of Rights, a 12-bill package aimed at reducing bureaucratic costs for Michigan businesses and cutting red tape, was approved by the State House earlier this month. Wayne County Republican lawmakers, including Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton, said they supported the package because it is an important step in Michigan's economic recovery.

"We listened to area businesses that told us they need help to survive," LaJoy said. "This package clears away numerous regulations and cuts through the red tape that is increasing costs that could be better spent on hiring new workers."

According to LaJoy, the Job Provider Bill of Rights seeks to make the Michigan Department of Treasury a partner, not a problem, for job providers by creating a stable tax structure and providing greater efficiency when working with the department. The package is aimed at streamlining the tax administrative process, freeing employers from the excessive regulation which costs valuable resources. Bills in the package address several issues, including protecting taxpayers from retroactive regulations, bulletins and letter rulings issued by the Michigan Department of Treasury and giving taxpayers the right to an informal conference if the Department of Treasury issues a refund denial or issues a credit audit.

Master plan on Web

Canton's Comprehensive Master Plan is now available on the Planning Services page on the township's Web site at www.canton-mi.org. The Comprehensive Plan is a general, long-range "blue-print" for development, which promotes high-quality orderly growth for Canton Township.

The plan is comprised of a general historical perspective and profile of the community; an analysis of population, housing and employment trends; and an analysis of existing land use patterns, physical development and public facility constraints. The plan also includes goals, objectives, policies and strategies for future land use, the transportation network, public utilities, and recreational facilities.

It is the intent of the plan's goals, objectives and policies will reflect Canton's overall vision for the community's future and provide a valuable decision-making tool for the Planning Commission, Township Board of Trustees and the staff.

For questions regarding the Comprehensive Plan contact Canton's Planning Services at (734) 394-5170.

New consultant



Bilco

Kimberly Bilco, of Canton, has been named business services consultant for ONE's Financial, a subsidiary of Credit Union ONE, which is headquartered in Ferndale. Her responsibilities will include presenting education seminars on investing and financial planning.

Most recently, she served for nine years as a financial advisor for Raymond James and Associates Inc. in Ann Arbor and Dearborn. Her responsibilities included managing comprehensive financial portfolios for individuals and businesses with a focus on tax advantaged investing, retirement planning and asset distribution strategies.

A Michigan native, Bilco earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan. She resides in Canton with her husband, Jim, and two children, Christopher, 4, and Christina, 16 months.

Bilco is also a former president of the Allen Park Rotary Club and is a personal finance instructor at Washtenaw Community College.

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 on Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. 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 Hanford, (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.



A monumental effort

When Plymouth-Canton Schools called a snow day on Dec. 15, Canton High senior Andy Larsen (from left) of Plymouth, Plymouth High senior Jim Wilbur of Canton, and Mike Conley, a Canton resident home on break from Central Michigan University, had a snowball fight and then decided to build this behemoth snowman at Wilbur's home. Wilbur's mother, Jan Wilbur, said the boys had a great time and the neighbors "had fun watching this giant snowman rise."

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 Rawles, 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 pick-up

Residents can expect their trash pick-up 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.

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.

Youth 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 talent 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.

American Legion

The American Legion - Westland Post 251 meet at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month at the Westland V.F.W. Post 3323 located on Wayne Road at Avondale, just north of Palmer Road.

Membership is open to all veterans providing they meet the eligibility dates.

For information call (734) 326-2607.

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Physical Therapy UPDATE
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 Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy
PULLING YOUR OWN LEG
 Those who run indoor track and play indoor soccer may be familiar with the injury known as a pulled groin (groin strain). The groin muscles, called the "adductor muscle" group, are composed of five muscles that span the distance from the inner pelvis to the inner part of the femur (thigh bone). These muscles pull the legs together and help with hip movements. When the adductor muscles are stretched too far, a groin pull (strain) occurs. Treatment of this injury is guided by its severity. Rest is key to successful treatment. Application of ice to the affected area during the acute phase is also very helpful. In time, gentle stretching should be undertaken, but not to the point of pain. Great strain often occurs when you make a sudden sideways movement while rotating your leg and is very common amongst athletes. It can also occur as an over-use injury with symptoms including bruising or swelling in the area, pain or tenderness along the inner side of your thigh or pain when you bring your legs together. If you are in need of treatment for this or a similar injury call the HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY at 455-8370. We are located at 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth. We have easy access and parking. New patients are gladly accepted.
 PS: Modalities such as ultrasound, therapeutic massage, and specific exercises may help speed recovery from a groin strain.
 Johan Cornuth, PT
 Mark Minsbergen, PT
 Bob Schoemaker, PT

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MISSION

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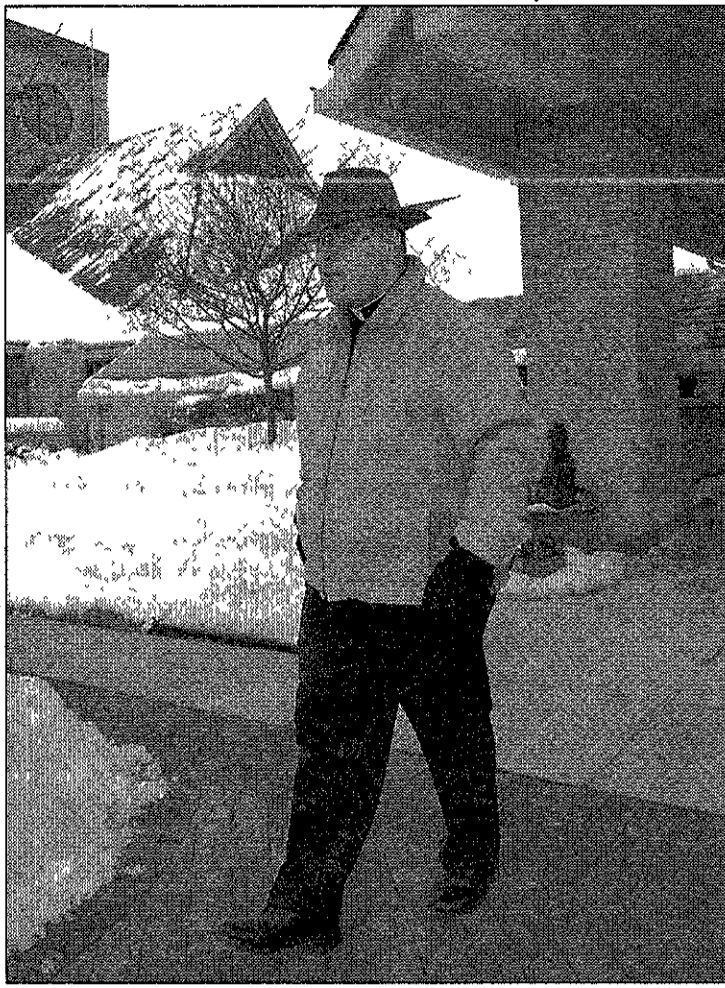
going," Casey said.

The church was born out of rapid growth, which has remained constant. Originally part of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, which was growing so fast it couldn't keep up with the demands for youth education, and in the early 1970s, part of the congregation formed St. John Neumann, Canton's first Catholic church. Soon after, in 1975, the property for St. Thomas á Becket was purchased. By 1977, the Archdiocese of Detroit had called a meeting of pioneer families and assigned Fr. Ernest Pocari to start a new parish, according to Catherine Piasta, who has since 1982 been the office manager for religious education.

"The road out here (on Lilley at Cherry Hill) was all dirt road, and the parking lots weren't paved. After Sunday services, it looked like 'Mud City' in here," she said. At that time, there were 500 member families. Today there are more than 3,500. The church has undergone two major expansions, first in 1998, then again in 2001. Today, the church has 25 classrooms, two cry rooms off the sanctuary, and a full gymnasium, as well as ample office space and a large area to gather after services. It's a far cry from when she had to set up chairs every Monday for make-shift classrooms all around the church, then put them away every Thursday.

"This is the largest parish of all the Archdiocese of Detroit parishes in Wayne County," Piasta said.

Despite its large membership, and eight scheduled masses a week, the church has never had more than one priest. It seems to get by with a layperson staff of some 20 full- and part-time employees, as well as hundreds of volunteers. There was a time, before the Second Vatican Council in 1962, when a church of St. Thomas á Becket's size would have required six or seven priests, Casey said. But since the council allowed for laypeople to fulfill many functions of a pastor, the church is able to



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Father Patrick Casey on his way to an appointment at another parish.

thrive with just one priest.

Religious education for the church's 1,200 young people is already strong, said Piasta. More than 100 volunteers work with the youth in educational programs - held Monday through Thursday evenings and on Sundays for the younger children - at the church.

And there are active youth groups for the young people, as well as a number of groups for the over-50 set.

"Paradigm to the activities is a quilting group which calls themselves the Stab 'n Poke group," Casey said. They meet regularly, for socializing as well as service, helping each other with their own quilts, but also making some to donate to social service organizations, and for raffle fundraisers at St. Thomas á Becket as well as other parishes.

"We also hold community events from time to time, to keep the church community like a tight-knit family," said Cathy Hulett, an administrative assistant to the parish



Cathy Piasta has been the office manager for religious education at St. Thomas á Becket since 1982.

office who has also been a member of the church for 20 years. "Sometimes we need social events that are purely social. I don't consider this just St. Thomas á Becket. I view this also as a family."

cmsharr@hometownlife.com
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PASTOR

FROM PAGE A1

five children -- four daughters and a son.

Although he was leading a cushy corporate life, Washington says the ministry was never too far from his mind. He said it became more and more evident to him that God wanted him to become a minister and form his own church, and in 1998 he "surrendered to the call." So he began attending seminary school to become an ordained minister.

It then became a matter of where. Washington says he and his wife prayed daily to determine where God wanted them to form a church. He had his sights set on the Dallas area, while his wife was hoping for Memphis, Tenn.

"Then one day I asked her what God was telling her. When she said her prayers were telling her to come home to Detroit, I told her to pray a little harder," Washington says,

with a chuckle. "But in my heart I knew that's what God wanted."

Once that decision was made, Washington said God was pointing him toward Canton, even though he didn't know much about the community. Once he did a little research, Washington realized why. Canton was attractive because it has a diverse population, which is something Washington is also hoping to have with his church. Currently, of the church's 60 families, Washington said most are black, but there are seven white families, something he hopes will expand as the church grows. About 70 percent of the congregation lives in Canton.

"Our dream has always been to be a multi-ethnic church," he said. "God has given me the opportunity to be around all kinds of people. Having gone through all the experiences I have, I believe God was setting me up for what he had planned for my life, and that is to reach all kinds of people."

They couple moved to

Canton in September of 2000, and began the Bible study group two months later.

Washington says he has been looking for property in Canton for some time, but land prices have risen so drastically he began to give up hope. Then he found the old unemployment office, which his congregation has transformed into a 235-seat church. He hopes to have the first service on Jan. 22, he said.

Canton Christian Fellowship's symbol is a lighthouse, something Washington takes seriously.

"A lighthouse is a beacon, and it doesn't discriminate. It doesn't care if you are a black boat, a white boat, or a blue boat. That's the way I feel about our church. We welcome everyone," he said.

For more information about Canton Christian Fellowship Church, which is located at 6775 Ronda Drive, call (734) 721-9322 or visit the Web site, www.cantoncf.org.

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Members of CrossWinds Church in Canton recently broke ground for a new 15,000 square foot church on Cherry Hill Road. The church is just one of many that has chose to call Canton home in recent years.

CHURCHES

FROM PAGE A1

demand just as you would for daycare or anything else."

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Churches require special land use approval from the planning commission and township board, Goulet said. There are site size and road frontage requirements for churches.

"They have to be on their own site, a free-standing building. A church can't be in a strip center due to parking requirements," Goulet said. Setbacks for churches are a minimum of 25 feet because very often they're built in residential areas and hug up to back yards. They have to be on a paved road with at least 56 feet of right of way, which means they can be built only on county roads.

"In other words, they can't be buried in the middle of a subdivision," Goulet said.

In addition to the special land use approval, churches also require site plan approval.

One of the four congregations working its way through the planning process this year has been the township's first Sikh temple, which will be on Canton Center Road near Geddes, nearly across the street from the township's newest Hindu temple.

The Sikh temple's special land use application was approved in August and site plans will be submitted this winter, according to Gurmukh Singh, one of the temple members who is organizing the fund-raising and construction efforts.

"The process is coming along OK, and the plans are ready and will be presented next month or perhaps February," Singh said. But groundbreaking is at least six months off.

Singh and other temple members have raised approximately \$500,000 of the estimated \$3 million in construction costs for the 8,000-

square-foot building. It will take six-12 months to raise enough to get the project going, Singh said.

But he's hopeful that the groundbreaking could be as early as April or May, and once the temple is built, he's expecting it to be a thriving religious center.

"There are 400-500 Sikh families in this area. I expect that about 200 of them will be members," he said. "It should be a nice size community."

RENTING DIFFICULT

Until then, the temple's future members have been meeting in homes throughout the township, and occasionally are able to rent space, Singh said. But renting space is increasingly difficult because the group must meet in facilities that don't allow alcohol or tobacco.

"We're looking forward to having a more permanent meeting place," he said.

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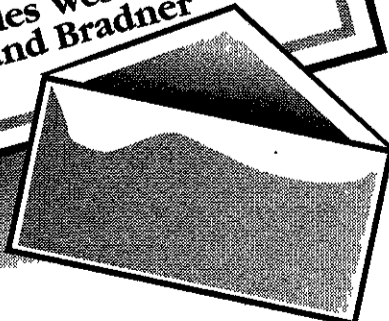
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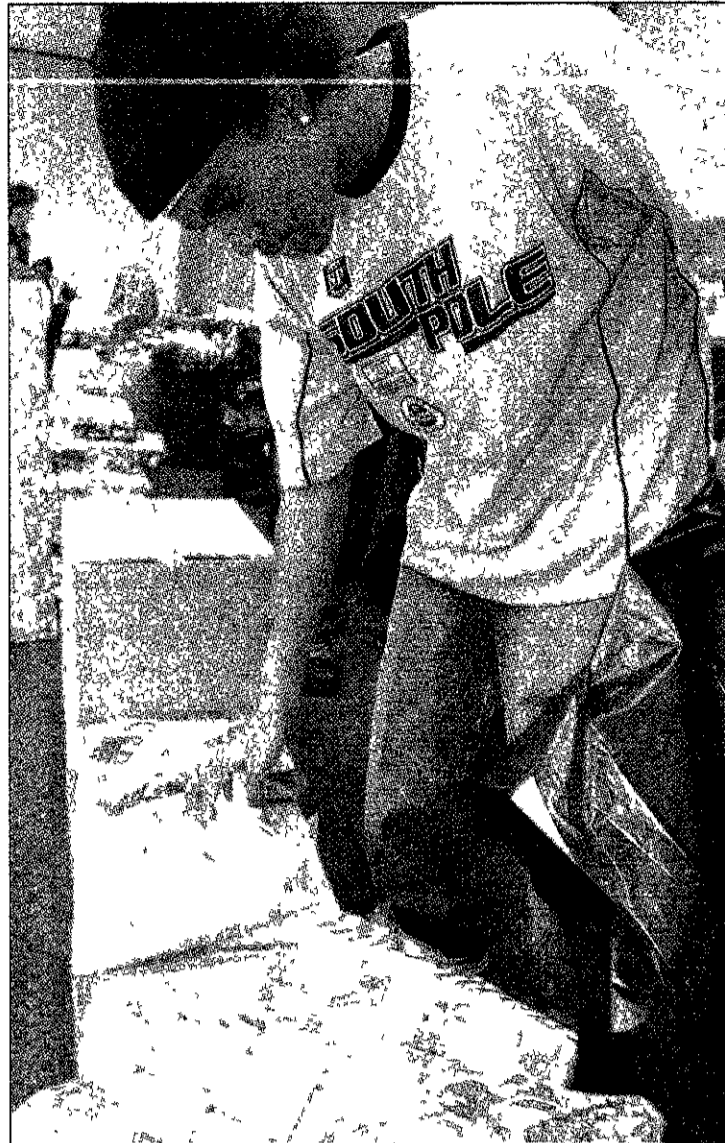
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Students lend helping hand(s) to Canton Goodfellows



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Salem junior Royce Dickson sorted and bagged up the donated gifts, which volunteers delivered to Canton families over the weekend.

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Dozens of Plymouth-Canton high school and middle school students were just some of the volunteers who did their part in helping provide Christmas cheer to hundreds of needy families in the Canton community.

According to Canton Area Goodfellows President Nancy Spencer, about 60 students met at the library last week and volunteered to sort and wrap gifts that were donated to the organization in its mission to provide Christmas to every child.

Spencer said other 50 or so volunteers delivered the gifts over the weekend, dropping in on 176 families, including some 500 children. They also provided packages for two dozen senior citizens.

"We were so grateful to have so many wonderful volunteers," said Spencer, who praised Canton's giving spirit. "We just had a spectacular response from the community - so many toys and food. It was incredible. People were so generous with their time and talents."

Spencer, who has been involved with the Goodfellows for 30 years, said seeing some of the children receive gifts that they probably wouldn't have otherwise received brings real joy to her heart.

"These kids belong to us."



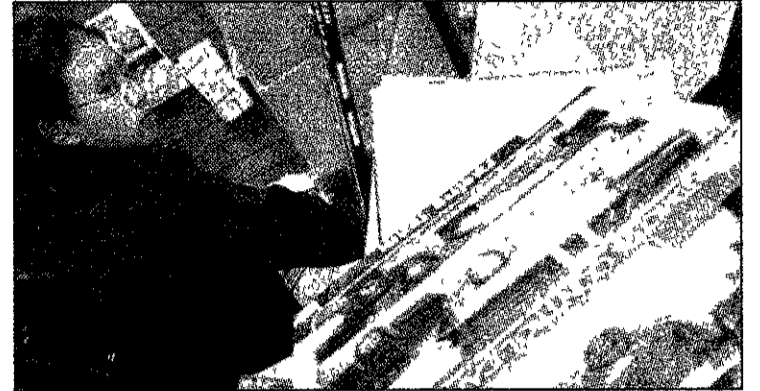
Plymouth Salem sophomores Stephanie Mifsud, left, and Sarah Bugosh helped the Goodfellows wrap donated gifts last week at the Canton Public Library.

You can't let them go with a Christmas. It's just not something in my upbringing to let that happen," she said.

"It's the greatest feeling when you know these kids are going to wake up on Christmas morning with some gifts to open."

Spencer said the Goodfellows are still in need of donations to help pay some bills.

All donations can be sent to the Canton Goodfellows, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, Mi 48188.



Plymouth Salem sophomore Candy Wong was one of about 60 high school and middle school students who helped the Goodfellows wrap gifts at the library last week.

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Officer's work earns praise from the FBI

Canton Police Officer Patricia Esselink earned recognition this week from FBI Director Robert Mueller III for outstanding assistance in a joint investigative effort in July that led to the arrest of a suspected bank robber in Grand Rapids. FBI agents had reason to believe the suspect, a 50-year-old Plymouth Township man, had been involved in a previous robbery in February at the same bank, at which time the suspect held bank employees at gunpoint, locked them into the bank vault, and escaped with a substantial amount of cash. Agents in Grand Rapids obtained a Canton address for the suspect and contacted Canton Police to assist in a search warrant at the suspect's residence. When agents and Canton officers tried to locate the residence they discovered the address to be a fake. At this

point, Officer Esselink began to investigate and track down a good address for the suspect. Officer Esselink located a Plymouth Township address for the suspect and notified the FBI agents. Together FBI agents and officers from Plymouth Township went to the suspect's residence and discovered a woman about to destroy evidence that tied the suspect to the initial bank robbery in February. Currently the suspect is being charged with both bank robberies. If he is found guilty he could be sentenced up to 20 years in prison. FBI Special Agent John R. Shoup and Special Agent Chris Johnson agreed the investigative efforts by Officer Esselink were instrumental to their case. Plymouth Township officers received awards as well for their efforts in assisting the FBI on this case.

Gov. Granholm signs online wine legislation

Gov. Jennifer Granholm last week signed legislation that will allow Michigan and out-of-state wineries to ship their products directly to customers in limited amounts. "Protecting Michigan wineries means protecting Michigan jobs," Granholm said. "This legislation represents a compromise that will comply with the Supreme Court and, more importantly, protect our local economies." In May, the United States Supreme Court declared unconstitutional Michigan and New York state laws regulating the sale of wine. In both cases, in-state wineries were allowed to ship directly to consumers, retailers and restaurants while out-of-state wineries were not.

The legislation will allow licensed wineries to ship up to 1,500 nine-liter cases, or 13,500 liters total, directly to customers each year. The bills also put regulations in place to ensure that minors cannot get access to wine through direct shipment and allow the Liquor Control Commission to charge an annual license fee of up to \$100 to help fund the regulation of direct shipping vendors. Michigan's grape and wine industry contributes more than \$75 million each year to the state's economy, according to a study conducted by Michigan State University in 2000. With 42 wineries and more than 1,300 acres of land dedicated to growing wine

SUV rams into school bus

Canton police questioned a Plymouth man after he ran his SUV into a school bus on Dec. 12. According to police reports, the driver of the bus said she felt the truck run into the bus, and pulled over in front of Plymouth High School so she could exchange information with the other driver. But the other driver pulled into the nearby subdivision and sped away, she said. So the bus driver also pulled into the subdivision, but the man was driving away. Students on the bus wrote down the license plate number of the SUV and police tracked down the driver. He said he knew he had run into the bus because the roads were slippery. However, the investigating officer recalled that there had been no snow or rain that day. The SUV driver said he did not have room to pull onto the shoulder of the road, even though the school bus did, so he pulled into the subdivision, parked and waited but the bus never showed up. Police informed him that his

report contradicted witness accounts. The man also told police that he didn't believe that damage to the bus could equal \$400, like the repair estimate said. The officer told him he should be more concerned about possibly injuring the children on the bus and issued him a ticket for careless driving.

DOGS ATTACK MAN
A Redford delivery man was attacked by three dogs when he was trying to make a furniture delivery the morning of Dec. 17 in the 49000 block of Flushing. According to Canton police reports, he was making the delivery of furniture when the three dogs, who live in the house, jumped on him. He had lacerations on his index finger. The owner is looking for paperwork to verify that the dogs' shots are up to date.

MAILBOX CRASH
A West Bloomfield woman was ticketed for leaving the scene of an accident after she struck a mailbox on Stratford

in Canton. According to police reports, the owner of the mailbox, which was on top of a brick pedestal, called police on Dec. 17 when he discovered the extensive damage. Police noted that the mailbox was destroyed and there were pieces of black plastic on the ground near the mailbox. Officers looked around the neighborhood for a car with fresh damage, and found one parked nearby. They tracked the owner of the car and contacted him by phone. He said his daughter was driving the car and had already called him about the accident. Police tracked down the driver, who was visiting a friend in Canton that evening. She said she had run into the mailbox, but didn't know what to do, so she went to her friend's house. The friend knows the owner of the mailbox and said that since it was late, she'd wait until the next day to talk to him. The woman was issued a ticket.

NICKELED AND DIMED
A Canton convenience store

clerk called police after someone stole a hurricane relief donation jar from the counter.

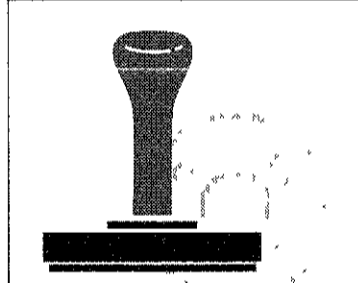
According to police reports, a man walked into the 7-Eleven store on Michigan Avenue on Dec. 17, just before 11 p.m. and asked for a carton of cigarettes. He asked for a brand that the store does not carry. He then asked for a package of chewing tobacco. When the clerk turned around to get the man the tobacco, the man grabbed the jar with the money in it, and ran out of the store. Police are reviewing the store surveillance videos.

ALCOHOL STING
The Canton Police Department's Special Enforcement Unit conducted an alcohol sales check last week. A total of eight businesses were checked and none sold alcohol to a minor. The businesses that were checked are: Cantonian Market, Meijer, Outback Steakhouse, TC Gators, CVS on Haggerty, Oakview Party Store and Shark Club.

Carol Marshall

FOR THE RECORD

- A**
Ray M. Alexander
Alexander, 79, of Clarkston, died Dec. 18.
- B**
Luwana Bond (nee Wheeler)
Bond, 81, died Dec. 14.
- D**
Gordon F. Donaldson
Donaldson, 66, died Dec. 15.
- E**
Charles E. Drivers
Driver, 76, of Canton, died Dec. 18.
- H**
Jack C. Hutchinson
Hutchinson, 89, of Holland, formerly of Birmingham, died Dec. 15.
- K**
Stuart Klockow
Klockow, 88, of Canton, died Dec. 19.
- L**
Edward Hodson Lerchen
Lerchen, 85, of Grand Rapids, died Dec. 14.
- N**
Lena M. Nicholson



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 B5.

Nicholson, 96, of Birmingham, formerly of Royal Oak and West Bloomfield, died Dec. 16.

P
Susan Peacock
Peacock, of Livonia, died Dec. 13.



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Cantonites make mixed bag of holiday wishes

This week, the Canton Observer staff asked a number of people in the Canton community about their Christmas wishes.

They ranged from township officials like Tom Yack and Todd Caccamo, to residents like Pat Wojciak, a retiree, and Charlie Mott, who is also involved with the Canton Lions Club.

Here are their responses:
■ Tom Yack
 Canton Township supervisor, who is expecting his second grandchild any day.

"Of course dad's wish is for the baby to come before the new year," he said. "I've already got my Christmas wish. My son and his girlfriend will be able to make it here from San Francisco for the holidays. She can only stay for about 42 hours, but he will be here for three days."

"And we are always blessed because we have a number of older aunts and uncles who we get to spend Christmas with. We consider ourselves blessed every year we get to share one more Christmas with them."

■ Todd Caccamo
 Township trustee
 "I wish our national leaders would gain some wisdom and learn that you can't trade freedom for security," he said. "I

also want the Christ back in Christmas. And of course a plasma TV. I have to wish for something for me, too."

■ Jim Ryan
 Superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Schools
 "I wish people in the community that support Plymouth-Canton Schools enjoy the peace of the holiday season and have a healthy, prosperous new year."

■ Charlie Mott
 President, Canton Lions Club
 "The only wish I have is that I could have more time to do more things. The days run so short I don't have enough time to get everything that I try to get done."

■ Jon LaFever
 Canton Township director of Youth Programs
 "My Christmas wish this year is that every service club, group, or organization would receive enough resources from the community to provide all of our struggling families with the things they need to get them through the holiday season," he said. "The Canton Goodfellows have the right idea with their 'No Child Without a Christmas' project, but they need help, as do the

Salvation Army and all of the other wonderful service providers we have right here in our own backyard."

■ Pat Wojciak
 A Canton retiree
 "My wish is that everyone stays healthy. I don't need anything else."

■ Lisa Grasso
 Member of the Canton Downtown Development Authority
 "My wish is to make the I-275 corridor better than any corridor. I also wish for peace for Andrew."

■ Dan McCausland
 Co-owner of Mac's Auto Service, who has been locked in a battle with the township over ordinance violations at his property on Lotz Road
 "I wish the township of Canton could get along with its businesses and select one business over another. I'll be glad just to remain in business next year."

■ Nancy Richter
 Marketing director for Orchestra Canton, and a Canton resident
 "My wish is that all Canton residents discover the beauty and joy of the music performed by Orchestra Canton."



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@ THE LIBRARY

The Canton Public Library will be closed Dec. 24-26. The library is also closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Visit our online branch, www.cantonpl.org, to renew materials and place holds, access databases and our catalog.

The adult reference librarians at the Canton Public Library have pulled together the best resources about heart disease and congenital heart defects -- books, videos and even Web sites. They make up a new special multimedia collection that's intended to help individuals and families confront this serious disease. Find it online at www.cantonpl.org/specialc/heart.html/

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

■ Winter Crafts: Dec. 28, 10 a.m.- noon. Children ages 4-8 are invited to stop by and make something fun with materials from the Scrap Box. No registration required.

TEEN PROGRAMS

■ Chess Club: Thursdays at 4 p.m. No advanced registration required.
 ■ Teen Tuesday: Meet at 3 p.m. for fun, games, crafts and snacks.

NEW MATERIALS

Adult Fiction
 ■ *Road to Paradise* by Max Allan Collins
 ■ *A Grave Man* by David Roberts

■ *The Constant Princess* by Philippa Gregory

Adult Non-Fiction
 ■ *ReelViews: The Ultimate Guide to the Best 1000 Modern Movies on DVD and Video* by James Berardinelli
 ■ *Frommer's Portable London 2006* by Darwin Porter
 ■ *5K and 10K Training* by Brian Clarke

Adult DVD
 ■ *Cinderella Man*
 ■ *Fantastic 4*
 ■ *March of the Penguins*

Teen Books
 ■ *Meant to Be* by Melody Carlson
 ■ *Dragon Knights* by Mineko Ohkami

■ *Tuxedo Gin, Vol. 13 & 14* by Tokihiko Matsuura

Children's Fiction
 ■ *The Letter Home* by Timothy Decker
 ■ *Gifted* by Beth Evangelista

Children's Picture Books
 ■ *The Biggest Job of All* by Harriet Ziefert
 ■ *Me and My Sister* by Ruth Ohi
 ■ *The Hair Scare* by Jeffrey Fisher

@ 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.

Home alone?

St. Dunstan's ready to serve its annual Christmas dinner

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It's a tradition that dates back more than 30 years.

On Christmas Day, members of St. Dunstan Church in Garden City welcome anyone who will be alone for the holiday to come to the church for dinner -- turkey and ham and all the fixins'.

It used to be that 200 people would show up, but over the years, the number has dipped to where, a week before Christmas, only 50 people have signed up to attend.

"We expect 150 every year, so we'll cook for 150," said Mary Shurge, a member of St. Dunstan's who helps with the dinner. "I'm not sure why the number is diminishing. It could be that a lot of the senior communities probably now have their own dinners."

The dinner has been a tradition at St. Dunstan's for almost four decades and attracts guests from around the Detroit metropolitan area as the result of notices sent to area churches. It's believed to be the only dinner that is actually held on Christmas Day, and estimates are that 75 percent of the guests are from outside St.

Dunstan's parish. Shurge and her husband, John, and two children were introduced to the dinner in 1966 when they were invited to attend by then pastor Rev. "Mack" Makulski. They were back the next year as volunteers.

Doors will open at 1 p.m. and dinner will be served at 1:30 p.m. Guests will have an opportunity to sit and talk and be entertained by St. Dunstan's pastor, the Rev. Don Demmer.

"He's great," said Shurge. "He comes over and talks to everyone. He makes them all feel at home."

While there are no planned activities after the dinner, Shurge stressed that there's no need for guests to eat and run. In fact, she says, "we'll come up with something to keep them happy."

There's no charge for the dinner although reservations are requested. People interested in attending the dinner need only call the St. Dunstan rectory at (734) 425-6720.

"We'd like them to phone in, even if it's Christmas Eve," Shurge said

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DISTRICT

FROM PAGE A1

during which they can compare student outcomes on tests, Kelly said. At the same time, one of the additional classes students will be required to take is a "freshman seminar" class. Students will learn organizational and study skills, and the instructor will frequently check the students' grades in his or other classes during the semester-long class.

The district outlined a variety of interventions -- from sending notice home to parents of students who are failing one class, all the way through what's called "invasive action," which would pull the student

out of non-core classes and those classes in which they are doing well, in order to spend time raising a failing grade to an average grade, Kelly said.

"What we were providing (for failing students) was not working," he said. "Fifteen percent of our students are failing multiple classes from one semester to the next. During any given semester, 27.7 percent are failing in one class."

Multiple failures lead to student drop out. Belleville High School's drop-out rate is 5.3 percent, Kelly said.

"I think anything less than 100 percent graduation rate, tells us there's need for improvement, and our MEAP scores needed to be improved. The student failure rate needed to be improved. There were

a host of data that said we could do better," he said.

School days will still be from 7:20 a.m. to 2:26 p.m., but students graduating in 2010 (the class that will be freshmen in the fall) will need to take four years of English instead of three, three years of math instead of two, and for eight semesters, the student must be enrolled full-time.

Graduation requirements for the classes of 2007-09 will be prorated based on the new requirements.

The plan was proposed by the Belleville High School teaching staff, which voted 93-3 to approve the change. A 60-percent vote to approve changes in working conditions is required. The staff has been without a contract since the

end of last year, and will likely add changes reflecting the restructuring to its next contract.

The district's goal is to reduce failure rates by 20 percent during the next three semesters, Kelly said.

One of the elements of the restructuring will launch at the end of January, when the district implements a program that will enable parents to check student attendance and grades online.

"They will be able to check every grade on every assignment in real time, and will be able to check during the school day whether or not their child is at school," Kelly said.

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FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

He's not sure exactly when he'll be able to return to the location, in part because there are four separate insurance companies which have to sort out who pays for repairs and losses, he said.

"All I know is I got a call from the fire department to go open the business to look at smoke or fire damage," McCormack said. He left by 5 p.m., then nearly three hours later, he says he got a call from the owner of the Garden of

Eatin' Pizza restaurant, which is in the same strip mall, and the caller told him there was another fire.

"I haven't heard from anyone about when the building will be repaired. I'm only hearing from the repair company that came to start tearing out carpeting and ceiling tiles. They said it could be eight-10 weeks, and as much as six months," McCormack said.

He can't estimate the impact his temporary move to another location -- at 42955 Ford Road, west of the Outback Steakhouse -- has had on business.

"There's been a 30 percent loss of business right now. In the long run, I don't know what will happen," he said.

The dry cleaner's customers have not yet been notified of the fire or how to contact the business owners regarding possible insurance claims, according to Pomorski.

However he said an investigating officer will suggest to the business owner that he put up a small temporary sign on the door to inform people of his contact information.

"It's like deja vu," Rorabacher said, referring to a Dec. 1 fire, which destroyed a mobile home. Firefighters were called to the scene, and had cleared the home of fire, but less than an hour after they left, the home had caught fire again and was destroyed. Wiring, which had been improperly installed through a clothes dryer vent, was the cause of the mobile home fire.

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Cheer for the hometown read today's **SPORTS** section

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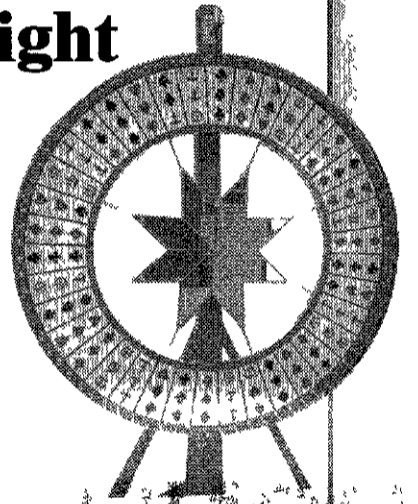
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Hopeful Butler says roadblocks stall economy

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Keith Butler says there are too many roadblocks between the people of the United States and economic success. There are too many taxes, too many regulations, too many lawsuits and an educational system that is failing despite being one of the most expensive in the world.

Butler is one of three men running to be the Republican party's nominee for the U.S. Senate and challenge incumbent Sen. Debbie Stabenow in November. The other candidates are Acton Institute think-tanker Jerry Zandstra and Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard.

Butler, a former Detroit City Councilman and Republican activist for many years, said the people who know him



Butler

can't get their kids educated," he said. "We need people who understand what life is like for people on the street."

He's getting into the race for the U.S. Senate because he's concerned that the direction of the country is going means that his children and grandchildren are not going to have the same opportunities he had. The country has to change.

"The tax policy has made the country not a desirable place to invest," Butler said.

know he's a person who can get things done.

"For 30 years, I've been the person people come to when they can't get jobs, when they

can't get their kids educated," he said. "We need people who understand what life is like for people on the street."

He's getting into the race for the U.S. Senate because he's concerned that the direction of the country is going means that his children and grandchildren are not going to have the same opportunities he had. The country has to change.

"The tax policy has made the country not a desirable place to invest," Butler said.

"We've got the highest corporate income tax in the world. We've got the most burdensome regulatory environment in the industrial world and we're the most litigious society in the world. We're falling radically behind the rest of the world in education. Add that together and we're going to have a falling standard of living."

He said the tax code is 60,000 pages long and costs American businesses \$223 billion in compliance costs — which end up costing the nation jobs. For the nation to move forward, taxes will have to be slashed appreciably and tax loopholes reined in.

"We've got to get rid of all exemptions except the ones for home ownership, care for the elderly, rearing children and educational opportunities," Butler said. "We need to stop

the corruption of the tax code. It's unfair and it's arbitrary, we waste a ton of money every year just complying with it."

Regulations need to be scaled back. He said there's no reason for the country to be importing timber from Canada when Michigan saw mills are surrounded by forests except for regulation. The level of regulation nationwide, he said, prevents people from starting new businesses and stifling the existing ones from growing.

In the same vein, he said the country needs tort reform. Along with getting rid of frivolous lawsuits that clog the courts, he said there should be caps on lawsuits and victims to get more than lawyers do when rewards are handed down by juries.

"Medical liability is out of control," Butler said. "Doctors

get out of medical school and need \$500,000 premiums to work, it's driving up the cost of health care."

Finally, he said the country has to take a more serious approach to education. There's no way the country can be 22nd in math and science achievement and second in education spending.

"The system is antiquated," he said. "We're sending kids home at 3:30 and they're off all summer. They're not going home to harvest anymore. We need a longer school day and a longer school year. We cannot afford to turn out millions of kids without the skills they need to compete."

For someone who spent years as the pastor of Word of Faith International Christian Center Church in Southfield, the most Butler would say about his social agenda was

that he was pro-life and pro-traditional family. He said he would be spending a lot of time in the coming months extending his message beyond southeast Michigan.

"I'm going to advertise wherever I'm not known," Butler said.

What he does want known is that, while he has held elected office, he's not a career politician. He said he's built operations from the ground up and knows how to deal with taxes and meet payrolls. In terms of the election, he says he knows how to get votes where they'll count.

"I have an ability to get Democratic votes," Butler said. "(The Republican party) continues to put forward candidates who can't do that. I've been a producer all my life, I get things done. Debbie Stabenow is not a producer."

Treasurer sets hours for holiday

The offices of the Wayne County treasurer will be open for business 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 27-29 for walk-in tax payments. Online tax payments can be made via the treasurer's Web site at www.treasurer.waynecounty.com.

The office will be closed Dec. 23, Dec. 26, Dec. 30 and Jan. 2 and will reopen on Jan. 3.

The office of the Wayne County treasurer is at 400 Monroe in downtown Detroit.

Flying away: Metro Airport ready for busy holiday season

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) is expected to be busy between now and Jan. 3 as Christmas approaches and schools and businesses close for the holiday. However, departing local passenger traffic is not expected to be as heavy as in years past.

The busiest travel days are expected to be Dec. 21-23, Dec. 26, 27 and Jan. 2 and 3.

This is what passengers can expect to see and hear at DTW:

Sixteen area groups of musicians and local schools will perform at various times throughout the week leading up to Christmas to spread cheer throughout both the Smith and McNamara Terminals. This is the airport's 15th Annual Holiday Music Program.

Referenced in USA Today and Executive Travel magazine as a great place to "spend time and money," the McNamara Terminal offers anything from books, to a massage, or even a gift for your pet. The Terminal features over 80 shops and restaurants.

Super Bowl XL merchandise is available at numerous retail locations inside the Smith and McNamara Terminals. Travelers will be able to find a full line of Super Bowl XL memorabilia, including shirts, ball caps, and many other items that may be on a sports fan's wish list — or someone who wants to own a piece of history.

On-airport parking deals include \$6 per day parking in over 5,000 designated spaces in the airport's Big Blue Deck. While parking in the Blue Deck

is most convenient for travelers flying out of the L.C. Smith Terminal, the Yellow lot is walking distance from the Berry Terminal — with a cost of just \$7 per day; and the Green Lot will be open for a flat rate of \$10 per day. Free shuttle bus service is available to and from any terminal.

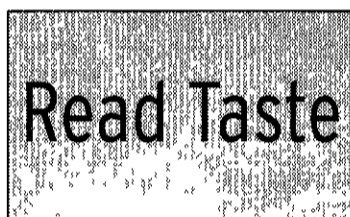
Short-Term Parking is ideal for brief visits, and the airport recommends meeters and greeters park short-term, and meet travelers in the luggage claim areas, instead of waiting at the curb fronts. Short-Term parking is \$3 for the first 30 minutes, \$5 for the first hour, \$7 for two hours, and \$3 for each additional hour.

Northwest Airlines (NWA) recently opened 19 new gates on a completely rebuilt C concourse in the McNamara Terminal ahead of schedule.

The concourse features high-glass curtain walls for an open and airy atmosphere and includes six sets of new restrooms, seven elevators, five sets of moving walkways, four family restrooms, two sets of escalators and two ATM's. The gates are used by NWA commuter partners Mesaba and Pinnacle Airlines flying as Northwest Airliner.

Last month, the Airport Authority added something meeters and greeters have been asking for — a coffee shop with snacks — in the McNamara Terminal domestic luggage claim. Caribou Coffee serves a wide variety of coffee drinks and pastries.

For additional information travelers can also visit www.metroairport.com or call (734) AIRPORT - (734) 247-7678, during normal business hours.



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OUR VIEWS

And to all, a very Merry Christmas

There's been a lot of discourse in the news lately about wishing people a "Merry Christmas."

Some people are afraid to say Christmas, concerned they may offend non-believers or believers of other faiths.

The early Christian church adapted the ancient mid-winter holiday as Christmas, a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who in the New Testament telling was born in a stable, when his parents couldn't find room at the inn. To Christians, Jesus is the Christ, foretold by the prophets as the Messiah and redeemer of mankind, the son God.

In his short ministry, Jesus brought a message of love, moral strength and salvation that has spread to every corner of the world.

Many Christians worry that the religious significance of the day is being lost. For many people, Christmas has simply become a day for visiting family members, eating a special meal and giving gifts to those they love.

And while all of those things have their place, for devout Christians, this is also a season to meditate on the meaning of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. For Christians, Christmas is a beginning that leads to the fulfillment of Easter.

But the Christmas story has been embraced by even those who do not consider themselves devout Christians. It is the story of a baby, lying in a manger, worshiped by simple shepherds and traveling kings. From these simple beginnings would come a religion teaching love, kindness, forgiveness and the promise of eternity for those who believe.

It is a time of hope, a time to share with believers and non-believers alike the simple message of the angels "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men."

Merry Christmas.

Feast on the diversity of winter celebrations

Most of us who celebrate Christmas look forward each year to the family dinner for which grandma and the aunts each prepare a special dish. Each specialty enriches the meal, and without the traditional foods, the celebration dinner is diminished.

So it is that, around the world, numerous winter celebrations mark the calendar. Each one is special to an ethnic group or religion, and though different from the traditional Dec. 25 observance of Christmas, their diversity enriches us with an understanding of how people around the world live.

Moreover, they are a history lesson in how great religions were developed.

Sometimes the differences come within the Christian religion. For instance, the Russian Orthodox Church follows the old Julian calendar, with Christmas coming 13 days after the Roman Catholic observance, on Jan. 7.

Flipping back the pages of the calendar, there are other history lessons, notably with Hanukkah, which this year begins Dec. 26. Perhaps having more ritual than a Christian Christmas, the Jewish festival of lights lasts for eight days. A new candle in the menorah is lighted each night, recalling the rededication of the holy temple in Jerusalem after their victory over the Syrians.

According to the traditional retelling, the Jews had found only enough oil for one day to light the temple, but it lasted for eight, giving them time to find another supply of oil.

Turning back the calendar farther still, one would be remiss to not mark a celebration — the winter solstice — that likely preceded all the great religions.

The winter solstice has been marked throughout the world, from the Incas whose celebration was banned by their Christian conquerors, to the Chinese who celebrate Dong Zhi on the shortest day of the year. From the Germans to the Spanish to the Scandinavians, what we now consider to be the beginning of winter was somehow celebrated.

Celebrations of the holidays have evolved, and now the African American community marks Kwanzaa from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1 with new traditions involving family, community and culture in a season of meditation and commitment. It is not a substitute for Christmas, nor is it political. It does involve remarking on work, responsibility and economic strength.

Whether it's the Buddhists, who celebrate Bodhi on Dec. 8, or the five-day Hindu celebration of Diwali that marks their new year, there is a celebration during the winter months throughout the world. As diverse as we are, that is a universality in which we all share.

Just as each special dish builds a dinner, the history and traditions of religious and secular celebrations over the winter months feed into a history line, ending with who we are today.

This year, let us gather around the table of such diversity and feel enriched for the experience.



LETTERS

A fine example

I just wanted to extend a warm thank you to farmer Don Fraser of the Real Life Farm in Canton. Recently, someone dumped two domestic ducks on our pond in the Fox Run Subdivision. These ducks could not fly and with winter getting colder, snowier and with the pond freezing over, these poor animals were at the mercy of the elements and of predators. I had tried for three weeks to get help from the Michigan Humane Society, the Department of Natural Resources and three different duck rescue people. No one would help rescue these ducks and provide them with shelter for the winter or transfer them to a safer environment.

When I called farmer Don, he was more than happy to help. He instructed me on how to catch these ducks and actually came and brought feed for them to help with this rescue. He was kind and very helpful. When we finally got the ducks in a carrier to go to the farm, he spent time with my children, niece and nephew explaining what type of ducks they were and how they were going to be taken care of. Also assuring us that we could come visit them at his farm sometime, since they started to feel like our pets after three weeks.

I am glad to know that there is someone like Don in our community who is willing to help and also sets a good example for our children.

Donna Gambino
Canton

Don't ban hunting

I believe that hunting should stay legal in Canton. It sounds like Mr. Blendea has plenty of land for legal hunting, both his 10 acres and his neighbor's 10. Especially since he and his friends are hunting on private property, they can legally continue. Also mentioned in the article is a question as to whether Blendea "made his kill" too close to the residential neighborhood. For anyone who has ever hunted or knows someone who does, where you shoot the deer and where it runs to can be a very big difference. I know my husband has had to track for hours and miles. You could shoot the deer right in front of a blind and find it in someone's back yard. I hope that hunting is not banned in Canton.

Nancy Neutgens
Canton

Hunters have rights, too

I grew up in Plymouth before there was a "Canton" proper. I hunted deer, pheasant, rabbits and squirrel from Joy Road to Michigan Avenue. At the time, there were only sparse farm homes in the area. I am not some old guy either; well, maybe I am, but I am not yet 50, which shows just how much of a population explosion has occurred in the area.

Democracy (majority rule) is admirable. However, today the right of the individual is being severely curtailed and often totally eliminated in the name

of group rights. These groups often represent a small abnormal concerned minority that is able to gain support via affable media outlets, as exemplified by the *Observer's* "home hit with yahoo hunter's bullet" story.

If David Blendea wants to hunt on his property, it is his right, and this prerogative should not be restricted.

James Powers
Dearborn

A win-win

Over the years, John Pardington has contributed much to the Canton community. The same could be said of Pat Graczyk. I have had the opportunity to attend many functions at the Summit on the Park over the years, and many were catered exquisitely by Chef Pat. Many of the offerings in the township are high class and the Canton Leisure Services goes the extra mile to make sure that they are.

John Pardington's presence in the community is hard to miss. Holiday Market is just one of the many gems in the township. His extra effort with the annual Taste of Canton is just one example of community support. Together, Chef Pat and Mr. Pardington will offer something new and exciting south of Cherry Hill. Keeping the skills of Chef Pat local and co-mingling them with the offerings John Pardington presents, is a win-win for our community.

Mark R. Waldbauer
member, Canton DDA

Love it or leave it

First of all, I'm sick and tired of the polls and opinions being taken to inform the citizens of the United States the people in the Middle East hate us. I didn't think "like" had anything to do with our foreign policy and, in fact, I would prefer "respect." Since a good portion of the Arab/Muslim world now hates us, has anyone ever sat down to determine what we would have to do to get them to like us? Would they like us to die? Commit suicide? Maybe we should build more roads, schools, hospitals, day care centers and orphanages like Osama bin Laden does. With all of the orphans he and his followers have created, the least they could do is build some places to put them in.

The United States has found it necessary on several occasions to restore order and protect human rights in places like Bosnia or Somalia, where tormentors were terrorizing innocent men, women and children. We don't support tormentors, we prosecute them in a court of law as we are doing with Milosevic and Hussein. Sometimes the United States finds it necessary to even provide aid during relief efforts to the victims of the tsunami in Asia, or the earthquakes in Pakistan and Iran, along with a long list of other life-saving efforts that may include using the military. The U.S. even provided food to North Korea in 1994 to avert the starvation of the population along with heating oil to prevent them from freezing. The North Koreans hate

us also. Apparently Terry Ahwal ("U.S. policy in the Middle East inconsistent with our ideals," Dec. 11) has never studied the history of this country since she came here, for she would know it is not the policy nor has it ever been a practice of the United States to occupy any foreign country. To prove this statement out, one only need to look at France and Germany, where two times in the last century we had to intervene in the name of freedom, and the only thing we are occupying in France are some rather large cemeteries.

In addition, the United States has entered Italy, Japan, Korea, yes even Vietnam, Grenada, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and the list goes on, all with freedom as our goal or mission. I would like to remind Ahwal that "empires" and/or occupation forces usually keep the staff they take; the United States does not. In addition, if it weren't for the "American Empire" Ahwal might need to learn to speak Japanese, German or Russian.

Ahwal wields a lot of wild baseless accusations and innuendo about "occupation" forces in Iraq, but has no real experience or facts to support these claims. In fact, if it weren't for the "savages," as the GI's call them, using innocent people as shields and holding up in cities and towns hiding, plotting and preparing for their next attack, there wouldn't be a need to root them out in order to prevent them from killing more innocent people.

If living under an oppressive dictator like Hussein, who killed thousands of innocent people while his sons reveled in their sport of weekly televised executions to drive fear into the Iraqi people, is a preference over freedom, then I would have to ask Ahwal why she continues to live here? You are "free" to go back where you came from at any time. I suspect that is not a desire of Terry Ahwal and I would remind this individual that freedom isn't free, but that it has a taste that only those who have fought for it will ever know.

Gerry Wright
Vietnam veteran
Canton

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"I used to put signs in my office that said 'Kids come first, and don't forget it.' It was on top of my bulletin board for a number of years. That's kind of what I became known for, always responding to things on how it affected kids."

— Tom Workman, former Allen Elementary principal, who learned last week that the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education decided to name the district's new elementary school in his honor

CANTON
Observer

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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.

Does hunting have any place in Canton's future?

Like some of the deer he has hunted since the age of 14, David Blendea now finds himself in the crosshairs.

The 44-year-old journeyman bricklayer is smack dab in the middle of the public debate about the future of hunting in Canton. It's certainly not where he wanted to be, but something he was thrust into last month while hunting his property — a 10-acre parcel of thick woods on Newton Road, just east of Beck along the Rouge River.

Blendea's neighbor, Patricia Pellerito, called us at the *Observer* and complained that a bunch of

"yahoos" were hunting in the woods behind her home during the firearms season, which took place in late November. She said she was fed up with all the gunshots and even told us that one of the hunter's bullets pierced her home.

The story caught Blendea by surprise. Although Pellerito never named him, she was certainly talking about him and one other buddy, who Blendea let hunt his property this year. Who else could it be, Blendea said, because he doesn't let anyone else hunt on his property or on the adjoining 12 acres of woods and wetlands he has access to.

Blendea was offended by Pellerito's charges for a couple of reasons. First, he said he is a "safety first" hunter. He uses a muzzleloader, and only shoots in his designated shooting lane. In addition, he hunts from an elevated blind, which means he shoots down toward the ground, so any missed shots won't go flying off his property. The other reason Blendea was offended by Pellerito's charges is that they would probably help sway a divided public that hunting shouldn't be legal in Canton.

In addition to calling us, Pellerito also called the police, who shall we say "visited" Blendea on at least two occasions. It's understandable that the police would come out the first time, after Pellerito called to report shots being fired, but once they determined Blendea and his friend were hunting legally, which they did, they should have left him alone. It is illegal in Michigan to interfere with a hunter who is in the field, which is where they were confronted on both occasions.

Pellerito later told the *Observer* that she heard only five shots all week — certainly not a war zone. She also said she wasn't sure a hunter actually shot her home. It could have been anyone, she said.

The case has certainly heightened the argument about hunting's future in Canton. Despite the pleas from Canton Township officials, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which regulates hunting throughout the state, has refused to ban hunting in Canton. The main argument is that hunting is the only way to control animal populations, especially when they become a problem (i.e. Canada geese, varmints and, yes, deer).

Blendea argues that without hunters like him, the

deer population in Canton will grow and eventually become a problem. In fact, he says a buddy of his was riding a motorcycle on Beck Road after leaving his house earlier this year, when a deer came crashing right into him. His girlfriend was on the back and had to be taken to the hospital, where she was admitted to the intensive care unit.

According to statistics put out by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, there were 6,641 vehicle-deer crashes in southeast Michigan in 2004, and more than 62,000 statewide. According to the statistics, there were about 75 vehicle-deer crashes in Canton over a two-year period (2003-04).

Pellerito also questioned why Blendea doesn't go "up north" to hunt like a "real hunter." Unfortunately, the problem with this argument is there aren't many deer left in northern Michigan. According to the DNR, more than half of the deer population in Michigan lives in the southern tier of the state, where there is precious little public hunting land. So, in reality, Blendea is one of the fortunate few who have the ability to hunt down here. Personally, as a hunter myself, I'm a little jealous.

This story has proved one thing to me: hunting is a divisive issue, not unlike abortion, drawing passionate pleas from both sides. We asked our readers what they thought about the issue, if they thought hunting should be banned in Canton, and the answers were very much either pro-hunting or anti-hunting. In one case, a husband and wife sent me e-mails. The wife thinks hunting should be banned in Canton, while her husband thinks it absolutely should still be allowed.

Another reader, who lives near Blendea, said he likes to walk near the woods and has seen less deer lately, which he blames on Blendea. I have a newsflash: The development in Canton over the last couple of decades has killed far more critters than hunters do. I can promise you, the very subdivision that Pellerito lives in wiped out more flora and fauna than Blendea ever has or ever will. And he considers himself a good hunter, and has the photos to prove it.

Let's face it, nobody really wants to hear gunshots so close to their home. So it is understandable that Pellerito would be upset when she heard the shots coming from Blendea's property. But it must be remembered that she is the one who purchased a home next to a woodlot in the "country." It was probably one of the main reasons she was attracted to the home in the first place.

Is it fair for Blendea to lose his rights because someone decided to build a home next to his property? It kind of reminds me of the people who move next to a farm, then complain about the smell.

Hopefully, there is a compromise somewhere in this story. They say it takes all kinds to make up a village. Hunters must fit in there somewhere.

Kurt Kuban is community editor of the *Canton Observer*. He welcomes your comments at (734) 459-2700 or kkuban@hometownlife.com.

For Palestinians in Bethlehem, season offers little to celebrate

Christmas is fast approaching and the birth of Jesus will be joyously celebrated by over a billion Christians around the globe, gathering with family and friends in prayer, joy and reflection. Christmas trees will be adorned and festively wrapped gifts will tease children. The story of the Nativity will be retold thousands of times, scenes of the humble birth will be recreated in endless displays and Christmas pageants will commemorate the blessed event around the world.

Although a Muslim, I, too, participate in the beautiful festivities of Christmas. In elementary school in America, I sang carols with the school choir, performed in concerts and joined the annual visit to Dearborn's historic Greenfield Village that depicts American life in centuries gone by. One of my favorite carols since that time is *Silent Night*, which captures the atmosphere at the time of



Mike Odetalla

Christ's birth and reflects the true spirit of Christmas.

While I happily participated in these activities, my teachers, and the world, did not acknowledge the Palestinian connection to this blessed holiday. There I was, a Palestinian, born in Jerusalem, a few miles from Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Singing to people with no knowledge of Palestinians and our link to Bethlehem and Jesus always seemed very strange and still does.

For our audiences, it was always about Israel: "How nice a visit to the Israeli town of Bethlehem would be," people said, ignoring the fact that Bethlehem is a Palestinian town where Palestinian Christians and Muslims live, tormented and imprisoned under Israel's brutal military occupation.

We were singing *O Little Town of Bethlehem* to people who had absolutely no idea that thousands of desperate people live in Bethlehem's refugee camps. To our audience, Bethlehem was the idyllic scene found on Christmas cards.

I knew the truth: Palestinians in Bethlehem's refugee camps have lived in abject poverty ever since being expelled from their homes in 1948 during the creation of the state of Israel. Today, ringed by Jewish settlements and the 30-foot high concrete wall that strangles Palestinian cities and villages, Bethlehem is virtually cut off from the rest of

Palestine, its lands, water and other resources expropriated by Israel in a relentless effort to make life ever more unbearable for the Palestinians who call it home.

How fitting that the Virgin Mary, seeking refuge from the mighty Roman army and a safe place to give birth, came to this town.

Today, pregnant Palestinian women must endure the degrading Israeli checkpoints in order to reach a hospital. While the Virgin Mary found refuge in a humble stable, many contemporary mothers-to-be are forced to stand endless hours at checkpoints manned by teenage soldiers who couldn't care less about a woman in labor. Many have given birth in taxis or in streets choked with dust in summer and swimming with mud in winter, waiting at checkpoints for a soldier to arbitrarily decide whether they "look pregnant or only fat." And many children and mothers have died when not allowed to pass in time.

The birth of a human being is a momentous and joyous occasion for the parents, even those who suffer the pain and anxiety of checkpoint deliveries. Still, a growing number of Palestinian infants are named "Hajez" (from the Arabic for "checkpoint") as a bitter reminder of their birthplace.

I fail to grasp what benefit such inhumanity bestows upon the Jewish state. The bitter truth is that 2,000 years after Mary gave birth to Jesus under Roman occupation, Palestinian mothers in Bethlehem and elsewhere in occupied Palestine still seek safe refuge to deliver their infants.

So, when you hear *O Little Town of Bethlehem* this Christmas, pause to remember the Palestinians for whom this town is home. The Christian and Muslim children of Palestine will observe Christmas this year, but they will have little to celebrate behind the high concrete walls that imprison them.

Fear and hunger will keep them awake through the night, not the anticipation of gifts as in other lands. While the rest of the world celebrates, Bethlehem's children, like all Palestinian children, will pray for some brief respite from the fright of the killings, abuse and destruction that is life in Palestine.

Mike Odetalla emigrated from the Middle East in 1969 when he was 8 years old, following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. He returns to the Middle East every summer to visit with relatives. He has lived in Canton for 27 years.

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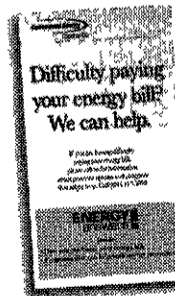
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MADD reduces New Year's Eve assistance for drivers

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Mothers Against Drunk Driving chapters in metro Detroit are offering discount coupons for rides home on New Year's Eve for those who've had too much to drink.

In the past, volunteers from MADD have staffed a phone bank for free rides home. This New Year's, MADD chapters will distribute discount coupons, \$2 off, for cab rides from nightclubs and bars.

"Whatever is used, our chapters will pay for," said Nechole McClendon, executive director for the Wayne chapter, which in July moved from Westland to a Grosse Pointe Woods office.

The free rides home were offered for 20 years. This year's change isn't due to a sour economy. "The public had become dependent on MADD providing the service," McClendon said. "We wanted to make sure the public respected our volunteers. We just want people to be responsible."

MADD's Project LifeRide will be the focus of a 10 a.m.

press conference Tuesday, Dec. 27, at WCSX-FM radio. You can also get information by calling the Wayne chapter, (313) 881-8181, Oakland at (248) 682-2220 or Macomb at (586) 463-3611.

"Last year, we didn't have any fatalities," McClendon said. "The public awareness is there, absolutely." It's important to remember the victims of drunken driving, who have an especially tough time during the holidays, she added.

"They're missing their loved ones. That's really a big focus of our mission."

Local police departments

will be stepping up road patrol efforts to keep drunken drivers off the road. "We always increase our enforcement on New Year's Eve," said Chief William Dwyer of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Dwyer's found places that serve liquor are more aware of their liability. "They have a responsibility not to let some drunk leave there and kill someone."

Those at house parties where alcohol's served can stay over if they're intoxicated, Dwyer said. He finds people are more responsible than a decade ago

when it comes to drinking and driving.

"They have to be responsible with their drinking," including eating well, the chief said.

He was unaware of MADD numbers served on New Year's in previous years and couldn't say what the Project LifeRide change would mean as a result.

"I don't think we would have any comment on that specific end of it," said Sgt. Larry Crider of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, when asked about the MADD change for this New Year's.

The Wayne County Sheriff's Department beefs up enforce-

ment against drunken drivers for New Year's Eve, he said. Grant money helps to pay for additional enforcement, focused on Dec. 19-23 and Dec. 29 through Jan. 1.

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning is coordinating the "You Drink & Drive. You Lose." crackdown, Dec. 19 to Jan. 1, to combat drunken driving and prevent traffic deaths. Twenty-eight counties across the state are receiving federal traffic safety funding for overtime drunken driving patrols, and hundreds of other agencies are pledging to make enforcement a priori-

ty. In Livingston, Macomb, St. Clair and Wayne counties, 22 law enforcement agencies will receive grant funds to patrol on Dec. 19-23 and Dec. 29-Jan. 1.

During the 2004 Christmas weekend, there were four traffic fatalities, one of which involved alcohol, according to the Michigan Department of State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center. Six people died in traffic crashes over the New Year's weekend, and four of the deaths were alcohol-related.

Mack named court chief

The Michigan Supreme Court has named Judge Milton L. Mack, Jr. to serve as chief judge of the Wayne County Probate Court located in Detroit for a two-year term beginning Jan. 1.

This is Judge Mack's fifth term as chief judge. He also served three terms as chief judge Pro Tempore. Chief Judge Mack was appointed to the Wayne County Probate Court in 1990.

Chief judges lead their court in setting its mission and vision. The mission of the Wayne County Probate Court is to administer justice with fairness, equality, and integrity, to resolve matters before the court in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner, and to provide courteous and prompt service in a manner that inspires public trust and confidence. The vision of the Wayne County Probate Court is to provide leadership for the continuous improvement of a justice system that is responsive to the diverse and changing needs of the public and accountable for the efficient and effective use of public resources.

Chief judges serve as their court's representative in dealing with the public, the news media, the legal community, and other government agencies. Chief judges oversee other judges and court staff, supervise caseloads and court finances, and set their court's hours and work policies.

Chief Judge Mack has also served as president of the Michigan Probate Judges Association, is vice chair of the Judicial Conference of the State Bar of Michigan, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Wayne County Probate Bar Association. Chief Judge Mack was also a member of the Michigan Supreme Court Guardianship Task Force and Gov. Granholm's Michigan Mental Health Commission.

Chief Judge Mack has given numerous presentations on probate law for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE). He also has authored a chapter on conservatorship and protective proceedings for ICLE's Guardianship and Conservatorship Handbook. Chief Judge Mack has also written articles on settlements for minors and protected individuals that have appeared in the *State Bar Journal*.

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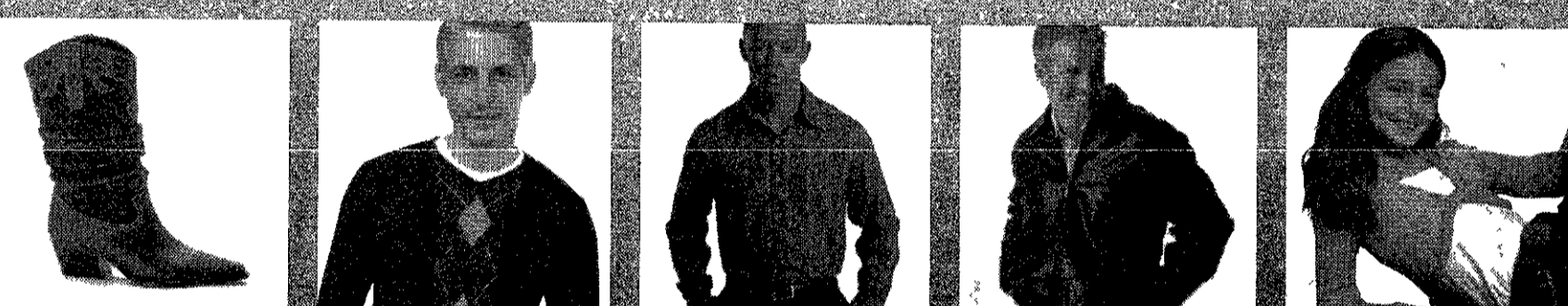
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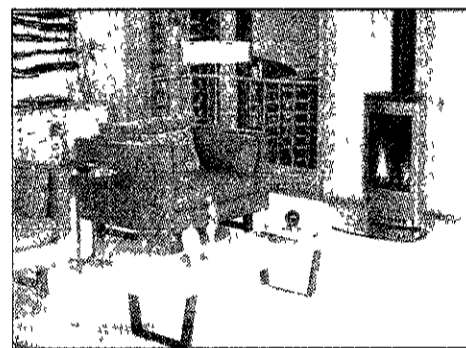
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Fireplaces today can resemble - and even be displayed on walls like - works of art. This is the Soho gas fireplace with Studio front by Heat & Glo.

COURTESY HEARTH & HOME TECHNOLOGIES

Home is where the hearth



COURTESY HEARTH & HOME TECHNOLOGIES

The award-winning Paloma freestanding gas fireplace by Heat & Glo has a sleek design and parabolic shape.

is
Keep home fires burning in style

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

A fireplace can do more than provide heat. It can also be an element of style in a room.

The look of a fireplace isn't set in stone - or brick or plaster. Today's efficient and convenient fireplaces come in a wide selection of styles, whether woodburning, gas, electric or inserts.

Fireplaces can be situated in RVs and apartments as well as in houses, in any room.

A fireplace can be freestanding, in a wall recess, against a wall or even hung like a

work of art. It can offer three-sided viewing, or be placed between two separate areas as a "see-through" feature.

"It's ever evolving," Brandon Mitchell, retail sales associate at Fireside Hearth & Home™ in Canton, said of fireplace design. "There is something new every year."

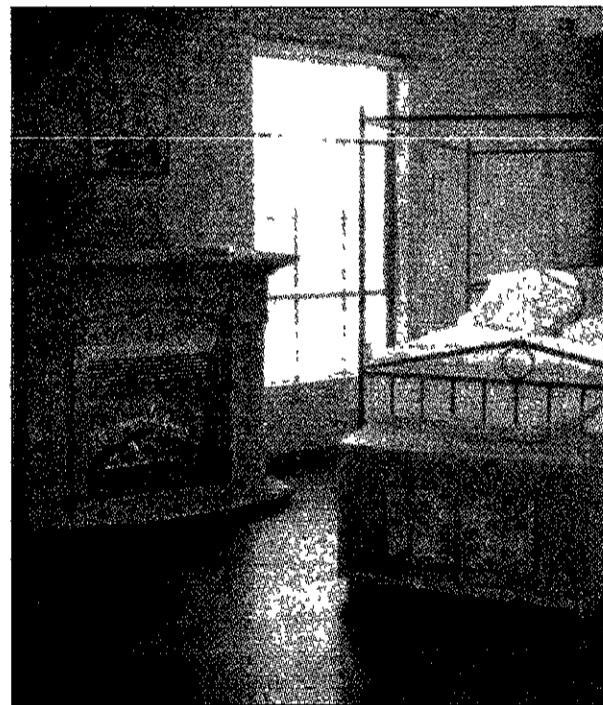
"We can put a fireplace anywhere."

Vent-free fireplaces are among the popular types at Town 'n' Country in Garden City, sales person Derek LaRoque.

Their maintenance involves cleaning the fireplace once a year to keep the oxygen depletion sensor free of dust, so the sensor won't turn itself off unnecessarily.

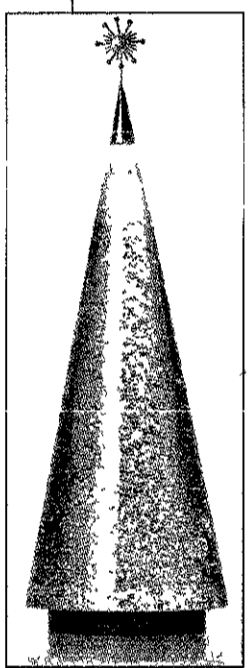
"They're safer than any appliance," LaRoque said.

Cambridge Fireplace & Design in Birmingham carries a line of electric fireplaces by Dimplex North America Ltd. that can be freestanding, or hung on or built



COURTESY CAMBRIDGE FIREPLACE & DESIGN

The Santa Cruz by Dimplex is an electric fireplace.



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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.

Looking back at best and worst tech trends of 2005

What will I remember most from 2005? Aside from my crushing disappointment over the cancellation of

Arrested Development, my experience with the SunRocket voice-over-IP service stands out.

It has been quite the roller coaster ride. At first I loved the service, but then a string of outages seriously soured my affection.

Although Comcast was to blame for some of them, I'm once-bitten, twice-shy about

recommending SunRocket (or, for that matter, any other VoIP service).

Maybe next year the technology will achieve its most important goal: reliability.

While we're waiting, let's take a look back at some of the other tech trends of 2005 - the good and the bad.

BEST WAY TO SHARE

Imeem is the coolest Web tool you've never heard of. From within a very slick interface, you can share files and photos with your immediate circle (friends, family) and chat about a myriad of topics with the world. Best of all, it doesn't cost a dime.

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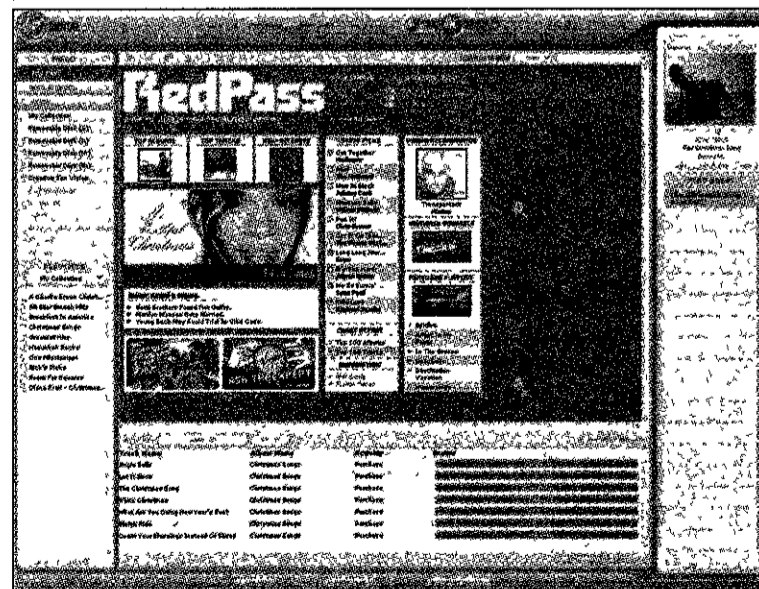
services like Napster To Go, Virgin Digital Red Pass, and Yahoo Music Unlimited give you access to mammoth libraries of music.

You can download tunes to your PC or copy them to a portable player - an awesome way to fill unused gigabytes on the cheap. Unfortunately, while the list of compatible players is growing, iPods still aren't on it. C'mon, Apple, get with the subscription program!

BEST DEAL ON NON-MUSIC

Podcasts - audio programs you can download to any MP3 player - rule.

Admittedly, you have to sift through a lot of chaff to get to the wheat, but there's definitely



In 2005, the best deal for music fans is a subscription service like Virgin Digital Red Pass, which offers a cool two million tracks for just \$7.99 per month.

PLEASE SEE TRENDS, B2

Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

HOME CALENDAR

Toy, hobby expo

A fantastic display of model railroading will come to the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi for the Toy & Hobby Expo Friday to Sunday, Dec. 30 to Jan. 1. The expo will feature three collector shows in one location. Hours are 5-9 p.m. Dec. 30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 1. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$3 for ages 6-12 with an adult. Parking is \$5. The Rock Financial Showplace is at 46100 Grand River. For recorded travel directions, call (248) 348-5600 any time. For more information about the expo, call R.R. Promotions Inc. at (734) 455-2110.

At the event, young and old alike will have the opportunity to experience scale model trains in action, and the excitement that builds as the trains race along a 0-gauge rail on a 100-foot long modular model railroad display. For people wishing to build their own railroad empire, the display owners will be on hand to explain building techniques used in the construction of the modular train display.

The expo will also feature toy and hobby items from the '50s to today's hottest collectibles. Vendors and collectors will be selling new, used, antique and collectible model railroad and toy trains; collectible toys; die-cast and model kits; sports and racing collectibles; and dolls, including Barbies, bears and Beanies.

Gift gallery

The Holiday Gift Gallery at the Paint Creek 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, visit www.pccart.org.

Throw blanket

Haberman Fabrics, 905 S. Main in Royal Oak, offers a variety of home decor classes for different sewing skill levels. Call (248) 541-0010, e-mail ContactUs@HabermanFabrics.com, visit www.HabermanFabrics.com. The schedule includes Basic Throw Blanket, Tuesdays, Jan. 3-17. Fee is \$60. Make the perfect home accessory for cold winter months in a quick and simple project that uses luxurious fabrics. Keep the cozy throw for yourself, or make it a gift.

Gallery shop

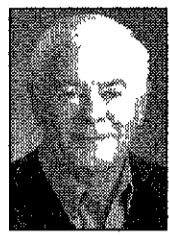
The Ann Arbor Art Gallery's Gallery Shop features holiday gifts now through Dec. 31. The art center is at 117 W. Liberty in downtown Ann Arbor. For more information and the shop's extended holiday hours, call (734) 994-8004, Ext. 118. The Gallery Shop presents an expanded selection of original art work from more than 150 Michigan and regional artists, including musical instruments, handmade wood furniture, jewelry, ceramics, glass and fiber. All purchases at the shop support the art center's mission and offset costs for its visual arts programs.

Sculpture for home

HMFRRSHNGS: 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.

GE settlement extends nationwide

I wrote about General Electric's problems in Florida this past September, and now comes the conclusion or the "rest of the story." It started with some models of refrigerators that had rust and water leaks coming out of the doors. They also had pieces of plastic breaking out of the ice maker assembly and becoming part of ice cubes that were consumed by people.



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

All this and more caused a homeowner to file a class action lawsuit and at the same time, a woman set up a Web site to expose the problem to the general public. She became involved when her refrigerator had these consequences and GE wanted to charge her for repairs. She lives in a condo complex where there are 1,400 refrigerators just like hers. After a few months of raising a fuss with General Electric, some 400 refrigerators have been replaced in the condo complex, thanks to her persistence.

As things went along, she made it her life's work to inform the world of what General Electric was doing wrong. Her Web site, which pretty well explains all she has done, is bringgoodthingstolife.

It's quite a story, folks, about what just a couple of people can do to right a wrong created by a huge corporation. I haven't met this lady named Cathy, but it certainly would be an honor to do so. The whole

story is a rare one in this country.

The television and newspaper media around Naples, Fla., have been covering this story for the better part of a year and here is the script from a Dec. 13 report:

SETTLEMENT

"An NBC2 investigation has prompted appliance giant General Electric to replace defective refrigerators, not only in Florida, but across the country. The company has reached a settlement deal with plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit filed after our story.

"The 28-page settlement is big news for consumers because GE put in writing a promise to replace, reimburse and add extra protection for those who have defective refrigerators.

"GE had already replaced thousands of defective refrigerators in the Southwest Florida area, but now the company will do the same thing nationwide.

"NBC2's investigation found rust dripping from the refrigerator's insides, an ugly black substance embedded in ice cubes and sharp plastic pieces broken away from ice makers.

"Our investigation caught the eye of Bill Turner of Naples, who filed a federal class action complaint. Now his class action suit will go nationwide.

"To have a settlement today, brings a lot of appreciation the system works," said Turner.

"The settlement includes GE refrigerators and Hotpoint brands. The units were made in 2001 and 2002 in Bloomington, Ind., including the 20-, 22- and 25-cubic foot side-by-side models. The set-

tlement includes close to 300 models.

"GE will replace units that have needed more than three repairs to fix moisture-related problems. For those consumers that qualify, they will not only receive replacement refrigerators, but a one-year additional warranty and reimbursements for repairs.

"I think that's the biggest part of the case because many have spent money out of pocket to fix their refrigerator and they are getting all this back from GE," said Scott Weinstein, Turner's attorney.

"A judge still has to sign off on the settlement. At that point, the claim forms will be available. A final hearing is not expected until spring of 2006.

"GE will send notices by mail to all owners of these units that are in their database. They will also put out advertisements nationwide."

"Back to Michigan now. Do you have one of these defective refrigerators in your home? You might want to go to the Web site mentioned earlier and get the whole story. Yes, the woman in Florida is hearing from homeowners here in Michigan who have the affected model number refrigerator.

To my knowledge, this newspaper is the only one to provide any information on this national problem.

Stay tuned. Joe Gagnon can now be heard on WWJ-950 and WXYT-1270. He is a member and past president of the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals. His phone number is (248) 455-7281. Do you have a question about an appliance or a problem you have with an appliance? E-mail your question to kabramczyk@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Downriver Rose society

The Downriver Rose Society will meet 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4, at the Brownstown Community Center, 21311 Telegraph, between Sibley and West roads. Roger Lindley, owner of Great Lakes Roses in Belleville, will speak on Insect and Disease Control for Roses. Admission is free. The public may attend.

For more information, call Mike at (877) 860-5364 or Nancy at (734) 461-1230.

Lindley will present a fast-paced slide program about the common problems besetting garden roses and how to control them.

Now is the time for gardeners to review their gardens' performances and plan how to prevent problems for next year. Most rose gardening problems can be solved with simple cultural controls or natural/organic treatments.

Lindley is an American Rose Society consulting rosarian and Michigan certified pesticide applicator.

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 snapshots 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.

TRENDS

FROM PAGE B1

some good stuff out there.

I use Yahoo Music Engine and its free podcast plug-in to pull down NPR's *All Songs Considered* and *Science Friday*; *Ebert & Roeper*; and *Battlestar Galactica* episode commentary from show-runner Ronald D. Moore.

BEST REASON TO BUY A PC

I'm seeing more and more new computers - desktops and notebooks alike - shipping with Microsoft's Media Center Edition 2005 operating system, and with good reason: It turns your computer into a really exceptional media center, capable of pausing and recording TV, playing music and movies, and lots more. A select few models include an over-the-air tuner for watching and recording HDTV - no cable or satellite box required. Expect to see even more media-center goodness rolled into Microsoft's new Vista OS, which is due next year.

BEST PHOTO SOFTWARE

Managing and manipulating digital photos is an arduous task at best. Google's Picasa 2 is blissfully easy to use and comes with a plethora of tools for tweaking

and fixing photos, making it one of the top freebies of 2005. Watch for some hands-on coverage in an upcoming column.

BEST BROWSER

How do I love Mozilla Firefox? Let me count the ways. 1. It's much more secure than Internet Explorer. 2. It uses a tabbed interface for easy switching between multiple windows. 3. You can enhance it with some really cool plug-ins.

BEST SPAM FIGHTER

About a month ago I switched to SpamArrest and haven't looked back. This easy-to-use service stops spam before it ever reaches my PC. I devoted a full column to it, which you can read here: tinyurl.com/925m7.

BEST GAME

This is really a subjective category, but the best game I played in 2005 was Quake 4. Nothing makes me happier than gunning down zombies, and this gorgeous, creepy game unleashes thousands of them.

WORST THREATS

Spyware is single-handedly ruining computing. I'm using the term to encompass all security threats, including viruses, worms, trojans, adware, phishing and all the rest. Woe to the

computer user who ventures online without a firewall, a virus scanner, a spyware filter, a pop-up blocker, and a Web browser other than Internet Explorer. I'll be hitting these topics hard in 2006 - stay tuned.

WORST PRINTS

The local drugstore has always been the worst place, quality-wise, to get your photos developed, and the new digital-camera kiosks are even worse.

Sure, they're convenient, but most folks have encountered the ugly downsides: broken equipment, long waits, and genuinely mediocre prints. Try a service like Snapfish or Kodakgallery.com instead.

WORST TECHNOBABLE

Blogs, podcasts, megapixels, DVRs, DRM, Bluetooth, Blu-Ray, HD-DVD, Spam, Spim, phishing, pharming, Firefox, 720p, 1080i, plasma, projection, EDTV, 802.11g, 802.11n, VoIP, RFID, EV-DO. 'Nuff said.

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 Your Palm Handheld*, 5th Edition, and *101 Killer Apps for Pocket PC*. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

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Maintain fireplaces for safety, efficiency

By having a professional service the fireplace annually and taking a few proactive steps on their own, homeowners can ensure greater heating efficiency and safety, as well as prolong the life of the unit, says Fireside Hearth & Home™.

Many homeowners mistakenly believe their fireplace doesn't require any maintenance. But all fireplace types from wood to gas to electric should undergo annual maintenance.

For example, gas fireplaces need the fan, pilots and burners checked each year. And wood fireplaces require an inspection and chimney cleaning to remove creosote, which can build up and cause chimney fires.

Homeowners should also check the chimney or vent before the season's first fire to see if birds or animals have built nests in it, or if leaves or other debris have accumulated.

At a minimum, homeowners should also install a carbon monoxide alarm in the same room as the fireplace and another one near the bedrooms.

Homeowners can handle much of the day-to-day maintenance; however, most tasks are better left to a professional.

Here are some tips from Fireside Hearth & Home for getting the fireplace ready and keeping it in tiptop shape this winter:

WOODBURNING FIREPLACES

■ Clean out the firebox at least every week when using the fireplace regularly, but leave an inch of ash in the bottom to act as insulation.

Note: Never use a vacuum to clean out the firebox, as coals can stay hot for several days after the fire is extin-

guished.

■ Before removing ash, open the damper so loose ash is drawn up the chimney rather than out into the room.

■ Remove all ash during the months the fireplace isn't in use.

■ Burn only seasoned or hard wood in the fireplace. This will help minimize creosote buildup in the chimney.

Burning small, controlled, hot fires rather than smoldering fires will also help keep creosote under control.

GAS FIREPLACES

■ Vacuum the firebox and heat exchanger regularly (only when the fireplace is cold, of course) to keep efficiency and air quality high.

■ Consult a professional to clean the pilot assembly, purge trapped air from the gas supply line, and then test-fire the fireplace.

■ Use only a soft brush to remove dust or spider webs from gas logs, since they can be fragile. Make sure to position logs properly after cleaning to avoid sooting.

■ Use glass cleaner made especially for gas fireplaces to clean the glass front - never use oven cleaner or abrasives.

ELECTRIC FIREPLACES

■ Clean the firebox and control compartment with a brush and vacuum.

■ Never use glass cleaner to clean the back of the glass, use only mild soap and water. Remove dust particles from glass by simply buffing lightly with a clean, dry cloth.

■ Replace the light bulbs about every two to three years or when the flame and/or ember bed is dark on one side.

■ Follow the manufacturer's instructions or consult a professional on cleaning the heater system to extend the fan's life.

FIREPLACES

FROM PAGE B1

into a wall.

They operate on a 100-volt household current and stay cool to the touch, even when the heater is on.

"They're safe for pets and children," said Mindy Whittingham, who owns and operates the recently opened business with her mother, Evelyn.

Cambridge's newest model is the electraflame® Newport, which features a 32-inch Multi-Fire™ firebox.

The firebox gives an authentic appearance of a woodburning fireplace, including hand-crafted logs, a back panel with a "fire-seasoned" brick patina, bifold glass doors, and a spark screen.

The unit's flickering "flames" gradually become more intense or fade into glowing embers, on command.

An air treatment system, using a standard, washable filter available at home supply stores, circulates the air and cleans it of allergens.

When the outside weather is warm, the heater can be turned off and the ambiance of fire remain.

HELP WITH HEAT

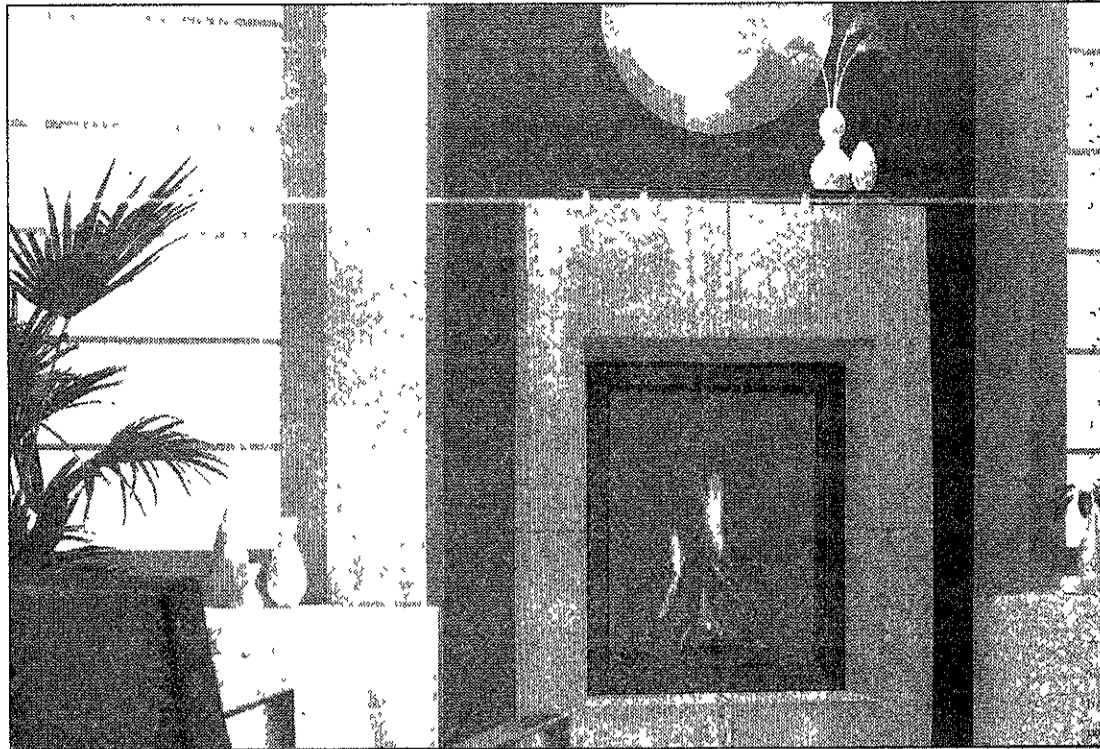
Fireplaces can help with heating bills.

The Novus direct vent and B-vent series by Heatilator® includes the Intellifire™ system, which eliminates the need for a constantly burning pilot light.

When the fireplace is turned on, the pilot lights first and then ignites the main burner. The pilot shuts down when the fireplace isn't operating.

Converting a woodburning fireplace into a gas-burning fireplace insert can increase the fireplace's efficiency up to 100 percent, according to Fireside Hearth & Home.

An insert is placed inside an existing masonry or prefabricated fireplace. It consists of a gas log set installed in a steel or ceramic molded firebox with a flexible vent pipe that runs



COURTESY HEARTH & HOME TECHNOLOGIES

The Everest gas fireplace by Heat & Glo features a one-piece stone surround. It is an example of the high fashion style of fireplaces available today.

outside through the existing chimney.

Many units have fans to move the heat, and come with wall-mounted thermostats that can be set for automatic operation like a furnace.

Technology from Fireside Hearth & Home includes the new Heat-Zone feature, which directs heat to another room through flexible ducting. A fan system draws the air from around the firebox and pushes it where desired.

The Heat & Glo™ Soulstice™ direct vent gas fireplace has a sleep timer, enabling residents to fall asleep or wake up to the warmth and beauty of a fire.

FASHION

Among examples of fashionable, contemporary fireplaces is the Modern Collection line by Heat & Glo.

The line includes the award-winning Paloma™ freestanding gas fireplace, with a sleek European design and parabolic shape; the Everest™ gas fireplace with the seamless, one-piece, cast stone Atlas™ surround; and the Soho™ gas fire-

place with Studio™ front, which has the look of a framed painting.

A fireplace can be given a custom look to match any style or decor of a room.

Hardwood surrounds include cabinets in such materials as burnished walnut, oak, antique white and mahogany. Among options for fronts or facing are arched and filigree panels, and panels and screen doors made of pewter, gold, brushed nickel, bronze and brass.

CONSIDERATIONS

When you shop for a fireplace, bring measurements (wall size, ceiling height, square footage) of the room with you. Know where the registers and ducts are located in the room.

Considerations recommended by Heatilator include:

■ Where will the fireplace be

located?

■ Is the fireplace the dominant design feature?

■ How does the hearth fit into the proportions of the room?

■ How will mantel and finishing details affect the overall size and placement decisions?

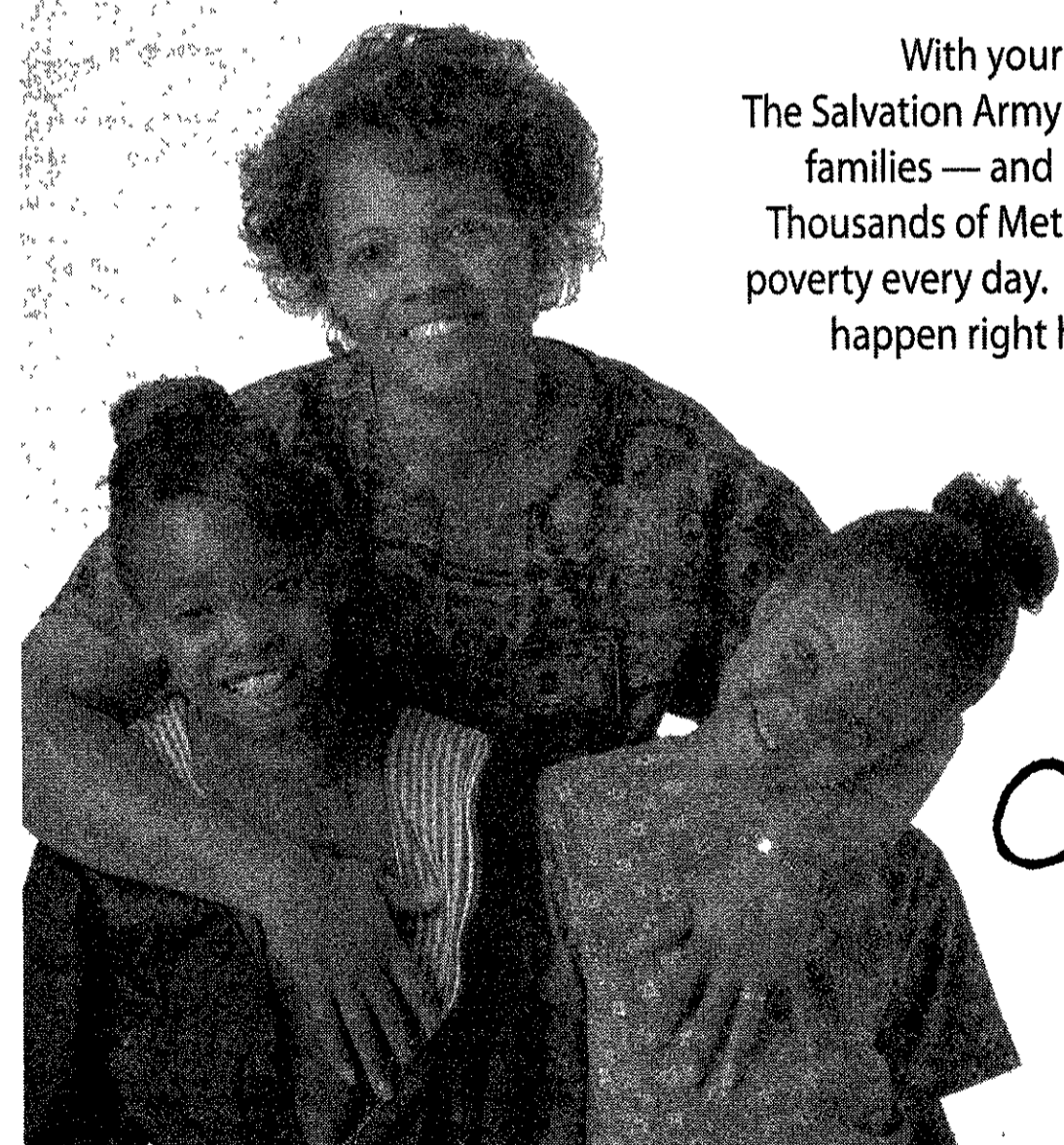
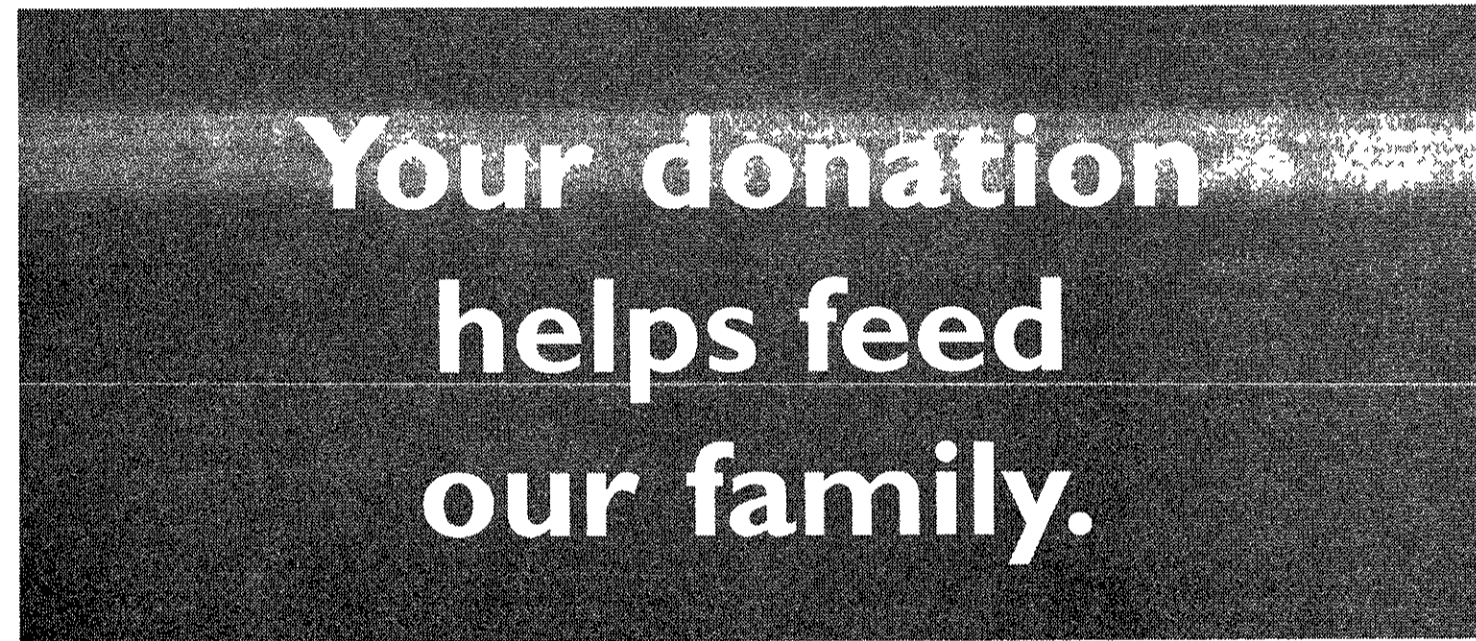
■ Is heating capacity an expected function, or is the placement of the fireplace primarily aesthetic?

■ When the fireplace will be a source of heat, consider geographic location and climate, whether it is on an interior or exterior wall, the number and size of windows, and the location and pitch of ceiling fans.

■ Cambridge Fireplace & Design: www.cambridgefireplace.com; (248) 723-9477

■ Fireside Hearth & Home: in Canton, (734) 981-4700; in Southfield, (248) 354-3511; www.firesideusa.com

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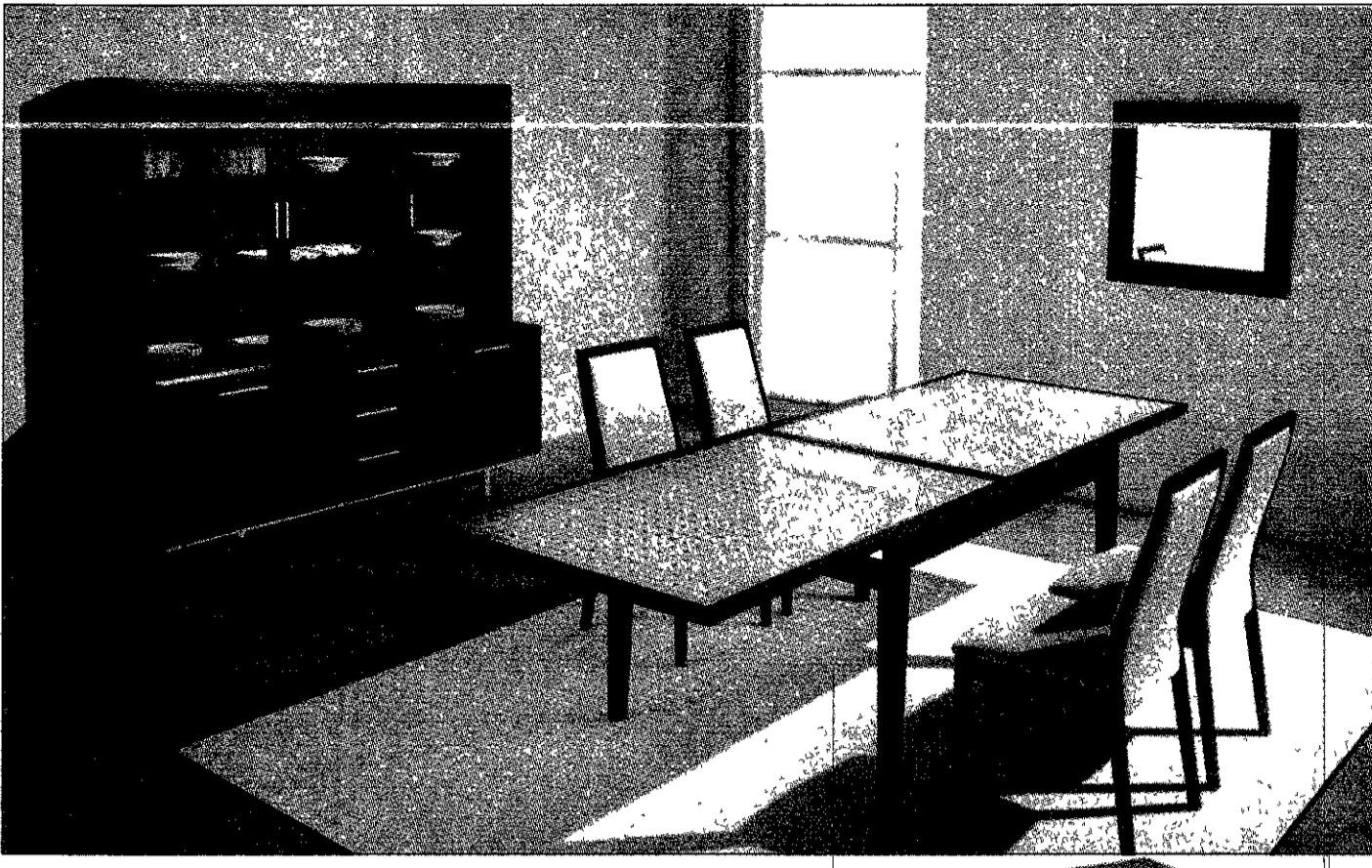
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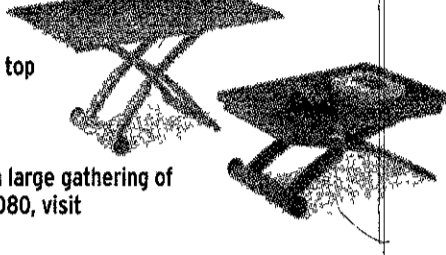
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MARKETPLACE



Making space

This coffee table transforms itself into a dining table in three simple steps. One person can easily turn the top and elevate the height, creating a spacious surface that accommodates up to six people. From the Italian contemporary collection by Calligaris, the Mascotte table is just one of the many motion furniture pieces offered by Casual Concepts, 828 N. Main in downtown Rochester. Expanding dining tables that seat up to 18 people are as perfect for a cozy dinner for two as they are for a large gathering of friends and family. Matching side tables, buffets and case pieces complete the collection. Call (248) 652-1080, visit www.casualconceptsinc.com.



Consider through-bolts when buying woodworking connectors

BY MORRIS AND JAMES CAREY
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

When we think of woodworking, we think of either nails or wood screws to connect the pieces. However, in many instances, through-bolts can provide greater strength and stability.

A through-bolt is a bolt that goes all the way through (whatever it is that is being connected) and is held in place with a nut at the other side. A "sandwich" connection.

There is quite a bit to think about when both choosing and using fasteners on a woodworking project.

One of the big problems with fastening any type of wood is the shrinkage that occurs to the wood.

A tightly fastened screw can become loose and wobbly in no time as wood dries out and shrinks or deforms. Retightening a screw or lag bolt works most of the time, but securing a connection with a through-bolt always works.

For example: When attaching hand rail posts or important safety supports to a newly constructed deck - or any structure for that matter - the overzealous do-it-yourselfer often underestimates the degree of wood shrinkage that can occur and chooses lag bolts to make the connection.

Big mistake. When shrinkage occurs, the bolt hole can strip out, often leading to a need for a large lag bolt or screw.

When shrinkage is a possibility - which is almost all the time when the wood is green - then it's a good practice to use a through-bolt. With a bolt-head and washer on one side and a nut and washer on the other side, tightening things up after a bit of shrinkage has occurred is light work.

Granted, use of a through-bolt isn't always possible. Sometimes you can't get to the other side to put a nut on, but if the connection is to be made, a through-bolt should be strongly considered.

BOLT GRADE

There is another consideration - bolt grade. Nuts and bolts vary widely in strength from very soft to extremely high tensile strength.

It used to be that you could ask for an A-grade bolt and get something that a gorilla

couldn't break. Today there are more grades and specifications than you can shake a stick at.

If you're building a guard rail or some other important safety device, be sure to investigate this before laying down cold hard cash on lower grade connectors.

All you need to do is ask the clerk for the higher grade fasteners. There is usually a section devoted to better quality connectors in most hardware stores and home centers.

Unfortunately, most consumers aren't aware that a difference exists and thus don't know to ask.

If you choose high tensile strength you should be prepared for a limited selection. High tensile strength nuts and bolts are expensive and not normally stocked in the variety of sizes offered with softer, less expensive, more widely used connectors.

We often have the tendency to use bolts that are too small in diameter for the task at hand. Remember, with increased diameter there is increased holding power and vice versa for smaller diameters.

For example: Most engineers will tell you that two 1/2-inch through-bolts are necessary to develop the proper amount of strength necessary for a rail post to qualify under the building code as a hand rail support. Yet we often see home-built rail systems that use 3/8-inch or even 1/2-inch bolts.

The smaller diameter seems to hold well and looks good at first, but if someone falls against a rail with these smaller sized fasteners holding the post to the structure, the rail will probably go over at the same time. Not what a guard or hand rail is supposed to do.

So, when buying a fastener:

- Use a through-bolt whenever possible.
- Use high tensile strength nuts and bolts.

- Always use washers on wood projects (fender washers when possible).

- Always use either a lock washer or a lock nut. We favor the lock nut, your choice.

- Remember that part of the project construction is to go back after several months and tighten loose connections that result as the wood dries out and shrinks.

And, that's all there is to it. For more home improvement tips and information, visit the Careys' Web site at www.onthehouse.com, or call them at (800) 737-2474 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Prepare for safety in winter fire season

As the winter fire season approaches, the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross urges families to prepare for safety in the event of a fire.

By taking time to make your home fire-safe, plotting and practicing escape routes and following through on your plan if needed, you can prevent tragedy from occurring.

The Red Cross provides relief to distressed families at an average of four home fires every day in southeast Michigan.

It wants to help reduce that number and increase safety by encouraging families to learn and practice these tips.

MAKE HOME FIRE-SAFE

Smoke alarms save lives. Install a smoke alarm outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your home. If people sleep with doors closed, install smoke alarms inside sleeping areas, too.

Use the test button to check each smoke alarm once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately. Replace all batteries at least once a year. Vacuum away cobwebs and dust from your smoke alarms monthly.

Smoke alarms become less sensitive over time. Replace your smoke alarms every 10 years.

Consider having one of your workers fire extinguishers in

your home. Get training from the fire department in how to use them.

Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system in your home.

PLAN ESCAPE ROUTES

Determine at least two ways to escape from every room of your home.

Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them and store them near the window.

Select a location outside your home where everyone would meet after escaping.

Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

ESCAPE SAFELY

Once you are out, stay out! Call the fire department from a neighbor's home.

If you see smoke or fire in your first escape route, use your second way out.

If you must get out through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to your exit.

If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door before opening it. If it is warm, use your second way out.

If smoke, heat or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help using a bright-colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call the fire department and tell them where you are.



You can help needy children

Please take a moment and fill out this coupon with a donation to the Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit. Every penny that's donated is spent to help needy metro Detroit schoolchildren. They will receive a much appreciated and needed gift box containing clothing, shoes, socks, underwear and even a small gift for the holidays.

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We've recently refurbished our website. Given it a fresh coat of paint so to speak. We wanted it to be easier to navigate. And great to look at. And useful for everyone. It took us a while but we think we made all that happen. Check it out. A lot of what you see is still there—local news, special sections, classifieds and some of it is new like our partnership with CareerBuilder.com, Apartments.com and Cars.com., three great sites to use when you want really great results. So grab your mouse and see what's happening on hometownlife.com

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Jesus is the reason

Christmas is about Christ's birthday

Johnny finally rolled off to sleep the night before his birthday with excited thoughts of anticipation. He could hardly wait to be greeted by his mother, father and sister as he hurriedly dressed the next morning. But to his great surprise there were no "Happy Birthdays" floating around. Well, he thought, "they are just keeping a surprise for dinner. Maybe some of my friends will be invited in and we'll have a big time."

Slipping home quickly after school he found nobody there. His heart dropped, but then he



Rev. Roger Merrell

thought, "I'll bet they are out planning something real exciting and different for a surprise." So he went off and played with some friends until the dinner hour came. Still nothing out of the ordinary. Everyone acted as normal as ever.

Then as a last resort he

thought, "they are really doing a good job of cover-up and suspense. They must have planned an evening party with some of my friends invited in."

The after-dinner hour was the most trying he had ever experienced. First he curled up in a chair and tried to read. Not being able to concentrate at that he uneasily shifted from one activity to another anxiously waiting that great surprise. But to his dismay, no one showed the least interest in him.

His father just sat there in his easy chair reading his

evening paper. After about an hour anxiety turned to despair. Johnny became so frantic he burst out in tears and stomped up the stairs to his room. Father dropped his paper and started after him as he said to mother, "I wonder what's bothering, Johnny?"

Entering Johnny's room father found him flung across his bed crying his eyes out. Upon being questioned Johnny sobbed, "Don't you know today's my birthday and you didn't celebrate one bit?" To which his father replied, "Why of course we celebrated your birthday. We couldn't forget that. This afternoon your mother, sister and I went downtown. I bought mother a

most beautiful dress. Mother bought me a new set of tools for my shop and we both bought your sister a private computer all her own. We had the best time celebrating your birthday."

CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY

How unbelievable this sounds. Yet hundreds celebrate Christ's birthday this way. Why can't everyone plan to center his Christmas around his church and celebrate CHRISTmas in its rightful place? Deep down in our hearts we will have a better feeling if we have given a gift to CHRIST through the church of our choice.

Why can't everyone plan to center his Christmas around his church and celebrate CHRISTmas in its rightful place. Deep down in our hearts we will have a better feeling if we have given a gift to CHRIST through the church of our choice.

The Rev. Roger Merrell is pastor emeritus of Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia.

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 1,200 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. Drop off toys at the Capuchin Services building at 6333 Medbury, Detroit or Jefferson Chevrolet, 2130 Jefferson, six blocks east of the Ren Cen. For more information, call (313) 579-2100, Ext. 215.

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. Call (248) 374-5920.

Services

Christmas Eve communion services 4:30 p.m. family service, 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. candlelight Saturday, Dec. 24, and 11 a.m. Christmas Day Sunday, Dec. 25, and New Year's Day, Sunday, Jan. 1, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays, with Nursery. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Visitors welcome. Visit <http://holycrosslivonia.org>.

Services

4:30 p.m. family worship time with The Story, carols and candlelighting, 7 p.m. traditional service with carols and candlelighting and 11 p.m. traditional service with carols, candlelighting and communion Saturday, Dec. 24, and 10 a.m. Christmas and New Year's days, there will not be Sunday School, the service will be enjoyed by all ages, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0149.

Services

4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24, at the Lake Pointe Bible Church, 42150 Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth. Call (734) 420-0515.

Christmas services

5 p.m. family service and 11 p.m. with special music beginning at 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Dec. 24, 10 a.m. Christmas Day Dec. 25, and 10 a.m. New Year's Day Jan. 1, at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road at 11 Mile. Call (248) 474-6170.

Services

5 p.m. (children's), 7 p.m. (holy communion) and 11 p.m. (candlelight holy communion) 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.

Family-centered service

Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24, special children's message, instrumental begins 15-minutes prior to service at St. John's Lutheran Church, 542 Mercedes, one block east of Inkster Road, south of Schoolcraft, Redford. Cookies, carols and communion will be the theme of a worship service 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 25. Come and sing your favorite Christmas hymns by request and receive your leftover Christmas cookies. For information, call (313) 538-660.

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 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.

Christmas Eve services

7 p.m. service is child friendly and offers a Christmas pageant, The Legend of the Christmas King, and 10 p.m. spiritual service including communion, Dec. 24, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia. Call (734) 422-6038.

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 child care provided.

Christmas Eve service

Candlelight service 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24, Family Christmas Eve Service, 21260 Haggerty, Northville. Call (248) 348-7600.

Christmas dinner

Follows services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., dinner from noon to 2 p.m. when the 12 Step open meetings begin. Unity of Livonia is inviting anyone alone on Christmas Day to dinner. There will be a turkey with all the trimmings. If you can bring a dish to share it's asked that you please do so. If not, come anyway. To help or donate, call (734) 421-1760. Unity of Livonia is at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster.

Christmas dinner

There is no reason to spend Christmas Day alone. St. Dunstan is one of the churches inviting people to spend the day with them. They will be serving dinners to anyone who is alone or doesn't have anywhere to go on Sunday, Dec. 25. St. Dunstan's dinner will be served at 1:30 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.), at the Catholic church at 1616 Belton, Garden City. No charge, but reservations required. Call Mary or John at (734) 425-3282 for reservations or more information.

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 Detroit, will be the keynote speaker.

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.

Laugh out loud

Ventriiloquist David Pendleton brings a host of comedic characters for a show 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Ministries, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Presented by Single Adult Ministries. Cost is \$5. Call (248) 374-5920.

Pasties fund-raiser

Orders taken Jan. 8, 10-11 and 15, pick up Jan. 19-20, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Cost is \$3, proceeds go the building fund/parking lot improvements. Call (734) 422-0149.

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 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20, at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.

Ethics workshop

The ethics of end-of-life decisions workshop will not advocate a position but explore the question so an individual can make an informed decision. Dr. Wesley Brun, executive director of Samaritan Counseling, facilitates at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Cost is \$10. To register, call (248) 474-4701.

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 leachd@olgcparish.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 2840 W. Seven Mile

community 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.

Detroit World Outreach

A non-denominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high-tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, a great place for college 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 7:30 p.m. at 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, conversations 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.

Qigong

The ancient form of Chinese energetic meditation is being offered at 7:30 p.m. Monday - Qigong meditation 10-11.15 a.m., and Friday - Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073.

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. Call (734) 722-1735.

Detroit World Outreach

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Passages

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CARLES E. DRIVER
Age 76, December 18, 2005, of Canton (formerly of Wayne). Beloved husband of Lois. Dear father of Carol, Richard (Brenda), and Thomas (Sharon). Brother of Louis Sledd, Christine (George) Chittenden, and the late Charles, Hurshel, Laugvine Ralph, Pauline Sliagar, and Nellie Carmichael. Also survived by seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Funeral was held at The Uht Funeral Home, Westland, MI, on Wednesday, December 21. Please visit and sign a tribute at www.uhtfuneralhome.com

STUART KLOCKOW
Age 88, December 19, 2005 of Canton. Beloved husband of the late Loretta for 58 years. Dear father of John (Deanna), Mary Ellen (Cal) Isaacson, and Margaret (George) Selan. Dearest grandfather of John, Michael, Richard, Kristine, Lisa, and Kimberly. Great grandfather of 5. Loving brother of Gordon, Grace, and Bill. Proud retiree of Detroit Board of Education Stationary Engineer and Former Merchant Marine, officer. Family will receive friends Wednesday 3-9pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Funeral Service will be Thursday at Grace Lutheran Church, 25630 Grand River (E. of Beech Daly), Redford, instate 9:30am until the time of service at 10:30am. Family appreciates memorials to Grace Lutheran Church or Bethesda Lutheran Home for Children. Interment Glen Eden Memorial Park.

WARREN W. FEOLE
Age 67, of Newport, TN, formerly of Northville and Marquette, MI, father of Debra Bots and Denise (David) Gerke, passed away December 11, 2005. Grandfather of Leslie, Austin, and Deirdre. Survived by wife Sandra of Cosby, TN, step-mother Mary (Betty) Feole, brother Howard (Nancy), sister Dolores (Jim) Ide, and several nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his parents Julius and Cora. Warren retired from Michigan Bell Telephone, was a member of the Elks Club, and Pioneers of America. He enjoyed bowling, golfing, camping, ice skating, hockey, baseball, and motorcycles. No services are scheduled at this time. Memorial gifts may be given to the charity of your choice. Condolences to cjlb2g@sbcglobal.net.

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Comfort in
Family &
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Family dishes to serve for Hanukkah

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hanukkah is the Jewish celebration based on the miracle of one day's supply of oil burning for eight days in the menorah on the Temple's rededicated altar, in Jerusalem in 165 B.C. Now, each year these eight days are a time for thanksgiving and candle-lighting in commemoration. Sharing special foods is another custom of Hanukkah and chef Jeff Nathan suggests two recipes for this occasion. Nathan operates the cafe-restaurant Abigail's at the Museum, located at the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City.

Braised short ribs with dried fruits and port wine sauce would make a festive centerpiece for a family feast. It's a comfort-food kind of dish, cooked mostly in the oven, Nathan points out, and the dried fruit and wine give the dish a warm flavor for the wintry season.

The fruit element is carried over in the apple latkes, which are cooked in oil - a characteristic of many traditional Hanukkah dishes, recalling the miracle of the oil.

BRAISED SHORT RIBS WITH DRIED FRUIT AND PORT WINE SAUCE

- 1 pound boneless short ribs (1 1/2-inch thick), tied
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Vegetable oil
- 4 medium red onions, sliced into half moons
- 1 medium white onion, sliced into half moons
- 1 large leek, white part only, washed and sliced into half moons
- 3/4 cup dried fruit (cherries, apricots, cranberries, in any combination, as desired)
- 2 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 2 cups red wine
- 1 cup port wine, plus 1/2 cup port wine (reserve for sauce)
- 1 cup beef broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 12 whole black peppercorns
- 1 bunch parsley stems, leaves reserved and chopped
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch

Season the meat with the salt and pepper. Heat oil as needed in a large ovenproof skillet. In batches, sear the meat on all sides. Do not overcrowd the pan. When all the meat has been seared, transfer it all back to the skillet.

While the meat is searing, in a small bowl combine the dried fruit with the brown sugar, red wine and 1 cup port wine. Set aside.

Cover the meat with the assorted onions. Pour in the dried fruit and wines and the beef broth. In an 8-inch-square, double layer of cheesecloth, tie up the bay leaves, thyme, peppercorns and parsley stems. Submerge this sachet in the liquid of the skillet. Bring the liquid up to a simmer, then transfer skillet to a preheated 300° F oven. Cook until tender, about 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Remove the meat from the skillet and keep warm. Remove and discard the sachet. Place the skillet on the stovetop and bring the liquid to a simmer. In a small bowl combine the cornstarch with the remaining 1/2 cup port wine. Whisk into the simmering liquid. Simmer for 5 more minutes.

Return the meat to the skillet with the sauce, and stir in the chopped reserved parsley. Serve hot. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

PLEASE SEE HANUKKAH, B9



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CATTLEMEN'S BEEF BOARD

A blend of finely chopped pistachios, coarsely ground coriander seeds, thyme and black pepper adds a flavorful 'crust' for this tender, juicy tenderloin.

Make the holiday meal

Beef tenderloin will make Christmas memorable

Ring in the season of festive gatherings with family and friends at a table set with the most special holiday meal - a beef tenderloin roast.

Beef tenderloin is delicious simply roasted and seasoned with salt and pepper.

But for the holidays, why not use a unique rub? This recipe is accented with an unexpected blend of finely chopped pistachios, coarsely ground coriander seeds, thyme and black pepper. The results are stunning both in appearance and flavor as the seasoning adds a flavorful "crust" for the tender, juicy roast. Plus, the boneless tenderloin is easy to carve and serve whether from a buffet or at the table.

The roast cooks in under an hour, and the most accurate way to make sure it reaches your preferred doneness is by using a thermometer. And, here's the key to perfection: remove the tenderloin from the oven when the internal temperature is 10° below the desired doneness (135° F for medium rare and 150° F for medium). Then, and this is very important, tent it with foil for about 15 minutes - the temperature will rise about 5 to 10 degrees to reach the desired doneness - and the roast will be easier to carve.

To accompany the perfect roast, Wild Rice Pilaf is quick to prepare when using a packaged rice blend. The sophisticated secret to this side dish comes with the addition of dried cranberries, shallots and baby spinach to the rice. For the finishing touch, serve with Holiday Ale Sauce, a savory combination of cremini mushrooms, Dijon mustard and "holiday" red ale.

Beef Tenderloin with Wild Rice Pilaf and Holiday Ale Sauce will be a memorable meal for holiday guests, a

PLEASE SEE TENDERLOIN, B9

Try these tips

The beef culinary experts from the Beef and Veal Culinary Center share their top tips for the perfect holiday roast.

WHICH ROAST?

Ribeye, rib and tenderloin are popular options at holiday time. However the leaner cuts - round (sirloin) tip, eye round and tri-tip - are also delicious, more economical choices.

HOW MUCH TO BUY?

These guidelines will help determine what size roast to purchase.

Lean boneless roasts, such as tenderloin, eye round and tri-tip will yield four 3-ounce servings of cooked, trimmed beef per pound. (For example, a 3-pound roast will yield 12, 3-ounce servings.)

Ribeye roasts, which have more trimmable fat, will yield three 3-ounce

servings of cooked, trimmed beef per pound. (For example, a 3-pound roast will yield nine 3-ounce servings.)

Bone-in roasts will yield 2-1/2, 3-ounce servings of cooked, trimmed beef per pound.

Remember to plan about 6 ounces, cooked trimmed beef for those "holiday servings."

SHOP SMART

Choose meat last when shopping to ensure that beef stays as cold as possible.

Choose beef with a bright cherry-red color, without any grayish or brown blotches. A darker purplish-red color is typical of vacuum-packaged beef. Once exposed to oxygen, beef will turn from a darker red to bright red.

Choose packages that are cold, tightly wrapped and

PLEASE SEE TIPS, B9

What is organic grape growing?

John Williams, proprietor and winemaker of Frog's Leap Winery in the Rutherford District of Napa Valley, kept jumping up and down on his spade and could not penetrate the vineyard ground. It was hard as cement.

That was a neighbor's vineyard a few yards away from Williams' organically farmed vineyard where his spade turned over the soil easily.

"I farm 200 acres of certified organic vineyards," said Williams. "I'm unsure how biodynamics [we wrote about this in our Nov. 3, 2005 column] applies to vineyards, but I can tell you



Focus on Wine

Ray and Eleanor Heald

that all agriculture is local.

"If a grape grower tries to apply to his land a set dogma developed by someone else in another region, that's not farming. A good farmer does what is best for his site."

Williams suggested that because of disease, varietal pressure (chasing the market by planting whatever variety is

trendy) and phylloxera, the average life span of a Napa Valley vineyard is only 14 years. When a typical farmer replants a vineyard, he will tear out the old vines, fumigate the soil to kill everything in it and then immediately replant.

ORGANIC PRACTICES

When Williams recently replanted his Napa Valley vineyard, he did not fumigate and chose to leave it fallow for two years. "Fumigating is exactly the opposite of what an organic farmer would do," he explained. "The French say that for every year that vineyard land is left fallow, 10

years of vine life are added."

We asked: If you don't fumigate and know that you have nematodes (microscopic round worms that seriously harm vines, but are a normal part of the vineyard ecosystem), how do you get rid of them before you replant? "There is no bad bug," Williams answered. "Nematodes are part of soil life. The important principle is to keep them in balance with other soil insects."

Williams doesn't irrigate his vineyards and chooses deep-rooted rootstocks. Winter cover crops are disked in,

PLEASE SEE ORGANIC, B9

Side dish

Salmon and pizza?

Everyone loves a good pizza. Buddy's Pizza now has transformed it into a New Year's appetizer.

Taking a traditional square pizza, topping it with salmon slicing it into thin, hand-held strips, Buddy's presents the Salmon Dijonaise appetizer with wild smoked salmon, dill, Parmesan and brick cheese, Dijon mustard, red onion and tomato basil sauce. Party-givers can pick up Buddy's half-baked pizzas with all the fresh toppings included, and quickly finish them in their own ovens at home in just 10-15 minutes, for a "just baked, fresh from the oven" taste.

Buddy's Pizza has nine metro Detroit locations that offer the half-baked or fully baked pizzas as carry-out items. Patrons can request the pizza be sliced into appetizer portions. A large pizza makes 16 appetizer pieces.

For those making New Year's resolutions to lose weight, try the fat-free cheese and brick cheese blend, spinach, diced tomatoes, fresh mushrooms, roasted garlic, black olives and traditional Buddy's sauce. Other specialty pizzas which can become appetizers include BBQ Chicken, Greek, Margherita Hawaiian and Gourmet Veggie.

Buddy's Pizza today has six full-service restaurants and three carry-out locations throughout metro Detroit. Buddy's Pizza is home to Detroit's original square deep dish pizza and was voted "One of the Nation's 5 Best Pizza Places" by the Food Network. Visit www.buddyspizza.com for more information.

Entertaining tips

Catering specialist Wendy Pashman of Chicago's Entertaining Company offers ideas for revving up the "wow" factor for holiday parties without busting the budget.

Here are her suggestions for making your party extraordinary and pleasing your guests at modest cost:

Forgo elaborate sweet tables and make colorful cupcake towers. Pashman decorates tiers of graduated (24-, 36- and 48-inch) round wooden boards to match a party's decor, balancing them on glass pillars to look like an old-fashioned wedding cake. Each level is loaded with an easily refilled selection of frosted temptations.

Say goodbye to costly blooms. Decorate guest tables or food stations with clusters of candles. Try an arrangement of various-sized glass cylinders filled with delicate floating candles, or arrange candles on mirrored stands of varied heights for a shimmering effect.

Control amounts of expensive foods like shrimp by passing them on tiny bamboo skewers instead of in limitless amounts on buffet platters. Another idea: Serve "global cuisine," adding sophisticated appeal to the menu, for example with Mediterranean-inspired eggplant "caviar" as an hors d'oeuvre.

Buy one of these gifts for your cook

Instead of visions of "sugar plums" dancing in your head perhaps it is the vision of a grilled juicy hamburger or steak! Here are a few last-minute gift ideas for your cook.

If the notion of standing outside bundled up with your winter woollens doesn't excite you, then buy an "indoor grill." There are electric indoor grills, indoor barbecue grills, indoor smokeless grills or indoor gas grills, grills that make the perfect hamburger or steak in the comfort and warmth inside your home.

Manufacturers have come up with many choices so you can enjoy the delights of summer grilling year round. There are a few rules to follow such as preheating the grill so the food cooks evenly and if the grill has a non-stick finish, choose wooden or plastic utensils to avoid scratching the surface of the grill. Most of the grills have a removable drip tray for the fat that has drained away so keep it clean. These grills are easy to clean, just wipe with a damp paper towel and sponge or some can be taken apart and washed in the dishwasher. Buy the size grill that fits your family size and needs. The prices range from \$20 to over \$100.

How about a non-stick roasting pan as a gift? A good non-stick roaster can hold up to 28 to 30 pound turkey, a duck, goose, ham, beef or pork tenderloin or rack of lamb. Make sure that it is at least three inches deep to protect the fat from dripping over the sides. Buy the whole set, the larger roaster with turkey lifters.



Home Economist

Lois Thieleke

Don't let your meal slide on to the floor, invest in a turkey lifter. They are a great invention when you need a helping hand trying to move the turkey or roast from the roaster to the platter. These look like a rack with handles that can be flipped up to carry the meat easily. These can hold up to a 30-pound turkey with out a slip and with less mess. They are inexpensive and a great stocking stuffer gift.

Be very careful when you purchase the throwaway aluminum roasting pans from the grocery store. They are flimsy, they can tip over, bend in the middle, develop a pin hole so fat drips on the stove coils. It would be a great investment just to buy the non-stick roasting pan.

Sharp knives are a "must have" for any cook no matter what skills they have. Every kitchen should have a chefs or utility knife for chopping, slicing and dicing. A slicer is generally longer and thinner and is used to carve meat. Check out the handle for comfort and balance and to see how it feels in your hand. Read the instructions. Some knives should not be put in the dishwasher as they start to corrode if left wet. Prices range from a few dollars to hundreds of dollars for really good kitchen knives.

Every kitchen needs a good

pair of kitchen shears to cut up chicken or trim away fat or skin from meats. Buy a good pair that comes apart so it can be washed in the dishwasher after cutting raw meats.

Next on your "must have" list is a gravy separator. Pour the juices from the pan in to this cup that looks like a measuring cup. As it cools, the fat rises to the surface and the natural juices settle to the bottom. This eliminates the fat but keeps the flavor for homemade gravy. If you are roasting a turkey, duck, goose, chicken, beef or pork roast, use this separator for a more health-conscious gravy.

Every kitchen needs a food steamer. It is a great way to prepare food with no fat, and with minimal loss of vitamins. A regular steaming basket is ideal for steaming fish, vegetables and seafood. The basket is collapsible with perforations so the steam can flow around the food. The food should sit above the water by an inch. There are electric steamers, microwave steamers, bamboo steamers and specialty ones. Prices vary from model to model.

There are rice cookers that make perfect rice. This is especially nice if you just can't make rice without it becoming gummy or soggy. Hand mixers are great for small jobs with small amounts of liquid and you don't want to get the big one out or get it dirty.

Lois Thieleke is an extension educator at the Michigan State University Extension of Oakland County.

Make latkes wild with rice

Hanukkah, the Jewish "Festival of Lights," commemorates a miracle that is celebrated over an eight-day period which, this year, starts on Dec. 25. As with many religious holidays, special foods are prepared. The most traditional for Hanukkah is fried potato pancakes.

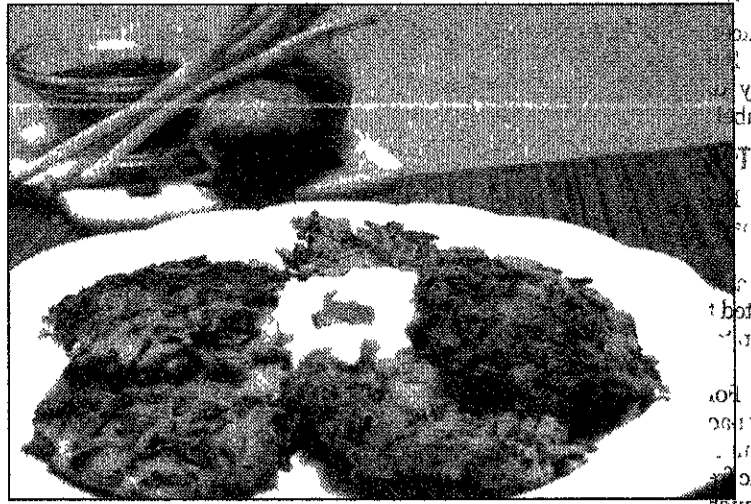
The holiday commemorates the battle between the Maccabees and King Antiochus Epiphanes, who was trying to wipe out Judaism. After chasing the enemy out of Jerusalem, the Maccabees discovered their temple had been desecrated. They found only one small vial of untainted olive oil - enough to burn for just one day. They lit the oil and, miraculously, it lasted the eight days they needed to get more consecrated oil and rededicate the temple. Foods cooked in oil commemorate the miracle.

Latkes - potato pancakes fried in oil - can be made from other vegetables, including zucchini, sweet potatoes and string beans.

Another alternative is to combine grated potatoes with wild rice, which adds an earthy, nutty flavor. Wild rice isn't really rice but a long-grain marsh grass native to the northern Great Lakes area where American Indians harvest it by hand.

Wild rice contains the phytochemical called phytic acid, which, in lab and animal studies, appears to slow formation of cancers as well as help control blood sugar, cholesterol and triglycerides.

Clean wild rice before cooking by putting it in a medium bowl and filling it with cold water. After a few minutes, any debris will float to the surface and the water



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Latkes are a festive way to enjoy the holiday.

can be poured off.

These Wild Rice and Potato Latkes make an elegant appetizer or side dish, regardless of whether you celebrate Hanukkah.

WILD RICE AND POTATO LATKES

- 1/4 cup wild rice
- 1 medium (10 ounces) Russet potato, peeled and finely shredded
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 scallions, green part only, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Canola oil spray

Cook rice in 1 1/2 cups water until completely tender throughout the kernel, about 1 hour or more. Drain rice in colander and let sit until it is dry to the touch, about 15 minutes. Place warm rice in a mixing bowl.

Using paper towels, squeeze as much moisture as possible from potato, a handful at a time and transfer to the bowl with the rice. With a fork, mix in the eggs and scallions. Sprinkle with flour and mix in. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Coat a large skillet with cooking spray until well coated. Place over medium-high heat.

Place rounded tablespoons of the mixture in the pan, one at a time, pressing each firmly with the back of a fork to make thin, 2-inch pancakes with lacy edges. Space latkes 2 inches apart. When lightly browned on the bottom, 2 to 3 minutes, gently turn latkes and brown on the other side, about 2 minutes. (To avoid splattering oil, use a splatter screen.) When done, transfer to a warm plate and keep warm. Repeat with remaining mixture, re-spraying pan before adding more pancakes.

Serve immediately. If desired, garnished with thin strips of smoked salmon or a dab of lumpfish caviar and a dab of low-fat sour cream.

Makes 4 servings (2 pancakes each).

Per serving: 131 calories, 3 g total fat (less than 1 g saturated fat), 20 g carbohydrate, 7 g protein, 2 g dietary fiber, 40 mg sodium.

Recipe courtesy of the American Institute for Cancer Research.

CALENDAR

If you have an item for the Taste calendar, please submit at least two weeks prior to your event to Ken Abramczyk, Taste editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, e-mail kabramczyk@oe.hometown.com or fax (734) 591-7279

Chinese restaurant would deliver? Now you can create your very own Asian inspired food and avoid the deep fryer at the same time. Learn to make simple and fresh noodle dishes with ingredients from your pantry. You will also learn to make Kung Pao Chicken, Shrimp and Peanut Noodles, Hot and Sour Soup and Asian Spring Rolls. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 11, and taught by Katie Renton, owner of Chef Girl Productions in Birmingham. Sample dishes and take home recipes. Session is \$30. A \$5 material fee is payable to the instructor. To register for class, contact The Community House, 380 S. Bates St. Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or come at www.communityhouse.com

Recipes for a tasty vegetarian menu

BY J.M. HIRSCH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) - Last year my family decided to get the fuss out of our Christmas festivities.

Thanks to our then 3-month-old son, none of us had the time or energy to manage a major meal. Because my family is vegetarian and my wife's is carnivorous, our celebrations always go both ways - veg and not-so-veg versions of everything.

It's a good approach to otherwise touchy territory, but keeping everyone happy also means doubling your work in the kitchen.

CHRISTMAS PASTA SAUCE

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion
- Two 28-ounce cans crushed tomatoes
- 1-pound package frozen vegetarian "meatballs" (or vegetarian ground "beef")
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 4 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt

Heat the oil in a large saucepan or stockpot over medium heat. Add the onion and saute until just translucent, about 6 minutes.

Add the remaining ingredi-

ents, mix well and bring to a simmer. Cover, reduce heat to low and cook until meatballs are tender and partially broken apart, about 20 minutes.

GOLDEN DELICIOUS APPLE PIE WITH OATMEAL CRUMB TOPPING

- 1 prepared pie crust
- For filling:**
- 7 cups peeled, cored and thinly sliced Golden Delicious apples
- 1/3 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar
- Juice and zest of one lemon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch

Oatmeal Crumb Topping:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup rolled oats (old-fashioned or quick-cooking)
- 2/3 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) cold, unsalted butter, cut into 1/4-inch pieces

Preheat oven to 400° F. If not already frozen, place the prepared pie crust in the freezer for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine the apples, 1/3 cup of sugar, and lemon juice and zest in a large bowl. Mix well and set aside for 10 minutes.

In a small bowl, mix the remaining 1 tablespoon of sugar

with the nutmeg and cornstarch. Add the mixture to the apples and mix well. Transfer the apples to the pie shell and use your hands to level them. Bake on the center rack for 30 minutes.

While the pie bakes, make the crumb topping. Combine the rolled oats, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt in a food processor and pulse several times to mix. Scatter the butter over the top and pulse until the mixture resembles fine crumbs.

Empty the crumbs into a large bowl and rub between your fingers until large, buttery crumbs form. Refrigerate until needed.

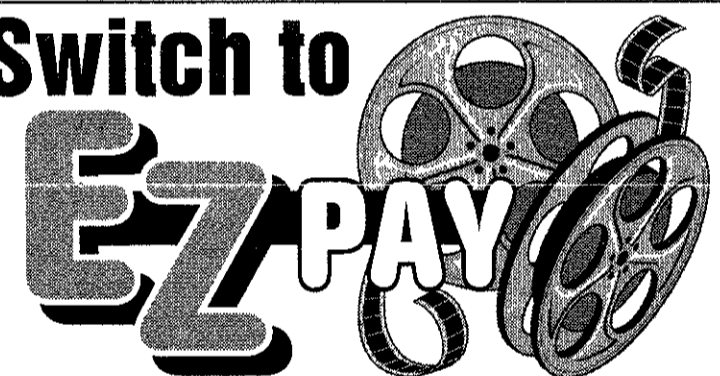
Remove the pie from the oven and reduce the temperature to 375° F. Carefully pour the crumbs on the center of the pie, spreading them over the surface with your hands and lightly tamping them down.

Return the pie to the oven, rotating it front to back from its previous cooking position. Slide a baking sheet onto the rack below the pie to catch any drips. Bake until the top is golden brown and the juices bubble thickly at the edge, 30 to 35 minutes. If needed, cover the pie loosely with tented foil during the final 15 minutes of baking to prevent the top from browning too much.

Transfer the pie to a wire rack and let cool at least an hour before serving. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Recipe adapted from Ken Haedrich's *Pie*. Harvard Common Press, 2004, \$24.95.

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TIPS

FROM PAGE B7

without tears or punctures or excessive liquid.

Purchase before or on the "sell by" date printed on the package label.

STORE PROPERLY

Refrigerate or freeze beef roasts as soon as possible after purchasing. Roasts wrapped in transparent film can be refrigerated three to four days (or frozen up to two weeks) without rewrapping.

For longer freezer storage, repackage in heavy-duty aluminum foil, freezer paper or plastic freezer bags, removing as much air as possible.

Refrigerate in meat compartment or coldest part of refrigerator, or freeze at 0°F or colder. Cooking times given in recipes

are only a guide: The best way to determine doneness is with a thermometer.

Insert an ovenproof meat thermometer into the center of the thickest part of the roast, not touching bone, fat or the pan. This type of thermometer remains in the roast during the entire cooking process. Or use an instant-read thermometer to check meat temperature periodically during cooking. (It is not oven safe, so it cannot be left in the roast while it is in the oven.)

To use, insert the thermometer into the center of the roast from either end, making sure it is inserted past the indentation (if visible) on the metal shaft, or at least two inches into the meat. Do not allow thermometer to touch bone, fat or the pan.

To prevent overcooking, remove roast from oven when thermometer registers 10°F below desired doneness.

Important: Do not cover or add water during roasting. Let it stand.

After removing from the oven, tent roast with aluminum foil. Let stand 15-20 minutes. The temperature will rise to reach the desired doneness. During standing, meat juices firm up making carving easier.

CARVE CORRECTLY

A sharp carving knife is a must. For uniform slices, hold the knife at the same angle for each cut. The more tender the roast, the thicker the slices can be. Rib, ribeye and tenderloin roasts can be sliced 1/2- to 3/4-inch thick. Round (sirloin) tip, eye round and tri-tip should be no more than 1/4-inch thick.

KEEP IT SAFE

Practice food safety. Defrost frozen roasts in the refrigerator to prevent bacteri-

al growth. Allow four to seven hours per pound to defrost a large roast; three to five hours per pound for a small roast. Do not defrost at room temperature.

To avoid cross-contamination:

■ Wash hands with hot soapy water before and after handling raw beef. Also wash utensils, counters, cutting boards and other surfaces raw meat has touched.

■ Keep raw meat and meat juices separate from ready-to-eat foods, both in the refrigerator and during preparation.

■ Don't place cooked foods on the same board, tray or platter that held raw meat. For example, do not carve a cooked roast on the same board used in preparing the raw roast.

Enjoy the great flavor of a beef roast with favorite holiday accompaniments.

HANUKKAH

FROM PAGE B7

APPLE LATKES WITH THREE-APPLE SALSA (PAREVE)

For Three-Apple Salsa:

- 1 Golden Delicious apple
- 1 Granny Smith apple
- 1 Fuji apple
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries and dried apricots (mixed, or as desired), roughly chopped, soaked in warm water for 10 minutes, then drained
- 1/2 cup fresh mint, roughly chopped

For the Latkes:

- 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 firm apples, such as Golden Delicious, Fuji or Granny Smith, unpeeled
- 1/2 cup canola or vegetable oil, as needed
- Confectioners' sugar, for sprinkling

To make the salsa:

Thoroughly wash, but do not peel the 3 apples for the salsa. Core the apples and cut into 1/4-inch dice. Immediately place in a medium-sized bowl and toss with the lemon juice, honey and cinnamon. Add the cranberries, apricots and mint. Stir to evenly combine. Set aside.

To make the latkes:

Whisk the flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon and allspice in a medium bowl. Whisk in the water until barely smooth. Core the apples and cut into 1/4-inch dice. Immediately fold the diced apples into the batter.

Line a baking sheet with a double thickness of paper towels. In a large skillet, heat the oil over high heat until it begins to shimmer. Reduce the heat to medium. Working in batches, using about 1/2 cup for each latke, pour the batter into the skillet. Cook until the underside is golden brown, adjusting the heat as needed so the latkes don't burn. Turn and cook the other side. Transfer to the paper towels to drain briefly. It is best to serve each batch immediately after draining. If you wish, use two skillets to keep the latkes coming at a fast pace.

Sprinkle the latkes with confectioners' sugar and drizzle with Caramel Sauce. Serve at once with the Three-Apple Salsa passed on the side. Makes 4 to 5 servings (3 latkes each).

CARAMEL SAUCE (DAIRY WITH PAREVE VARIATION)

- 8 ounces sugar
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup heavy cream or nondairy creamer

In a medium-size, heavy-bottomed saucepan combine the sugar, lemon juice and water. Stir until all sugar is moistened. Cook over a medium flame until sugar is melted and syrup just begins to turn light brown in color. Remove from heat and carefully pour in about half the heavy cream or nondairy creamer. The sauce will bubble furiously for a moment and then settle. Once the boiling has settled, add the remaining heavy cream or nondairy topping and stir. Allow to cool at room temperature in the saucepan. Transfer to a plastic container and keep refrigerated until needed. Warm the plastic container in hot water to re-liquify the Caramel Sauce for serving. The sauce can be prepared up to 1 week ahead of time.

Recipes from Jeff Nathan of Abigail's at the Museum
On the Web: <http://www.mjnhyc.org>

TENDERLOIN

FROM PAGE B7

wonderful way to celebrate the tradition of family and friends.

BEEF TENDERLOIN WITH WILD RICE PILAF & HOLIDAY ALE SAUCE

- 1 center-cut beef tenderloin roast (2 to 3 pounds)
- Salt and pepper
- Holiday Ale Sauce (recipe follows)

- Rub:**
- 1/2 cup unsalted, shelled pistachios, finely chopped
 - 1/4 cup coarsely ground coriander seeds
 - 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh thyme
 - 1 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper

- Wild Rice Pilaf:**
- 2 packages (6 to 6.3 ounces each) long grain and wild rice mix
 - 1/4 cup butter
 - 1/2 cup sweetened dried cranberries
 - 1/2 cup finely chopped shallots
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1/2 teaspoon pepper

- 3 cups water
- 3 cups loosely packed baby spinach, coarsely chopped

Heat oven to 425°F. Combine rub ingredients; press six tablespoons evenly onto all surfaces of beef roast. Reserve remaining rub for pilaf.

Place roast on rack in shallow roasting pan. Insert ovenproof meat thermometer so tip is centered in thickest part of beef. Do not add water or cover. Roast in 425°F oven 35 to 40 minutes for medium rare; 45 to 50 minutes for medium doneness.

Remove roast when meat thermometer registers 135°F for medium rare; 150°F for medium. Transfer roast to carving board; tent loosely with aluminum foil. Let stand 15 minutes. (Temperature will continue to rise about 10°F to reach 145°F for medium rare; 160°F for medium.)

Meanwhile prepare Wild Rice Pilaf. Remove seasoning packets from rice mixes and reserve for another use. Melt butter in large saucepan over medium heat. Add cranberries, shallots, reserved rub, salt and pepper; cook and stir three minutes. Stir in rice mix and water; bring to a

boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer according to package directions, about 25 minutes or until rice is tender and most of water is absorbed. Stir in spinach. Let stand five minutes or until spinach is wilted.

Carve roast into slices. Season with salt and pepper, as desired. Serve with Wild Rice Pilaf and Holiday Ale Sauce. Makes six servings.

Cook's Tip: To easily grind coriander seeds, use a coffee or spice grinder (used only for seasonings). They can also be crushed in a food-safe plastic bag. Place the seeds in the bag, squeeze out the air and seal. Use the bottom of a custard cup, rolling pin or side of a heavy pan to coarsely crush the seeds.

HOLIDAY ALE SAUCE

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 8 ounces cremini mushrooms, cut into quarters
- 1/2 cup finely chopped shallots
- 1/4 cup ready-to-serve beef broth
- 1/2 cup red ale or ready-to-serve beef broth
- 1 tablespoon Dijon-style mustard
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

Melt two tablespoons butter in large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add mushrooms and shallots; cook and stir four to five minutes or until mushrooms are browned.

Add broth and ale; cook and stir eight minutes or until reduced by half. Whisk in mustard until combined.

Remove from heat; whisk in two tablespoons butter. Season with salt and pepper. Makes 1-1/2 cups.

Cook's tip: Cremini mushrooms are sometimes referred to as baby Portobello mushrooms. Christmas ale may be substituted for red ale.

Nutrition information per serving of tenderloin, wild rice pilaf and holiday ale sauce (1/6 or recipe): 810 calories; 61 g fat (16 g saturated fat; 13 g monounsaturated fat); 175 mg cholesterol; 1522 mg sodium; 62 g carbohydrate; 5.4 g fiber; 61 g protein; 16.1 mg niacin; 1.3 mg vitamin B6; 2.9 mcg vitamin B12; 6.9 mg iron; 69.6 mcg selenium; 10.1 mg zinc.

Recipes courtesy of the Cattlemen's Beef Board and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

ORGANIC

FROM PAGE B7

Along with corn and soybeans, nutrients to the soil. The principal of organic farming is soil fertility," he said.

"It's similar to human good health. A balanced diet with exercise helps us resist disease. Healthy soil naturally resists disease and does not require the use of fungicides and insecticides. A living soil breaks down organic matter to provide vine nutrients."

For centuries, vines have been trained to push roots deep to get water and nutrients. Irrigation puts water at the surface so vine roots do not need to seek it; a potentially dangerous consequence since most vine diseases live in the top 18 to 24 inches of soil.

"The holy grail of winemaking," Williams continued, "is to let the wine express the place where it grows, but if the roots are at the surface, then the wine expresses the character of the fertigation water. The old farmers say cultivate; don't irrigate. By not irrigating I'm ensuring that the flavor of my wine comes from the soil where the vines are grown. Isn't that what it's all about?"

WHAT TO BUY

End the year with an earth-

friendly emphasis in your wine buying. Seek out:

■ 2004 Frog's Leap Rutherford, Napa Valley, Sauvignon Blanc, \$29.99. "It's a Sauvignon Blanc that Williams has been making a sauvignon. Its crispness and varietally correct flavors are a tribute to the dry-farmed, organically grown vineyard source."

■ 2003 Frog's Leap Merlot, Napa Valley, \$39.50, is 100 percent merlot and needs no supporting Bordeaux varietal in the blend for either structure or flavor. Soft, supple and elegant - everything a merlot should be.

■ 2002 Frog's Leap Rutherford, Napa Valley, \$78, is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, aged two years in French oak (none of which were new). Simply named Rutherford, the interplay between black fruits and dark spices enhanced by a firm structure indicate the reason.

The Healds are contributing editors for the internationally-respected *Quarterly Review of Wines* and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

BUBBLES:

- Piper Heidsieck Rose Sauvage (about \$45) is alive with color and cherry aromas jumping out of the glass.
- Perrier Jouët Grand Brut (about \$49) is truly elegant.
- Champagne Mumm Cordon Rouge (about \$43) is complex and full-bodied.
- Mumm Napa Brut Prestige (about \$18) is medium-bodied and crisp.
- Mumm Napa Blanc de Noirs (about \$18) is soft and fruity; try it with Thai cuisine.
- Mumm Napa Reserve Brut (\$25) crafted from 50 separate vineyards, it has amazingly rich fruit with finesse in the finish.

LAST-MINUTE GIFT FOR A SCOTCH WHISKY DRINKER:

- Straightforward, reasonably-priced from Jon, Mark AND Robbo's Easy Drinking Whisky Company. The labels are as much fun as the taste. Robbo is highly-regarded former The Macallan Master Distiller David Robertson. Available, all at about \$30 are:
- The Smooth Sweetener One is great for newcomers or those who like their Scotch light and slightly sweet.
 - The Rich Spicy One served neat is rich and very smooth.
 - The Smokey Peaty One appeals to serious Scotch lovers.
- All three are available at Merchants Fine Wine shops.

All wines mentioned are available in the Detroit area. If a retailer does not stock a specific wine, ask that it be ordered from the distributor.

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NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS 2006 SPRING STREET TREE PLANTING

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for 2006 Spring Street Tree Planting according to the specifications of the City of Novi. A voluntary pre-bid meeting will be held Monday, January 9, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. in the Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48375-3024. Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Friday, January 20, 2006, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed to and delivered to:

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "2006 SPRING STREET TREE PLANTING BID"

AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.
The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informalities or both; to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.
Notice dated: December 15, 2005

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8 lb. bag

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FRESH

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Bareman's Egg Nog **2/\$4.00** quarts

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Canton wrestlers pin down tourney title

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Canton's wrestling team isn't where it was at this point last year, but the Chiefs are still further than most squads.

Coach Casey Randolph's contingent was set back a bit because several of his wrestlers also played on the Chiefs' Division 1 state runner-up football team, so they started practice three weeks later than their opponents.

Canton showed little — if any — rust at Saturday's Fourth Annual Canton Dual Meet, which the hosts won for the second consecutive year with a 5-0 record. The Chiefs pinned Allen Park,

39-28, in the championship match. To advance to the finals, Canton hammered Ann Arbor Pioneer, 56-13; Monroe Jefferson, 48-16; Dearborn, 49-21; and Livonia Stevenson, 49-19.

With the sweep, Canton improved its overall record to 12-1. "I'm excited about where we're at now, but I'm more excited about where we're going," said Randolph. "We're still behind with our technique and our conditioning because of all the wrestlers we have that played football, but I think we're starting to see what we can do."

"I thought our performance Saturday was pretty decent. We lost Matt Sweda (152 pounds) with the flu, so we had to

move some kids around, but everything worked out well."

Five Chiefs racked up 5-0 records Saturday: Ryan Schnettler (112), Sam Santilli (119), Corey Phillips (135), Marwan Faraj (160) and Alex Amberg (189). Schnettler and Phillips are still unbeaten on the season with 12-0 and 13-0 marks, respectively. Phillips recorded four pins and one technical fall Saturday while Faraj pinned three of his five foes.

Three Chiefs — heavyweight Donnie Laramie, 152-pound Konrad Konsitzke and 103-pound Mike Haar — went 4-1. Laramie earned a spot in the school record book when he notched the fastest pin (11 seconds) in Canton histo-

ry in his match against Dearborn. The old mark of 13 seconds was shared by Sweda.

"Konrad had to move up to 152 because we didn't have Matt, and his only loss came against a really tough kid from Allen Park," Randolph said.

Randolph commended the effort of 132-pound sophomore Steve Cox, who went 3-2.

"Steve has been a great addition to our team this year," Randolph said. "His nickname is 'The Scrapper' because he never stops. He's wrestling real well."

Canton returns to action Dec. 30 when it will compete in the Birmingham Brother Rice Invitational. ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

Sidelines

Speed camp

The Velocity Sports Performance training center in Canton will be offering a four-day speed camp focusing on the fundamentals of speed and agility in a fast-paced and fun program.

Athletes will develop explosive starting and acceleration techniques, increased maximum speed through proper running mechanics and correct body positioning for lateral speed and change of direction. Exercises will take place within the 10,700-square-foot training center, which includes a 50-yard indoor track with an electronic timing system and a 30-yard artificial turf area.

Each class is one hour in length. The camp will be divided into three age groups (7-11, 12-14 and 15-18) with three daily schedule options: 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Classes will run from Jan. 2 through Jan. 6. The cost is \$60 per athlete. Pre-registration is required.

The registration deadline is Dec. 30. For more information on the speed camp and other Velocity Sports programs, call (734) 485-2561; or visit www.velocitysp.com/canton.

College kudos

The following local athletes are excelling for Albion College:

■ Meghan Stewart of Canton, a senior at Albion, was honored recently for her accomplishments as a member of the Britons' women's golf team, which averaged 359 in five league matches.

■ Salem graduate Jon Gordon, of Plymouth, received a varsity award for participating on the Britons' men's golf team.

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, which will cost \$75. The cost includes a T-shirt, basketball and tickets to Detroit Pistons and Detroit Shock basketball games. To register, visit www.santaslam.com.

Ten-Star Camp

Applications are currently being evaluated for the Ten-Star All-Star Summer Basketball Camp, which is by invitation only. Boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 19 years old are eligible to apply. Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Jerry Stackhouse and Grant Hill.

Players from 50 states and 18 foreign countries attended the 2005 camp. Collegiate basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American team. One of the camps will be held in Ypsilanti.

For a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873.



Livonia Churchill's Mike Plumley (left) and Plymouth's John Knoeri battle for possession of the puck during Tuesday's showdown at the Computware Sports Arena. The Wildcats scored a pair of third-period goals to earn a 2-2 tie with the Chargers.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Late charge

Plymouth icers rally from 2-0 deficit to deadlock Churchill

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's hockey team earned a point for resilience Tuesday night in its Western Lakes Activities Association showdown with Livonia Churchill.

The Wildcats scored a pair of third-period goals to wipe out a 2-0 deficit and tie the Chargers, 2-2, in a game played at the Computware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township.

The tie left Churchill with a 1-2-3 mark and a sour taste in coach Pete Mazzoni's mouth.

"We let this one slip away," said Mazzoni, referring to his team's inability to secure its two-goal cushion. "We had a very bad turnover in the third period and gave it away. We're playing well; we just can't find the back of the net."

"Plymouth is much improved from last year, which is good for our league."

Wildcat junior goalie Justin Desilets shined, re-directing 35 Charger shots. Churchill net-minder

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, C4

MU's Abraham named top coach

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Team success and unity are the buzzwords around Madonna University's volleyball program and the man who leads the way, Jerry Abraham.

But there was nothing Abraham, a Plymouth resident, could do Thursday to get out of the individual limelight. He was named the 2005 AVCA/NAIA National Volleyball Coach of the Year during an awards banquet in San Antonio, Texas, the first-

ever Madonna coach in any sport to receive such an honor.

"I'm not into individual stuff," said Abraham, over the telephone from the Tachikara/AVCA Honors Banquet, annually held in conjunction with the NCAA Division 1 volleyball Final Four. "But this was a dream season, culminated by this special event I had a chance to experience today."

Abraham's award came hot on the heels of the Crusaders' spectacular season. Madonna

went undefeated in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference season to win a ninth consecutive title as well as the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Region VIII crown. With that, the Crusaders earned an automatic berth to their eighth NAIA National Championship appearance.

MU finished 48-2 overall, dropping a heartwrenching semifinal to eventual NAIA

PLEASE SEE ABRAHAM, C11



Madonna University head volleyball coach Jerry Abraham congratulates a player during the recent national tournament in San Diego. He was named AVCA/NAIA Volleyball Coach of the Year.

MU SPORTS INFORMATION

It's time to celebrate 2005 athletic feats



Ed Wright

So, let's not waste any more time — I'm more than ready to rhyme.

'Twas the night before Christmas, and, all through the Park, not an athlete was stirring, the gyms were all dark.

The fields are snow-covered, the track is white, too, I can't think of a better time for an '05 review.

Yes, Canton's gridiron heroes enjoyed a memorable fall Ready! Set! Hit! Hey! Which Chief has the ball?!

Deshon McClendon was mighty, his offensive line was a shield. You know your season's super, when your last game's at Ford Field.

Plymouth made the DI playoffs, led by its gummy QB Jones. Brent's feat was pretty amazing; you see, he played with broken bones.

As for the area's volleyball talent, there was nothing not to like. Unless you were on the wrong end of a sizzling Jeanine Moise spike.

The trio of schools' girls hoop teams threw opponents for a loop. From A'laya to Z'emanski, these ladies sure can hoop.

Canton's Brian Samulski proudly filled Coach Bob Blohm's shoes. With Ealy, Houdek and company, the Chiefs would hardly lose.

And Salem's coach, Fred Thomann, continued to win and win. With a quartet of stars returning, Fred has four good reasons to grin.

Coach Reilly's 'Cats were prowling, a share of the WLAA crown they own. Their all-out effort this past year, made opponents sigh and groan.

The Park was rich in wrestling talent; look at Phillips, Stump and Fox. Just ask a few of their opponents, who they wrapped in tight headlocks.

For Canton's strong boys hoop team, a district title was nearly won. Until a kid named "Bubba" buried a jumper at the gun.

And on the baseball diamond, Salem's hitters started slow. But by the middle of June, they resembled 'Murderer's Row.'

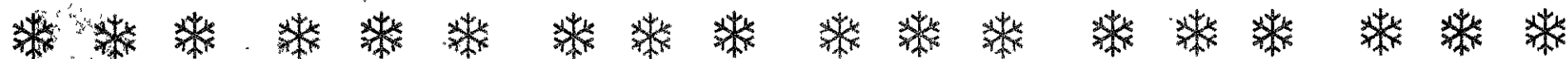
The Rocks almost ousted Putnam and the No. 1-ranked Pioneers, in a classic regional final, that'll be talked about for years.

And in the track-and-field world, a number of athletes stood out. From Cabille to Kapadia to Coleman, whose talents left no doubt.

There were so many fine efforts, I can't write about them all. I just want everyone to know covering them was a ball.

Happy holidays.

ewright@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2108



Canton gymnastics team vaults past Vassar girls

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

It's only December, but Canton's gymnastics team appears to be in mid-season form.

The Chiefs improved their record to 2-0 Saturday with a convincing 141.35-113.65 victory over Vassar. Next on the docket is a Jan. 3 showdown with powerful Brighton.

"Hopefully, we can use this momentum to beat a very strong Brighton team," said Canton coach John Cunningham.

The Chiefs, who swept the first five places in every event including all-around, were

energized by nine scores of 9.0 or better.

Kate Staley was the brightest of the Chiefs' stars, compiling a personal-best all-around total of 36.05, a 9.2 on the beam, 9.15 on bars and 8.95 on the vault.

Seven Chiefs had no-fall routines on the beam, including first-place finisher Kara Ahern, who dazzled the judges with a 9.5. Also shining on the beam were Jessie Murray (9.35), Staley (9.15), Mina Pirzadeh (9.15) and Kaitlyn Burns (9.1).

PLYMOUTH EARNS 1ST WIN

The Wildcats (1-1) notched the first varsity victory in school history with a 119.10-

86.8 victory over Westland John Glenn.

Courtney Pickard led the way, winning the all-around with a 29.85. Teammate Ashley Brimmer was second with a 28.6.

"It's very exciting to get our first win," said first-year coach Diane Hodur. "The girls turned in some solid routines. We had some opening-night jitters last week that we didn't have tonight."

Highlights of the win included Jordan Brodehl's first-place showings in the uneven bars (7.5) and balance beam (8.1) and Katie Hale's gold-medal performance in the floor exercise (8.15).

PREP GYMNASTICS RESULTS

CANTON 141.35
VASSAR 113.65
Dec. 17 at Vassar
(listed are Canton's results)
All-around: Kate Staley, 36.05; Jessica Murray, 35.95; Kara Ahern, 34.6; Mina Pirzadeh, 34.15; Kaitlyn Burns, 34; Olivia Stephens, 30.2; Janelle Hudak, 27.45.
INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
Uneven bars: Staley, 9.15; Murray, 8.75; Pirzadeh and Burns, 7.9; Stephens and Ahern, 7.55.
Balance beam: Ahern, 9.5; Murray, 9.35; Staley, 9.2; Pirzadeh, 9.15; Burns, 9.1; Courtney Ward, 8.4.
Floor exercise: Burns, 9.15; Murray, 9.10; Ahern, 9.05; Staley and Pirzadeh, 8.7; Ward, 8.25.
Vault: Staley, 8.95; Murray, 8.6; Ahern, 8.5; Chelsea Selden, 8.35; Stephens, 8.15.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 86.8
Dec. 20 at John Glenn
All-around: 1. Courtney Pickard (P), 29.85; 2. Danielle Lawson (JG), 29.15; 3. Ashley Brimmer (P), 28.6.
Uneven bars: 1. Jordan Brodehl (P), 7.5; 2. Lawson (JG), 7.35; 3. Brimmer (P), 7.2; 4. Courtney Pickard (P), 6.8; 5. Chelsea Pickard (P), 5.45.
Balance beam: 1. Brodehl (P), 8.1; 2. Chelsea Pickard (P), 7.5; 3. Courtney Pickard (P), 7.45; 4. (tie) Paige Tofil (P) and Danielle Haase (JG), 6.9.
Floor exercise: 1. Katie Hale (P), 8.15; 2. Courtney Pickard (P), 7.9; 3. Lawson (JG), 7.6; 4. Brimmer (P) and Tofil (P), 7.15.
Vault: 1. Lawson (JG), 8.4; 2. Brimmer (P), 8.25; 3. Brodehl (P), 8.1; 4. (tie) Courtney Pickard (P) and Tofil (P), 7.7.

PLYMOUTH 119.45
Dec. 14 at Plymouth
All-around: 1. Alyssa Supplee (LU), 35.525; 2. Paula Guzik, 35.275; 3. Ashley Brimmer (P), 29.75; 4. Courtney Pickard (P), 28.1.
INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
Uneven bars: 1. Andrea Pisani (LU), 9.4; 2. Guzik (LU), 9.0; 3. Kelly Tapella (LU), 8.75; 4. Jordan Brodehl (P), 8.55; 5. Paige Albers (LU), 8.4.
Balance beam: 1. Supplee (LU), 8.25; 2. Laura Nomura (LU), 8.7; 3. Guzik (LU), 8.6; 4. Alyssa Gonzales (LU), 7.85; 5. Brimmer (P), 7.1.
Floor exercise: 1. Paige Albers (LU), 9.15; 2. Supplee (LU), 8.825; 3. Guzik (LU), 8.625; 4. Alicia Fedrigo (LU), 8.575; 5. Nomura (LU), 8.35.
Vault: 1. Supplee (LU), 9.15; 2. (tie) Pisani (LU) and Guzik (LU), 9.05; 4. Albers (LU), 8.9; 5. Tapella (LU), 8.4.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

CHIEFS RE-BROADCAST

The Fox Sports Network will be re-airing the Division 1 football final between Canton and Rockford at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8. The game may also be re-broadcast again in the future, according to the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

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.

BASEBALL SIGN-UP

The Canton Little League will be holding a pair of upcoming registration sessions for the 2006 season. The sessions will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, and Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Four Seasons Internet Cafe, located at 3500 Lilley Plaza in Canton.

Players from Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township are eligible to play in the Canton Little League. Teams will play a 20-game schedule and compete in a Father's Day tournament and a tournament against teams from Belleville.

For more information, contact Ray Waack at (734) 397-0147.

COACHES: PLEASE

CALL IN RESULTS

For more information on the results of their teams' competitions into Observer Sports Editor Ed Wright so that the high school athletes receive the recognition they deserve. Results can be phoned in to

Wright at (734) 953-2108; they can be faxed to (734) 591-7279; or they can be e-mailed to ewright@hometownlife.com.

If Wright is covering an event at the time of your call, please leave a message and he will return your call promptly.

The deadline for Thursday's Observer is Tuesday at 11 p.m. The deadline for Sunday's issue is Friday at 11 p.m.

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.

For more information, contact the recreation department at (734) 455-6620.

Registration forms can be downloaded from the department's Web site at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

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.

For more information, contact the recreation department 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 played on mid-week nights only.

Registration will be held 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.

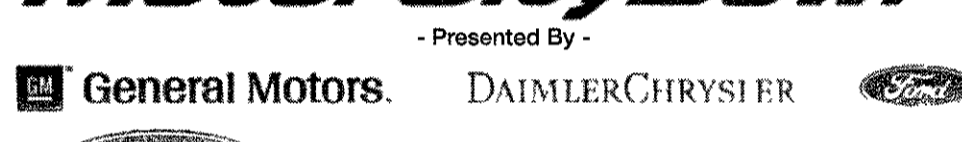
The dates for the all-sports camps are Dec. 27-29, Jan. 2-6, Jan. 16, Feb. 27-March 3, April 14 and April 17-21.

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

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Red-hot Pioneers rebound to down Canton

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Canton's basketball team didn't play half bad Tuesday night, but the Chiefs still came out on the short end of a 73-57 decision to Ann Arbor Pioneer.

The Chiefs actually led, 26-20, at the half before getting buried by a hot-shooting group of Pioneers over the final 16 minutes.

The loss dropped Canton to 2-2 while host Pioneer improved to 3-1.

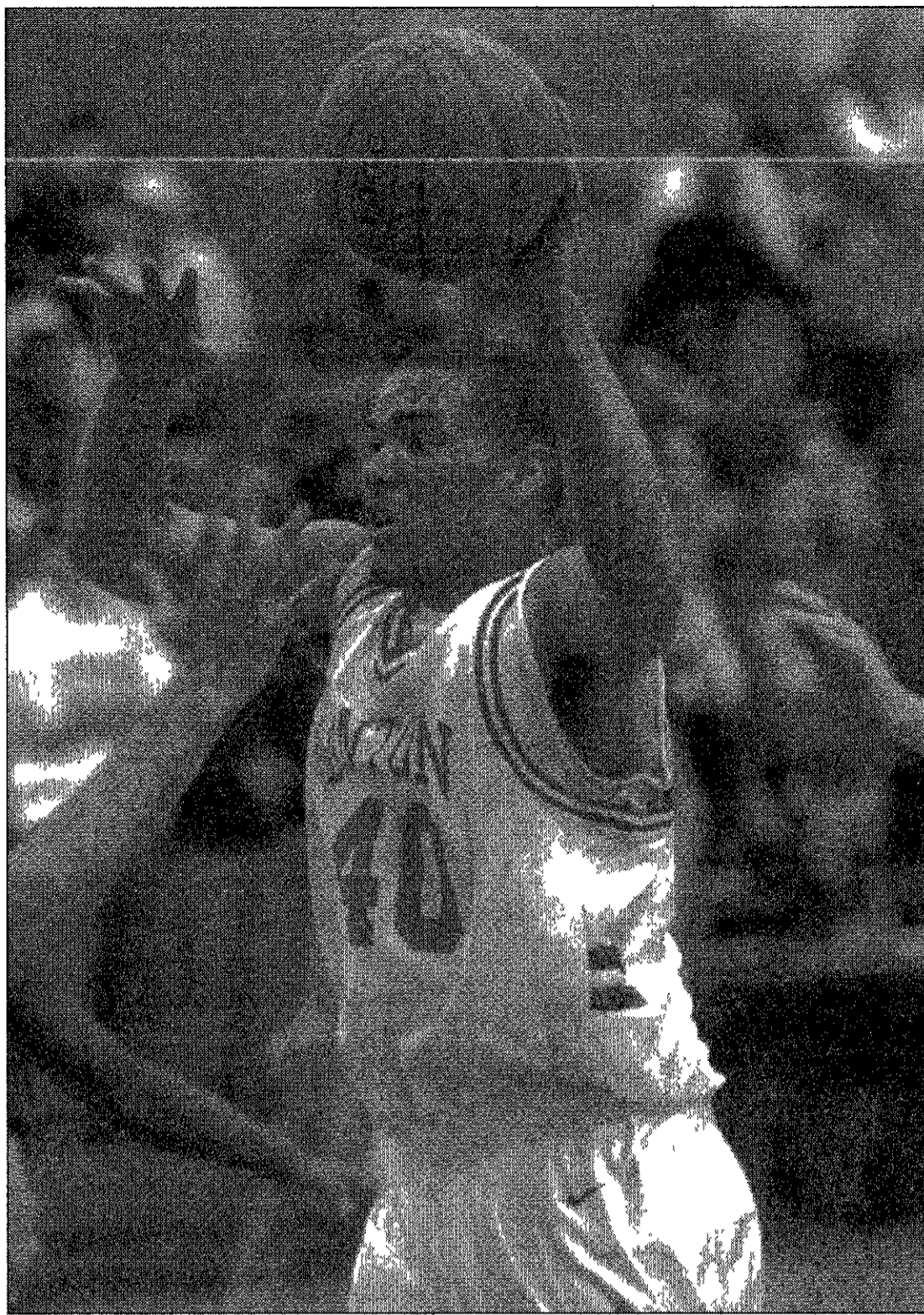
"We held our own in the first half, but in the second half we gave them some open looks and — to their credit — they made them," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "We were still in the game late in the third quarter, but we missed a lot of free throws — including the front end of some one-and-ones — and they made their free throws."

"We gave up 53 points in the second half alone, which is more points than we've given up in an entire game up until tonight."

Sophomore forward Neal Sharma had a break-out game for the Chiefs, tallying a team-high 14 points. Senior guard D.J. Bridges netted 13 points and eight rebounds, Ryan Waidmann and Andy Larsen both contributed nine points, Rob Eppler scored seven while Steve Paye twined five. Larsen also chipped in with six boards.

Austin Green was the man for Pioneer, ripping the nets for 22 points, 19 of which came after the intermission. J.T. Knight also shined, netting 16.

The Pioneers were profi-



Canton's Andre Bridges, pictured above in a game earlier this season, scored 13 points in the Chiefs' 73-57 loss to Ann Arbor Pioneer Tuesday night.

cient at the free throw line, draining 20-of-24 attempts. Canton, on the other hand, connected on just 8-of-16 free shots in the fourth quarter.

"We did a nice job on the boards tonight," Paye said. "We held them to only four offensive rebounds. That's an area we were getting hurt in coming into tonight. The

problem tonight was they made us play faster than we wanted to, especially in the second half. We did a decent job breaking their press, but then we'd shoot too quickly once we broke it."

Canton turned the ball over 18 times compared to Pioneer's 11 miscues

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Haslett edges Wildcats, 51-45

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Life can only get easier for Plymouth's basketball team after facing its second state-ranked team in as many weeks Tuesday night in the first round of the Eighth Annual Chelsea Holiday Classic.

Haslett, the eighth-best team in Class B according to one poll, outlasted the Wildcats, 51-45. Plymouth (1-2) lost to state-ranked Robichaud earlier this month.

"You have to play good teams to get good," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "Haslett is a very good team. They're ranked for a reason. We just have to learn from this and move on."

The Wildcats moved on to Wednesday night's consolation game against Howell. Results of that contest will be published in Sunday's Observer.

The Vikings led 14-11 after one quarter and 30-20 at the half. Led by senior forward Josh Le Duc, the Wildcats' chiseled their deficit to 36-29 after three quarters, but could-

n't get any closer than six over the final eight minutes.

Le Duc led the Wildcats in points (13) and rebounds (12). Also making solid contributions to Plymouth's cause were Jake Hager (nine points, four boards), D.J. Coleman (eight points) and Jim Wilbur (seven points and five rebounds).

"We had 22 turnovers which didn't help," Van Wagoner said. "They ran a simple half-court trap that caused us some problems right away, but once we made adjustments, they switched out of it."

"I thought Josh and Jake both played well. We're getting consistent play out of our big guys, which is important. We also received good energy off the bench from Alex Harvey and Austin Barnett."

Haslett (5-0) was paced by Jordan Cooper, who twined 11, and Zach Wakulsky, who netted 10. The sharp-shooting duo combined for five three-point baskets. Nathan Turner also played well for the Vikings, finishing with nine points.

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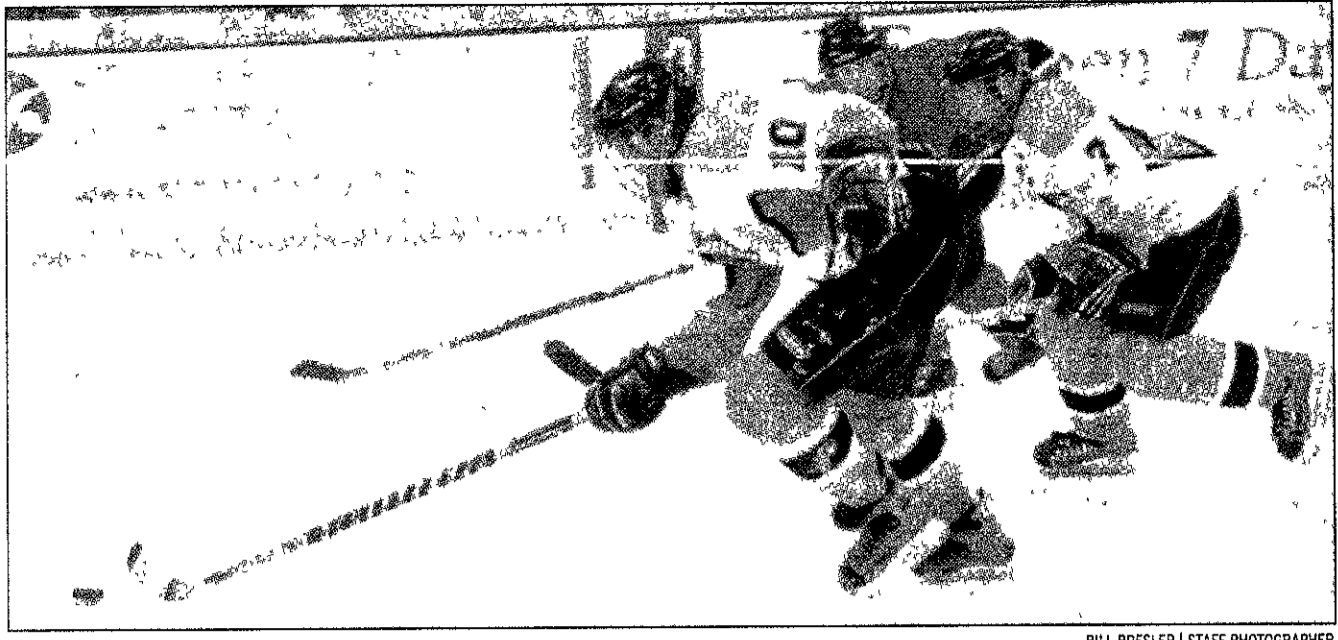
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HOCKEY

FROM PAGE C1
 Scott Lewan also played well, notching 19 saves.
 Following a scoreless first period, the visiting Chargers grabbed a 1-0 advantage 27 seconds into the second stanza on Keith Yackley's goal. Yackley's ice-breaking net-finder was assisted by Zac Archer and Matt Heinzelman.
 Churchill scored what appeared to be an insurance goal eight minutes later when Andy Laberge slid the puck past Desilets. Tony Ross and Heinzelman were credited with assists.
 However, the never-say-die Wildcats stormed back in the

final frame when Mark Olivier scored with 13:05 left off an assist from Mike Barile.
 Plymouth drew even with just 3:12 showing on the clock when Barile secured a snaky clearing pass by Churchill and fed Jason O'Guinn, who lit the lamp with the game-tying goal.
 Both goalies proved invincible over the final three minutes.
 Churchill returns to action Friday when it returns to Compuware to battle Northville in a make-up game.
 Plymouth takes on Livonia Stevenson Friday at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia. The opening face-off is set for 6 p.m.
 ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108



Plymouth's Charlie Webb (10) and Ryan Stamm (7) sprint past an unidentified Churchill defender during Tuesday night's 2-2 draw between the two Western Lakes Activities Association teams.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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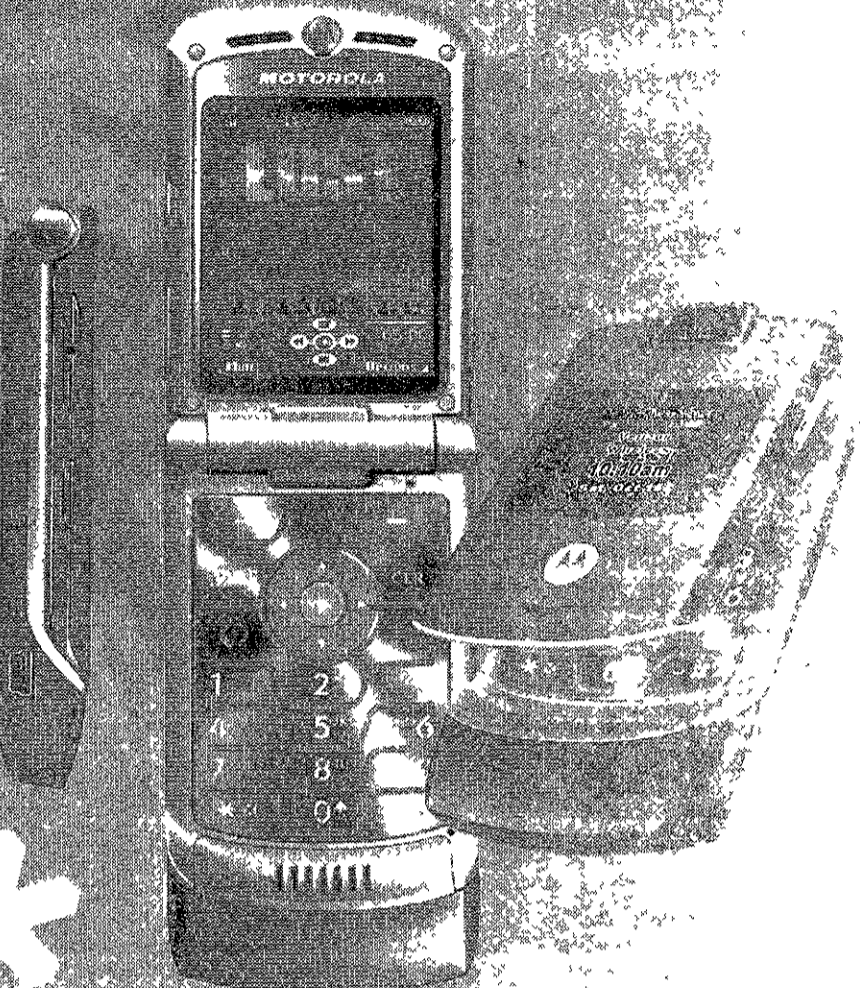
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Loyal fans still have hope for an imp

Ask any guy to list their top movies of all-time and *The Shawshank Redemption* will inevitably appear. Sure, you'll get some votes for *The Godfather* and *Caddyshack*, even the odd *Road House* here and there, but *Shawshank* will get plenty of mentions. It takes place in a prison, there are no women in the cast, no car chases, no nudity. Not exactly a recipe for success at the box office. So why then does every man identify with this movie?



Jamie Samuelson

It's all Lions fans have now. We're 50 years into a life sentence at *Shawshank*. At the bitter end of what was supposed to be a winning season, there is nothing left to hold on to. There's no quarterback. There's no coach. And the man who put this mess together is here ... for five more years.

FANS WANT CHANGE

I'm furious with the pompous media elite who suggest that the answer is just to give up on your team. Go ahead and adopt some other NFL squad or spend more time with your kids on Sundays. As if it were that simple. Fans wearing orange Sunday at Ford Field (and, my goodness, were there a lot of you) weren't pulling for the Bengals. Far

from it. They weren't latching on to the visitor, they were crying for a change with their own club.

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sports was ridiculed more than the Bucs for decades before they got it together. Lions fans wonder, why not us? Well, why not?

Why can't Matt Millen patiently sift through the coaching candidates to pluck the next Bill Belichick? Why can't the Lions unearth the next Kurt Warner stocking grocery shelves somewhere in middle America? True, the track record isn't there. Millen seems more likely to jump at the first guy he interviews and misfire on another Joey Harrington in the draft. But you have to hope that his time he won't.

Millen has many traits that scare all Lions fans. He's rash, he's stubborn and he lacks a clear idea of what he wants in a football team. But one thing Millen is not is dumb. He didn't get to where he is being a dope. He knows he's made mis-

takes and he at least seems willing to learn from them. I'm guessing he'll take a long time picking his next head man, even if it means missing out on the next Marty Mornhinweg.

The emotional side of you wants to agree, to hope for the best. The logical side of you says this is the Lions and nothing that applies to other teams ever applies to this one. Ever. It's a tough point to argue, but you really don't have a choice. They're your Lions, forever. 'Til death do you part. So short of a playoff victory, or even a winning season, you have to hope.

Sometimes, it's the only thing. This is one of those times.

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EOE

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings- December 13, 2005

The Board of Trustees convened at 6:30 p.m. in closed session to discuss employee negotiation. Members Present: Bennett, Caccamo, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Staff Present: Director Durack, Director Santomauro Motion by Zarbo, supported by Bennett to move from closed session to open session at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, December 13, 2005, at 1150 Canton Center S. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Roll Call Members Present: Bennett, Caccamo, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Staff Present: Director Minghine, Director Durack, Director Santomauro, Director Conklin, Director Faas Adoption of Agenda Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the agenda as amended; deleting Item G-1, Consider Site Plan for Texas Corral Grill and Saloon and moving Item G-8 Consider Canton Land/Costco Rezoning to G-4a. Motion carried unanimously. Approval of Minutes Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve the Board Minutes of November 22, 2005. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the Board Study Minutes of December 6, 2005. Motion carried unanimously. Citizens Non Agenda Item Comments: Dan McCausland, 328 Haggerty Road, stated there was a meeting last week with MDOT regarding Future Land Use on Road Improvements and indicated there will be future Public Hearings. Mr. McCausland would like the public informed of meeting dates. Director Faas stated that he get the information and get back with Mr. McCausland. Payment of Bills Motion by Kirchgatter, supported by McLaughlin to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Expenditure Recap for December 13, 2005

Table with 3 columns: Item Name, Amount, Total. Includes General Fund, Fire Fund, Police Fund, etc. Total - All Funds: 2,025,841.16

RECOGNITION: RECOGNITION OF M.S.A. DELIVERY SERVICE. Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adopt the resolution in recognition of M.S.A. Delivery Service 2005 Canton to Canton Hurricane Relief Project. Motion carried unanimously. 2. RECOGNITION OF JOE TERAMINO'S RETIREMENT. Supervisor Yack congratulated Mr. Teramino for his 37 years of service with the Township and presented him with a Township pin. 3. RECOGNITION OF CHAUNTA HORTON Treasurer Kirchgatter presented Ms. Horton with a Canton pin and recognition for her assistance in the apprehension of a suspect in a Breaking and Entering on October 3, 2005 at a party store on Michigan Avenue. 4. RECOGNITION OF BETH AND THERESA BARNHART Treasurer Kirchgatter presented Beth and Theresa Barnhart (mother and daughter) with Canton pins and recognitions for their assistance in a vehicle accident on June 4, 2005 to a victim in an overturned vehicle. CONSENT CALENDAR: Item 1. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY. (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution in recognition of Plymouth Symphony's 60th Anniversary. Motion carried unanimously. Item 2. APPOINTMENT TO DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD. (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin that the Canton Township Board of Trustees appoint Roger Phillip to serve on the Board of Directors of the Downtown Development Authority of the Charter Township of Canton for a four-year term ending December 13, 2009. Motion carried unanimously. Item 3. REQUEST TO RE-APPOINT CULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS. (LSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to re-appoint the following people to the Cultural Commission with three year terms.

Table with 2 columns: Name, Term Expires. Lists Ronald DePentu, Michael Dudley, Ann Marie Peterson, Regina Coles-Shamberger with their respective term expiration dates.

Item 4. AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS THROUGH THE END OF 2005. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to authorize the payment of the Township's bills on December 30, 2005, as normally scheduled, subject to prior review by the Clerk and Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously. Item 5. SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR LEXINGTON SQUARE I AND II SUBDIVISIONS REQUEST TO CREATE STREET LIGHT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ON JANUARY 24, 2006. (CLERK) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to set the public hearing for the Lexington Square I and II Subdivisions Street Lighting Special Assessment District for January 24, 2006, 7:00 p.m. at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan, 48188 in the Administration Building. Motion carried unanimously.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, NOTICE OF HEARING Lexington Square I and II Subdivisions, Street Lighting Special Assessment

NOTICE is a hereby given by the undersigned, Terry G. Bennett, Clerk of the Charter Township of Canton, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, to all property owners in the proposed district described below and to all other interested persons:

- 1. That a petition for the formation of a special assessment district for the installation and maintenance of streetlights has been filed with the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, pursuant to Act 264 of the Public Acts of 1931, as amended (MCL 41.289b).
2. That hearing on the said petition concerning the necessity of said improvement and the formation of this special assessment district will be held before said Board of Trustees at the Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center Road S., Canton, Michigan 48188, on the 24th day of January, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.
3. That any property owner or other person interested in said proceedings may appear at said hearing, file objections to the entire petition or any part thereof, and be heard on said objections.
4. That the proposed special assessment district is located in the Charter Township of Canton and is described as follows: Lot numbers 1 through 88, Lexington Square I, Liber 102, Pages 93-96 and lot numbers 89-126, Lexington Square II Subdivisions, Liber 103, Pages 31-33, Register of Deeds, Wayne County, Michigan.
5. That said petition and the estimated costs and expenses of said assessment are filed in the office of the undersigned at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188, and may be examined at any time during the regular business hours of said office, prior to said hearing.
6. That any property owner or other interested person who fails to appear and object to said petition or to the formation of the proposed special assessment district at the time and place of said hearing may be deemed to have waived his right to object under Act 264 of the Public Acts of 1931, as amended (MCL 41.289b).
7. That proposed layout of actual streetlight placement can be viewed in the Office of the Township Clerk between the hours of 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. AFTER INSTALLATION, MINOR VARIATIONS MAY OCCUR IN THE LAYOUT BECAUSE THE ACTUAL PLOTTING OF LIGHTS HAS NOT BEEN FIELD TESTED BY DETROIT EDISON. TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, PUBLISH: 1/5/06

Item 6. AUTHORIZE GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION FOR KINYON CEMETERY INTENSIVE SURVEY. (ACSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the grant application submission for Kinyon Cemetery Intensive Survey. Motion carried unanimously. WHEREAS, The Charter Township of Canton is committed to preserving the local heritage as exemplified through the attainment of certified local government status; and WHEREAS, Funds are available through the Historic Preservation Fund grant program for historic preservation efforts; and WHEREAS, The Historic District Commission desires to undertake a project consisting of the research, inventory and documentation of gravestones and vegetation in the Kinyon Cemetery, and research leading to the potential listing of Kinyon on the National Register of Historic

Places; and WHEREAS, The anticipated cost of the project is \$10,000, with \$5,000 requested through the Historic Preservation Grant Fund and \$5,000 provided as a match through the Township General Fund; and WHEREAS, Such match funds will not be used to match other federal funds; and WHEREAS, Township Supervisor Thomas J. Yack is authorized to sign the application and resulting contract on behalf of Canton; and WHEREAS, Canton agrees to undertake the project should funding be received, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Trustees does hereby authorize submission of a Historic Preservation Fund grant application for the research, inventory and documentation of gravestones and vegetation in the Kinyon Cemetery and research leading to possible listing on the National Register of Historic Places; and further authorize a grant match of \$5,000 from the General Fund. Item 7. REAPPOINTMENTS TO CDBG ADVISORY COUNCIL. (ACSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to reappoint Mary Jane Weidenbach, Vera Lieberman and Sylvester Noetzel to the CDBG Advisory Council for a two-year term, effective January 1, 2006, and ending December 31, 2007; and Susan Wooley to a one-year term effective January 1, 2006, and ending December 31, 2006. Motion carried unanimously. Item 8. PURCHASING COOPERATIVES. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to accept the 2005 list of those agencies who meet our bidding criteria. Motion carried unanimously. Item 9. CANTON FINANCE POLICY AMENDMENTS AND ADOPTIONS. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the following amendments to Policy F:10 and F:15. I further move to adopt the following policies, Vendor Selection and Vendor Protest for Formal Bids and Proposals. Motion carried unanimously. Item 10. CONSIDER ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION ON CANTON CENTER ROAD BETWEEN PALMER AND CHERRY HILL. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to approve the dedication of a 60-foot road right-of-way for the Canton Center Road Parcel No. 1, Tax Numbers 71-083-99-0004-002, 71-083-99-0004-707, 71-083-99-0004-700. Parcel No. 2, Tax Number 71-083-99-0004-707, Parcel No. 3, Tax Id No. 71-083-99-0004-707 and authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to sign the attached waivers and quit claim deeds. Motion carried unanimously. GENERAL CALENDAR: Item 1. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR TEXAS CORRAL GRILL AND SALOON (FORMERLY DAMON'S). (MSD) Deleted. Item 2. CONSIDER TENTATIVE PRELIMINARY PLAT AND VARIANCE TO SUBDIVISION CONTROL ORDINANCE FOR HIDDEN CREEK ESTATES. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to adopt the tentative preliminary plat and variance to subdivision control ordinance for Hidden Creek Estates. Motion carried unanimously. Item 3. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR FIFTH THIRD BANK. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for the site plan for Fifth Third Bank. Motion carried unanimously. Item 4. CONSIDER FAB INVESTMENTS REZONING. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution rezoning request of Ali Beydoun (FAB Investments.) Motion carried unanimously. Item 4.a. CONSIDER CANTON LAND/COSTCO REZONING. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adopt the resolution for rezoning request of Canton Land/Costco. Motion carried unanimously. Item 5. CONSIDER COSTCO PRELIMINARY PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adopt the resolution for preliminary planned development for Costco Wholesale. Motion carried unanimously. Item 6. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR CONCORD PARK AT CHERRY HILL (CONDOMINIUMS) AND PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN FOR NAPIER WOODS AT CONCORD PARK (SITE CONDOMINIUMS). (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for site plan for Concord Park at Cherry Hill Village and Preliminary Site plan for Napier Woods at Concord Park Site Condominiums. Motion carried unanimously. Item 7. CONSIDER REVISIONS TO THE CHERRY HILL VILLAGE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AGREEMENT (ARCHDIOCESE PARCEL). (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to adopt the resolution for amendment No. 2 to the Cherry Hill Village PDD. Motion carried unanimously. Item 8. CONSIDER CANTON LAND/COSTCO REZONING. (MSD) Moved to G-4.a. Item 9. CONSIDER SPECIAL LAND USE AND SITE PLAN FOR CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to adopt the resolution for special land use and site plan for Canton Christian Fellowship. Motion carried unanimously. Item 10. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR CANTON FRIENDSHIP CHURCH. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for site plan for Canton Friendship Church. Motion carried unanimously. Item 11. CONSIDER REVISIONS TO THE CHERRY HILL PUD AND SITE PLAN FOR MORTON TAYLOR ESTATES CONDOMINIUMS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for revisions to the Cherry Hill PUD and Site Plan for Morton Taylor Estates. Motion carried unanimously. Item 12. CONSIDER BORDINE REZONING. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to adopt the resolution for rezoning request of Duane Bordine (Toll Brothers). Motion carried unanimously. Item 13. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR ANTONIO'S CUCINA ITALIAN RESTAURANT. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to adopt the resolution for the site plan for Antonio's Cucina Italian. Motion carried unanimously. Item 14. CONSIDER INCREASING PURCHASE ORDER 51996 TO CARRIER & GABLE, INC. FOR PURCHASING UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY (UPS) / BATTERY BACK-UP ITEMS FOR SIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to increase Purchase Order 51996 in the amount of \$1,790 for purchase of battery backup traffic signal systems from Carrier & Cable, Inc. for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$93,921.50 (General Fund Account, Homeland Security Grant - Equipment, Account Number 101-860-977-1600.) Motion carried unanimously. Item 15. CONSIDER INCREASING PURCHASE ORDER 43754 TO CADILLAC ASPHALT, LLC FOR THE DENTON ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to increase PO 43754 to Cadillac Asphalt LLC in the amount of \$489,246.16 for completion of the paving of Denton Road Improvements. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to increase PO 47577 to Wade-Trim Associates in the amount of \$19,597.07 for inspection and contract administration for completion of Denton Road Improvements. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the following budget amendment in the Capital Projects Road Paving Fund for this project: Increase Revenues:

Table with 3 columns: Description, Amount, Total. Includes Contribution from Private Sources, Appropriation from Fund Balance, Total: \$463,615. Increase Appropriations: Construction \$463,615.

This budget amendment increases the Capital Projects Road Paving Fund budget from \$1,619,860 to \$2,083,475. Motion carried unanimously. Item 16. MERIT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR NON-UNION CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES' 2006 COMPENSATION AND FRINGE BENEFIT CHANGES. (ACSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the recommendation of the Merit Commission to: 1. Increase the salaries of the non-union classified employees by 3.0% across-the-board and to increase the salary grade ranges for the non-union classified employees by 3.0%. 2. Amend the Paid Time Off program as reflected in the attached exhibits. 3. Delete the Short Term Disability language and replace with Sick Days Supplementation as reflected in the attached exhibits. 4. Add Martin Luther King Day as a paid holiday. 5. Amend the medical insurance coverage for current and retired employees as reflected in the attached exhibits. 6. Increase the longevity pay as reflected in the attached exhibits. 7. All of these changes shall be effective January 1, 2006. Motion carried unanimously. Item 17. APPROVE ELECTED OFFICIALS' SALARY INCREASES. (ACSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to adopt the resolution for the adjustment in the salary of the office of Supervisor as of January 1, 2006 to \$119,779. Roll call vote: Ayes: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nays: Caccamo Motion carried. Supervisor - WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3), in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary for officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, and WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Supervisor is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2006, the salary of the office of Supervisor shall be as follows: Supervisor \$119,779 salary (not directly performing assessing) The foregoing resolution offered by board member: Bennett Supported by board member: Kirchgatter Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: 6 Aye 1No The supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Amount, Total. Includes Increase Revenues: Contribution from Private Sources, Appropriation from Fund Balance, Total: \$463,615.

Increase Appropriations: Construction \$463,615 This budget amendment increases the Capital Projects Road Paving Fund budget from \$1,619,860 to \$2,083,475. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 18. REPROGRAMMING OF CDBG FUNDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTINGENCY. (ACSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to authorize the reprogramming of CDBG funds to and the establishment of FY Affordable Housing Contingency fund in the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). I further move to authorize the reprogramming of CDBG funds. I further move to approve the following budget fund transfers in the Federal Grants Fund for this reprogramming. Increase (Decrease) Appropriations

Table with 3 columns: Description, Amount, Total. Includes Vacant Lots Purchase, Adult Day Care, MI Ave Rec Bldg Improvements, Affordable Housing Contingency, Total: \$76,922.17.

This budget fund transfer does not increase or decrease the Federal Grant Fund budget for FY 2005. Motion carried unanimously. Item 19. APPROVAL OF 2005-2006 SPECIALIZED SERVICES OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CONTRACT. (ACSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the 2005-2006 Specialized Services Operating Assistance Program contract with SMART in the amount of \$28,047 (Social Services-Transportation Account #101-670-860-0000. Motion carried unanimously. Item 20. GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT-TRANSFERS TO POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FUND. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the following budget amendments for additional contributions to the Post Employment Benefits Fund:

Table with 3 columns: Description, Amount, Total. Includes GENERAL FUND: Increase Revenues: Appropriation from Fund Balance, Increase (Decrease) Appropriations: Fringe Benefits-Supervisor's Office, Fringe Benefits-Administrative Svc, Fringe Benefits-Clerk's Office, Fringe Benefits-Human Resources, Fringe Benefits-Finance & Budget, Fringe Benefits-Community Services, Fringe Benefits-Treasurer's Office, Fringe Benefits-Information Tech Sv, Fringe Benefits-Municipal Services, Fringe Benefits-Building Services, Fringe Benefits-Emergency Management, Fringe Benefits-Stormwater Drains, Fringe Benefits-Engineering Division, Fringe Benefits-Senior Citizens, Fringe Benefits-Recreation Division, Fringe Benefits-Leisure Services, Fringe Benefits-Sports Center, Fringe Benefits-Planning Services, Contribution to Post Empl Benefits Fund, Total: \$4,652.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo, to adopt the resolution to adjust the salary of the office of Clerk as of January 1, 2006 to \$97,775. Roll call vote: Ayes: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nays: Caccamo Motion carried. Clerk - WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3), in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary for officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, and WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Clerk is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2006, the salary of the office of Clerk shall be as follows: Clerk \$97,775 salary The foregoing resolution offered by board member: Bennett Supported by board member: Zarbo Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: 6 Aye 1No The supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo, to adopt the resolution to adjust the salary of the office of Treasurer as of January 1, 2006 to \$97,775. Roll call vote: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nays: Caccamo Motion carried. Treasurer - WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3), in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary for officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, and WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Treasurer is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2006, the salary of the office of Treasurer shall be as follows: Treasurer \$97,775 salary The foregoing resolution offered by board member: Bennett Supported by board member: Zarbo Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: 6 Aye 1No The supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to adopt the resolution to adjust the salary of the office of Trustee on January 1, 2006 to \$11,817. Roll call vote: Ayes: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nays: Caccamo Motion carried. Trustee - WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3), in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary for officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, and WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Trustee is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2006, the salary of the office of Trustee shall be as follows: Trustee \$11,817 salary The foregoing resolution offered by board member: Bennett Supported by board member: Kirchgatter Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: 6 Aye 1No The supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Item 18. REPROGRAMMING OF CDBG FUNDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTINGENCY. (ACSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to authorize the reprogramming of CDBG funds to and the establishment of FY Affordable Housing Contingency fund in the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). I further move to authorize the reprogramming of CDBG funds. I further move to approve the following budget fund transfers in the Federal Grants Fund for this reprogramming. Increase (Decrease) Appropriations

Table with 3 columns: Description, Amount, Total. Includes Vacant Lots Purchase, Adult Day Care, MI Ave Rec Bldg Improvements, Affordable Housing Contingency, Total: \$76,922.17.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Amount, Total. Includes Fringe Benefits-Supervisor's Office, Fringe Benefits-Administrative Svc, Fringe Benefits-Clerk's Office, Fringe Benefits-Human Resources, Fringe Benefits-Finance & Budget, Fringe Benefits-Community Services, Fringe Benefits-Treasurer's Office, Fringe Benefits-Information Tech Sv, Fringe Benefits-Municipal Services, Fringe Benefits-Building Services, Fringe Benefits-Emergency Management, Fringe Benefits-Stormwater Drains, Fringe Benefits-Engineering Division, Fringe Benefits-Senior Citizens, Fringe Benefits-Recreation Division, Fringe Benefits-Leisure Services, Fringe Benefits-Sports Center, Fringe Benefits-Planning Services, Contribution to Post Empl Benefits Fund, Total: \$4,652.

This budget amendment increases the General Fund budget from \$28,231,840 to \$28,236,492 and increases (decreases) the following department/division budgets: Supervisor's Office budget from \$308,300 to \$298,241, Administrative Services budget from \$283,705 to \$273,820, Clerk's Office budget from \$464,800 to \$459,111, Human Resources budget from \$505,526 to \$500,577, Finance & Budget budget from \$982,961 to \$965,071, Community Services budget from \$338,352 to \$329,883, Treasurer's Office budget from \$562,950 to \$557,261, Information Technology Services budget from \$950,175 to 940,636, Municipal Services budget from \$387,700 to \$379,610 Building Services budget from \$1,902,679 to \$1,897,540, Emergency Management Division budget from \$149,690 to \$150,750, Stormwater Drains Division budget from \$565,417 to \$562,050, Engineering Division budget from \$1,368,225 to \$1,346,170, Senior Citizens Program Division budget from \$292,351 to \$288,835, Recreation Division budget from \$2,234,201 to \$2,213,962, Leisure Services Department budget from \$415,339 to \$403,754, Sports Center Division budget from \$510,250 to \$508,693, Planning Services Division budget from \$651,043 to \$647,357, Transfers Out Division budget from \$3,178,851 to \$3,328,846 FIRE FUND: Increase (Decrease) Appropriations: Fringe Benefits-Fire Dept #206-336-720-0000 \$(212,332) Contribution to Post Empl Benefits Fund 206-336-965-7360 212,332 Total \$0

This budget amendment does not change the Fire Fund budget. POLICE FUND: Increase (Decrease) Appropriations: Fringe Benefits-Police Dept #207-301-720-0000 \$(16,482) Contribution to Post Empl Benefits Fund 207-301-965-7360 16,482 Total \$0

This budget amendment does not change the Police Fund budget. COMMUNITY CENTER FUND: Increase (Decrease) Appropriations: Fringe Benefits-Community Center #208-756-720-0000 \$(1,855) Contribution to Post Empl Benefits Fund 208-756-965-7360 1,855 Total \$0

This budget amendment does not change the Community Center Fund budget. WATER & SEWER FUND: Increase (Decrease) Appropriations: Fringe Benefits-Public Works #592-441-720-0000 \$(17,212) Fringe Benefits-Fleet Maintenance 592-550-720-0000 (4,179) Contribution to Post Empl Benefits Fund 592-441-965-7360 21,391 Total \$0

This budget amendment does not change the Water & Sewer Fund budget. POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FUND: Increase Revenues: Contribution from General Fund #736-000-676-1010 \$149,995 Contribution from Fire Fund 736-000-676-2060 213,332 Contribution from Police Fund 736-000-676-2070 16,482 Contribution from Community Center Fund 736-000-676-2080 1,855 Contribution for Water & Sewer Fund 736-000-676-5920 21,391 Total \$403,055

Increase Appropriations: Contribution to Fund Balance 736-238-999-0000 \$403,055 This budget amendment increases the Post Employment Benefits Fund budget from \$515,375 to \$918,430. Motion carried unanimously.

(Continued On Page C11)



Victorious Quest

The Canton Quest Select '94 soccer team recently took first place in a season finale tournament in Canton Ohio. Trailing 2-1 in the championship game, the Quest rallied to knot the score at 2-2 with no time left on the clock, forcing a shoot-out, which the Quest won, 3-2. Pictured (back row from left) are parent coach Joe Sheridan, Lauren Chipman, Megan Peplinski, Lauren Leskovitz, Emily Southern, trainer Amy Dorogi, Maria Braun, Kaitlyn Jatczak, (middle row from left) Ashley Melnick, Lexy Barman, Kaitlyn Murphy, Alexandra Bryden, Kayla Berendt, Katie Mattson, Dominique Sarnecky, Andrea Marshall, Christine Jiang and (front row) goalie Stephanie Sheridan.



A HoneyBaked title

The '94 HoneyBaked AAA hockey team won the North American Silver Stick Championship over Thanksgiving weekend. HoneyBaked downed Compuware, 4-1, in the semifinal contest before nipping Mississauga, 2-1, in the final. Pictured (front row from left) are Brandon Hope, Matt Slinder, (second row from left) Cam Yarwood, Sheldon Dries, Kevin Lining, Dennis Guss, Bryan Yim, Connor Wood, Tyler Gardiner, Josh Henke, (third row from left) Nolan Gluchowski, Jake Foguth, Grant Weberman, Robert Ault, coach Todd Gardiner, coach Todd Dries, Waylan Williams and R.P. Dougherty. McKenzie McKeckeron is not pictured.



WSSL Division champions

The Canton Quest '97 girls soccer team earned first place in their division in the Western Suburban Soccer League with a spectacular 7-1 record. Pictured (front row from left) are Sara Hawks, Kaitlyn Pelech, Carly Davis, Lauren Fette, Rachel Dunlavy, (back from from left) Alyssa Bean, Samantha Cimino, Laura Weisz, Olivia Turner, Dayna Schroeder and coach Brian "Vader" Vanderziel.

ABRAHAM

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champion California Baptist in San Diego.

He also claimed top-coach honors for the WHAC and Region VIII, which are requirements to be considered for the national award.

On hand for the awards ceremony was one of MU's assistant coaches, Brian McClain, while two of Abraham's players (senior Ashley Frost and sophomore Jacqui Gatt, from Livonia Churchill) telephoned their congratulations.

Abraham (771-204 overall in his 19-year career at MU) said it was wonderful to be honored at a banquet attended by the nation's top coaches and players, particularly with the NCAA connection.

"To be recognized amongst all of them is a great honor, it's great for our university and it's a tribute to our players," Abraham said. "The players made all this possible."

Madonna's brilliant season brought individual honors to several players, as well. Seniors Ashley Frost and Natalja Tinina (Redford) were selected to the All-America first team, while senior Laura Lesko and junior Caryn Inman earned All-America second team and honorable mention accolades, respectively.

"This is a team award and I'd like to thank my assistant coaches and all my players," said Abraham, listing assistants McClain, Tim DeBeliso and Erin Shrewsbury.

Senior setter Frost, meanwhile, said Abraham's honor is "definitely well-deserved. He's one of the most amazing

coaches I've ever had."

"The entire Madonna University community is proud of the recognition coach Abraham has earned," said MU athletics director Bryan Rizzo. "It is a tremendous honor to be singled out as the top coach in the nation and he definitely deserves the recognition. He is truly the best."

Rizzo cited one reason why.

"He preaches family, their main word is 'we,' that's what it's all about," Rizzo said. "It's not about any individual. And it starts from the moment you're recruited. You're recruited by the Madonna volleyball 'family.'"

That's the way Frost feels about Abraham, too. "We'll definitely remain friends," she said last week.

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Item 21. ACCEPT WATER AND WASTEWATER COST OF SERVICE REPORT AND ADOPT METHODOLOGY. (0) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to accept the Water and Wastewater Cost of Service Report dated October 15, 2005 and adopt the rate methodology. Motion carried unanimously. **Item 22. BUDGET AMENDMENTS. (FBD) -GENERAL FUND - LEGAL FEES -GENERAL FUND - RUBBISH DISPOSAL FEES -STREET LIGHTING FUND - CABLE TV FUND -WWN FORFEITURE FUND -BUILDING AUTHORITY CONSTRUCTION FUND** Increase Revenues: \$117,650 Motion carried unanimously.

Appropriation from Fund Balance	#101-000-699-0000	\$ 165,900
Increase Appropriations:		
Legal Fees-General	#101-101-801-0002	\$ 48,250
Contracted Services-Rubbish Disposal	101-521-821-0000	117,650
Total		\$ 165,900

This budget amendment increases the Township Board Department budget from \$477,309 to \$525,559, the Sanitation Division budget from \$2,675,000 to \$2,792,650, and the General Fund budget from \$28,236,492 to \$28,402,392.

STREET LIGHTING FUND:

Increase Revenues	\$ 6,206
Increase Appropriations	\$ 6,206

This budget amendment increases the Street Lighting Fund budget from \$218,126 to \$224,332.

CABLE TV FUND:

Increase Revenues	\$ 99,727
Increase Appropriations	\$ 99,727

This budget amendment increases the Cable TV Fund budget from \$815,569 to \$915,296.

WWN FORFEITURE FUND:

Increase Revenues	\$351,354
Increase Appropriations	\$351,354

This budget amendment increases the WWN Forfeiture Fund budget from \$305,805 to \$657,159.

BUILDING AUTHORITY CONSTRUCTION FUND:

Increase Revenues	\$287,169
Increase Appropriations	\$287,169

This budget amendment increases the Building Authority Construction Fund budget from \$0 to \$287,169.

Estimated general legal fee expenses for 2005:

General legal services, prosecutor in 35th District Court	\$284,000
Taxes for commercial bankruptcy case	2,750
Legal services for pension issues	4,000
Total	\$290,750

Budgeted amount

Budgeted amount	242,500
Budget amendment requested	48,250

Estimated rubbish disposal costs for 2005:

Canton Waste Recycling contract	
2005 costs year to date	\$2,489,411
Estimate to complete 2005 100,000	\$2,589,411

Onyx (compost disposal)

2005 costs to date	\$ 113,239
Estimate to complete 2005 40,000	153,239
Total	\$2,742,650

Amount budgeted

Budget adjustment	\$ 117,650
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Motion carried unanimously.

Item 23. BUDGET AMENDMENT - POLICE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT. (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy approve the following Budget amendment to cover the costs for the traffic enforcement program. Increase Revenues:

Police Traffic Forfeiture Funds	#207-000-655-1000	\$7,500
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Increase Revenues:

Traffic Enforcement Account	#207-301-744-0000	\$7,500
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This budget amendment increases the Police Fund budget from \$13,232,769 to \$13,240,269. 2. I move to approve the purchase of 120 reflective traffic vests from Excellent Police Equipment, 52968 Van Dyke, Shelby Township, MI 48316, in the amount of \$ 6,000.

3. Further, I move to extend the deadline for capital purchasing and approve the purchase of 36 Traffic Enforcement Zone signs, stands and storage bags from MDI Traffic Control Products, 38271 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48331 in the amount of \$1,496. Motion carried unanimously. **Item 24. BUDGET AMENDMENT - POLICE OVERTIME. (PSD)** Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the following budget amendment in the Police Fund for Police overtime:

Increase Revenues:

Refunds and rebates	207 000 687 0000	\$39,761
Grants - Public Safety	207 000 582 0000	\$15,751

Increase Appropriations:

Overtime-Sworn Officers	207 301 708 0000	\$55,512
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This budget amendment increases the Police Fund budget from \$13,240,269 to \$13,295,781. Motion carried unanimously. **Item 25. BUDGET AMENDMENT - FIRE OVERTIME. (PSD)** Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the following budget amendment in the Fire Fund for Fire Overtime: Increase Revenues:

Rescue and Ambulance Service Fees	206 000 638 0000	\$100,000
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Increase Appropriations:

Fire - Sworn Overtime	206-336-708-0000	\$100,000
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This budget amendment increases the Fire Fund Budget from \$11,151,774 to \$11,251,774. Motion carried unanimously. **OTHER:** The next Regular Board Study Meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, 2006, in the Board Room, First Floor, Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. Canton, Michigan, 48188. **ADJOURN:** Motion by Zarbo, supported by Bennett to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk -

Width1WidthB3WidthA3Width3Width11736 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 22, 2005

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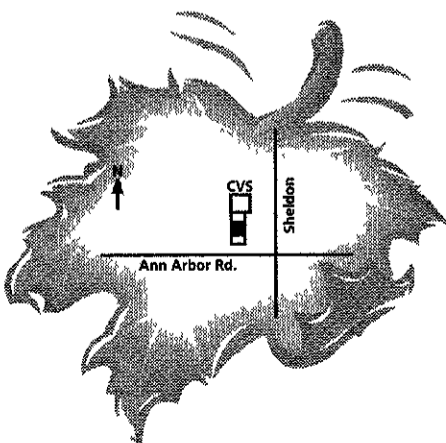
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Whalers' Vellucci pleased at holiday break

The Plymouth Whalers went into their final five games before the Christmas break with two goals in mind — win all five games and, more importantly, finish the pre-Christmas portion of the schedule in first place in the West Division.

"We want to be in first place in our division when we go home for the holidays," said Plymouth President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci. "When you're sitting around the house during the holidays, you want to go out with a win."

Plymouth didn't win all five games, but winning four of five — coupled with Saginaw losing four of their last five games — gives the Whalers a two-point lead over the Spirit at the top of the division. The Whalers lead the division with a record of 18-11-3; Saginaw is two points behind at 19-13-0-0.

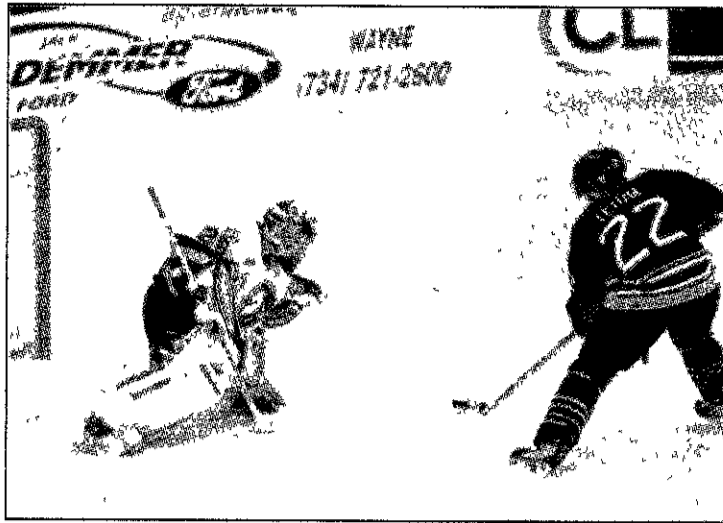
Plymouth started the segment by winning 6-3 in Sarnia Dec. 8, and 6-3 at home against Owen Sound on Dec. 10.

After falling, 5-4, in Peterborough Dec. 15 to the league's top team, the Whalers rebounded to defeat Oshawa, 7-4, on Friday and — in their best effort of the trip — defeated Toronto, 4-1, on Sunday.

Balanced scoring was one of the highlights of the trip. Plymouth scored 15 goals over the last three games and nobody scored more than one goal per game in four of the five games of the segment.

"Our team has always been evenly matched in terms of scoring," Vellucci said. "We don't count on one particular guy. That speaks volumes for our depth."

Plymouth has scored 133 goals so far this season, third overall in the Western Conference, with just one play-



Mike Letizia (22) and his Plymouth Whalers teammates lead the Ontario Hockey League's Western Division heading into the pre-holidays break.

er — John Vigilante — in the OHL's top 10 scoring. Plymouth's leading scorers for December are defenseman Steve Ward and center Evan Brophey, who both compiled 14 points. James Neal (11), Dan Collins (nine), Gino Pisellini (eight) and Jared Boll (seven) all add to the Whalers' mix of balanced scoring for the month.

The Whalers also got a lift from rookies last weekend from Joe Gaynor and Ondrej Otčenáš, who scored single goals in successive games in the victories in Oshawa and Toronto. Both are waiting for a chance for more ice time and may get it in the second half.

"Joe's progressed well for us so far," Vellucci said of Gaynor, Plymouth's second-round pick (37th overall) last spring. "He hasn't received the ice time he'd like because of our numbers, but he's worked hard in practice and he's a future top player in our league. All the credit goes to Joe — he's worked very hard in practice."

New goaltender Justin

Peters won three of his first four games in a Whalers jersey, posting a 3.25 goals-against average and .921 save percentage. He was named the third star in the loss in Peterborough and the second star in the Toronto victory. Peters is a big goaltender who moves well. He is talking all the time out on the ice and is not shy about moving the puck.

"Peters is a character guy who's already respected around the locker room," Vellucci said. "We knew before making the trade that he was a great person and a leader-type. We're happy to have him. He's played pretty well so far and needs to keep going."

"It's good to have someone like Peters behind you," said new Plymouth defenseman Derek Merlini. "Because as a defenseman, he gives you some confidence and really helps you out."

Merlini — acquired from the Erie Otters and a native of Clinton Township — added to Plymouth's depth on the blue line and is an excellent penalty killer. He also contributed two

goals and an assist over the five-game segment.

"Before the trade happened, if anyone would have asked me my number-one choice (to play), it would have been Plymouth," Merlini said. "I feel good about coming in and helping and showing that I belong here. Because of the numbers game, it was hard to get going in Erie — playing one game, then sitting the next — so now I'm just trying to get

into a rhythm and play sound defense.

"I definitely like this team so far. I think we have a good team here that plays with good intensity and toughness and can score."

Still, the Toronto game was strange as both goaltenders — Toronto's Ryan Nie and Peters — faced their former teams since being traded for each other Dec. 9. Peters — who played 154 games for Toronto

— was cheered by many of his old fans.

"Ryan's a great kid," Vellucci said of Nie. "It was very difficult to move him, but we had to do what we thought was best for the team. It's going to be very strange seeing him on the other end (of the ice). Usually when a goaltender is moved like that, guys know what his weak spots are and vice-versa. He'll be up for the game, too."

Bob has a new job, but he can never get to work on time.



We have someone who will. Heck, we even have Bob's next job.

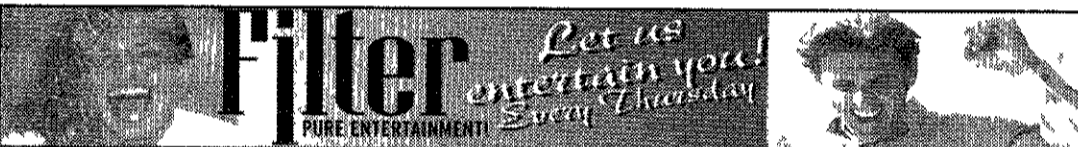
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Local Realtors help Goodfellows play Santa Claus



Gloria Thomson and Patty Belenky were among those involved in gathering gifts for the Southfield Goodfellows.

Local Realtors and their colleagues were among area business people who have helped to make the holidays brighter for needy families this year.

Again this holiday season, Snyder Kinney Bennett & Keating of Birmingham donated for the many hundreds of children for the Southfield Goodfellows, serving Southfield and Lathrup Village. Agents and employees bought and wrapped gifts for children in need.

Gifts were picked up by Mike Guzdial of the Goodfellows on Friday, Dec. 2, for distribution. "We do this every year," said receptionist Patty

Belenky of Snyder Kinney Bennett & Keating. The Goodfellows provide gift tags indicating what's needed; some 75 were taken and staffers brought in wrapped gifts to see that no child goes without a Christmas.

"It's really nice," Belenky said. "I'm happy that we can do that." It puts the staff in the Christmas spirit.

"Their goal is for each child to have a present to open on Christmas day. How could you stand that a kid didn't have a Christmas gift?" she said.

Staffers provided such items as clothing and toys, even such elaborate ones as bicycles. They don't participate in the food collection portion of the Goodfellows' effort.

By Julie Brown



Snyder Kinney Bennett & Keating staffers enjoy the Christmas project.



Santa's grateful for the help of (back row) Mary Moriarity with Metropolitan Title, Patty Belenky and Kathy Haack, (front row) Pat Schenberger and Gloria Thomson. The gifts went to the Southfield Goodfellow.

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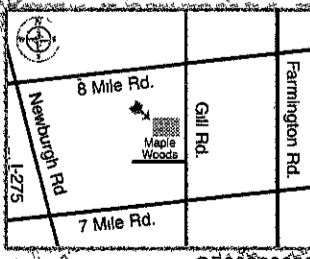
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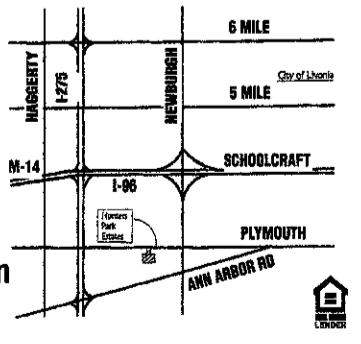
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CANTON RANCH Spacious ranch 1940 sq ft, 3 bd, 2 ba. Prestigious master suite w/ tray ceiling, WIC & private bath. Large Deck for entertaining, screened in porch, bay windows, & skylight. A must see! \$339,900 (C-878ED)



BRAND NEW CONDO! Phenomenal pricing on new construction with 9 ft. basement ceilings with egress windows, 2 story great room, master w/ garden tub, ceramics and hardwoods even a w/olmanized deck! \$219,900 (C-520GL)



LIVONIA CONTEMPORARY Almost 1700 sq ft in this beautiful home. Wide open floor plan w/ vaulted ceiling & large rooms. Tastefully updated inc. a bright Kitchen, vinyl windows, neutral paint, & carpet. Separate Living & Family Room. A must see! \$194,900 (C-648HI)



LUXURY MEETS VALUE Enjoy this beautiful ranch condo w/ large master suite, vaulted ceilings, den/ study, 3 full baths, & a finished basement. Canton community at it's best. \$285,000 (C-491KI)



PRICED TO SELL & READY NOW! Brick ranch offers many upgrades inc. new crpt, fresh paint, new gar dr w/ opener, updated kit w/ all appl., & brand new full BA in part fin bsmt. Imm occupancy, Livonia schools, city cert's done, & more. Call for more details. \$159,900 (P-937JO)



NEW ON THE MARKET 4 bdrm. Colonial w/ newer carpet, fresh paint, ceramic Foyer 7 Kitchen, spacious Family Room w/ fp, Formal Living & Dining rooms, master suite w/ WIC, partially finished bsmt and much more... \$256,000 (P-809SA)



BETTER HURRY! This huge 4 bedroom Canton colonial is a gem! Master Ste w/ bath and WIC, huge family room w/ fireplace, bright kitchen, major updates too - paint, carpet, flooring, roof, siding, windows, A/C & furnace, & large yard. \$259,900 (P-767TI)

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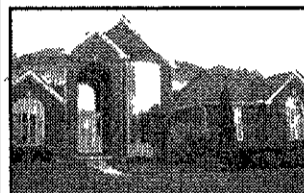
As we all reflect upon the past and make plans for the coming new year it becomes more apparent than ever how thankful we all should be for the sacrifices of others and the privilege of living in this great country.

Best wishes for the Holidays and a healthful, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

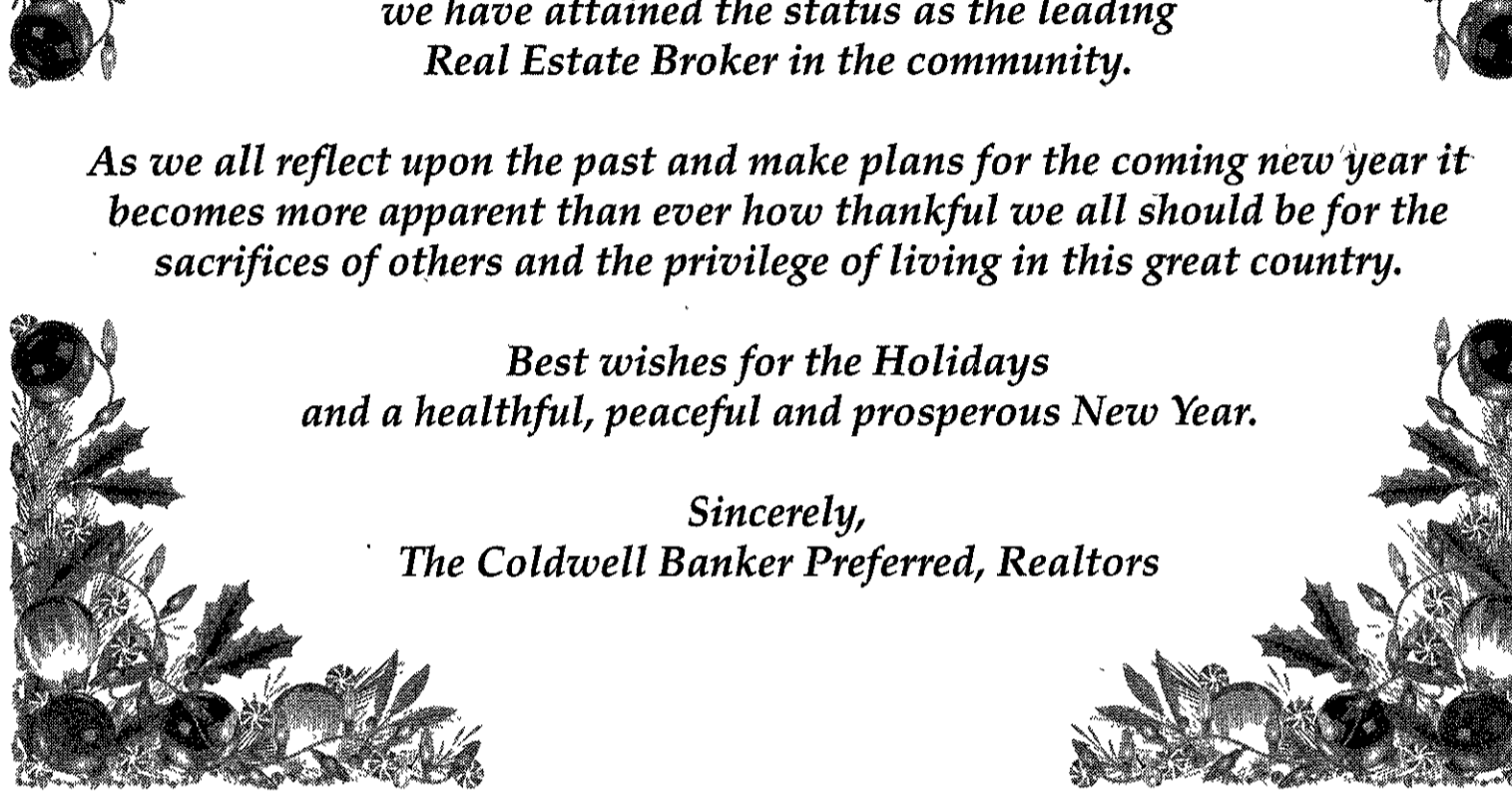
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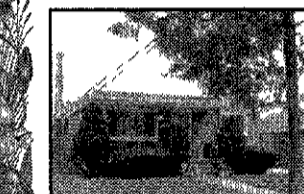
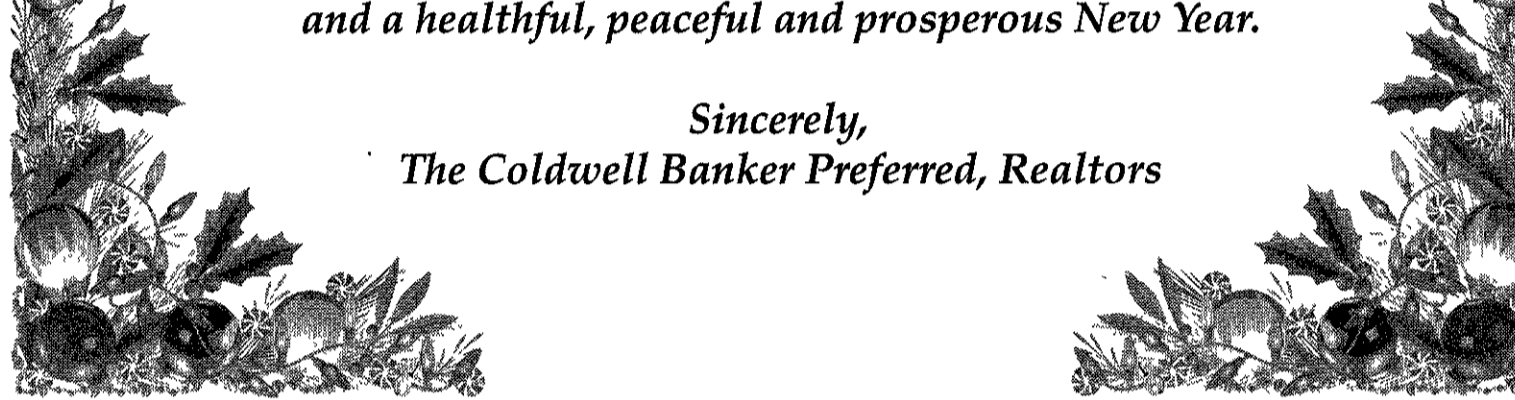
GORGEOUS WOOD VIEW Spacious 4 bd. col on a prem lot that backs to wooded wetland preserve. Large island kit, 1st floor laundry, mstr ste w/ tray ceiling, WIC, & priv bath w/ jetted tub. Finished walkout bsmt. 3 car gar, & stamped concrete patio. Call today for details. \$410,999 (C-944WA)



NICE STARTER 3 bedroom brick home featuring new carpeting, fresh paint, finished basement w/ pool table, a 2.5 car garage and a nice sized fenced yard. Move in condition. Perfectly priced at only \$134,900 (P-714WE)



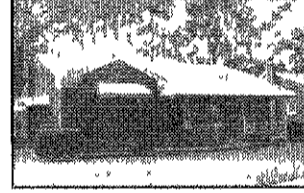
HOME BUYERS DREAM Everything has been updated in this wonderful 3 bedroom ranch. Furnace and roof less than 5 yrs. old, new carpeting, updated kitchen and baths, 2.5 car garage, home warranty & a great location. \$144,900 (C-437MC)



SUPER FAMILY HOME Large 2000 square foot beauty with 5 bedrooms and 3 full baths. Large living and dining rooms, big kitchen and a large sitting area upstairs. Covered front & back porches and a fenced yard. \$149,900 (C-242MA)



ABSOLUTELY EXQUISITE Backing to the woods and loaded with upgrades lies this 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath beauty. Beautifully finished walkout, 3 car garage, 1st floor master and a huge floor plan. \$679,900 (C-324LO)



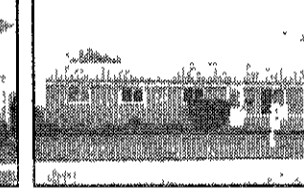
A TRUE BEAUTY - Simply go geous and ready to move into ranch with hardwood floors, newer air, furnace and roof, finished basement w/ rec room and study, fenced yard and 2.5 car garage. \$132,900 (821OC)



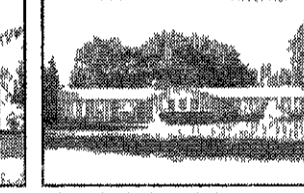
DOWNTOWN PLYMOUTH Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath bungalow with updated roof, water heater, furnace, kitchen and more. Hardwood floors, fireplace, finished basement and new deck off of the 3 season room! \$264,900 (P-644AN)



SOUGHT AFTER ROSEDALE Charming colonial on a double lot with over 1700 square ft of living space. Formal dining, cozy family room with a fireplace, 3 bedrooms and 1.5 updated baths. Nicely manicured exterior with brick pavers. Really nice. \$249,500 (P-309AR)



PEACE AND QUIET Can be found in this charming ranch on a quiet dead end street. 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, updated oak kitchen with appliances, finished basement huge garage, fenced yard and walking distance to the elementary school. \$164,900 (P-365AV)



BETTER HURRY! This sprawling ranch situated on 17 acres in Plymouth Township won't last long. Massive great room with vaulted ceilings, island kitchen, finished basement, side entry garage and lots, lots more. \$489,000 (P-351BE)



HISTORIC CAPE COD in downtown Belleville with 9' ceilings, amazing original hardwood floors & trim. Beautifully remodeled kitchen with antique cabinetry, electrical completely re-wired & copper plumbing. \$219,900 (C-204CO)



DEARBORN CHARMER Vinyl sided bungalow with 3 bedrooms, updated furnace, central air, windows and basement. Deck off of the back of the home. Hardwood floors and pretty landscaping. Fenced yard too! \$99,900 (C-614GA)



SMALL CONDO COMMUNITY Close to downtown with an open view to park-like setting from the deck. Large great room w/ cathedral ceiling, recessed lites & fireplace, full kit in fin. basement, new roof and new windows to be replaced by assoc 05-06. \$199,000 (P-490MA)



BEAUTIFULLY GROOMED One acre parcel with this immaculate 3 bedroom home. Large country front porch, hardwood floors, fireplace, formal living room, doorwall to private yard and nearly one full acre to call your own. Great location. \$210,000 (P-248MA)



DOUBLE LOT DREAM Super ranch with over 1300 sq. ft. and a freshly painted interior. Situated on a double lot with a huge 3 car garage - mechanics delight! Newer Copper plumbing and electrical. Kitchen with custom lighting. Nice. \$124,900 (P-208MI)



YOU FOUND IT! Gorgeous Northville condo has everything but the maintenance! Clean and beautifully decorated, this end unit offers a great master, new floors and fixtures, dining and study areas, enclosed seasonal porch, appliances and a great location! \$134,900 (P-560NO)



COUNTRY SIZED LOT Picturesque views from each window in this maintenance free Farmington Hills ranch on 1.2 acres. Full walkout basement, side entry garage, fireplace, country kitchen and a home office. Park like yard. \$334,900 (P-424PO)



BACKING TO THE WOODS On an extra deep lot with a sunny family room, formal living room, new roof, vinyl windows, finished basement, updated bath, 2 car garage and a big open kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths. Nice. \$199,000 (P-728AL)



BEAUTIFUL 11.75 ACRE SITE! Close to M-14 with easy access to expressways. Will need an engineered field. Some wetlands. Irregular property line on the south side. Survey in the listing office. Call for details. \$250,000 (P-160FFR)



TREE LINED STREET Enjoy all the comforts of home in this Garden City ranch complete with a finished basement, 2 car garage, 1.5 baths, a pretty entry, big picture window in the living room and a great price! \$139,900 (C-417HA)



BRING YOUR SUNGLASSES! You'll be dazzled by this sparkling 4BR/2.5BA home in a great neighborhood! New windows, flooring, fresh paint, fireplace, nice landscaping & large floor plan. Call for more info today!! \$227,500 (C-600LA)



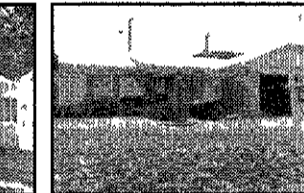
HOME SWEET HOME Comfortable colonial with a large family room off of the updated kitchen with lots of cabinets. Hardwood floors, oversized garage, vinyl windows and more! 3 block from the elementary school. \$169,900 (C-835MO)



AFFORDABLE CANTON CONDO Updated 2 bedroom condo with new windows and carpeting in a great area in Canton. Appliances, central air, attached garage, balcony, 1st floor laundry and more. Come see it today! \$99,900 (C-544SA)



AFFORDABLE STARTER Hard to beat the price for this cute 2 bedroom ranch with a 2.5 car garage w/ 220 line! Built in eating space and lots of cabinets in the kitchen, newer windows, large deck and vaulted ceilings. Only \$85,900 (P-267ST)



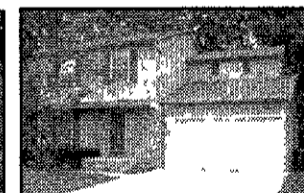
CONSIDER THIS... 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, family room fireplace, attached 2 car garage, a basement with glass block windows, sprinkler system and award winning Livonia schools, sounds perfect doesn't it? \$184,900 (C-729BU)



DOLL HOUSE ON A LARGE LOT Plenty of updates in this little beauty with a new roof on the house and garage, new siding, some newer windows and carpeting. Hardwood under all carpeting. New hot water heater too. Great for first time buyer. \$109,900 (P-744HA)



DESIRABLE COURT LOCATION Spacious and updated Canton colonial with formal living/dining, updated open kitchen, family room fireplace and French doors to the patio. New carpeting, new roof, central air and 1st floor laundry. Walk to elementary. \$259,900 (P-285OA)



WESTLAND'S HIDDEN JEWEL Private wooded view on a quiet cul-de-sac backing to Hines! Built in '94 this 3 bedroom beauty offers a spacious neutral floor plan, finished basement, sprinklers and lots more. \$184,900 (C-358PE)



AMENITIES GALORE Spacious Livonia ranch on a corner lot with a privacy fenced yard and a solar heated in-ground pool. Beautiful tiled entry, updated roof, windows, interior doors, and family room. Dining room w/ full brick walled fireplace. \$239,900 (P-498YA)



CUTE AS CAN BE! Huge front porch for relaxing summer nights, hardwood floors, coved ceilings, large family room and Florida room, finished basement, a white kitchen with appliances and a big back yard. \$164,000 (P-585DO)



CLEAN AND CONTEMPORARY Livonia ranch with many quality updates! Gorgeous finished basement, remodeled heated Florida room, newer central air, furnace, carpeting and light fixtures. Home warranty too! \$179,999 (P-600HA)



A SHOWPLACE Lavishly landscaped lot, premium elevation, patial window with Romeo & Juliet balcony, great room with volume ceiling, maple kitchen, finished basement, game room and more. Fabulous! \$399,000 (C-291LA)



WELCOMING HOME Well maintained brick ranch in Livonia. Updated bath, windows, roof and water heater. Nice fenced yard, shed and 2 car garage. Partially finished basement. Put this one at the top of your list! \$164,900 (C-961LY)



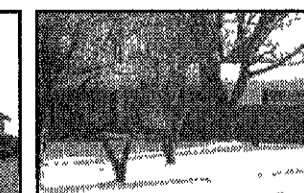
FARMINGTON HILLS RANCH On over a 1/4 acre lot with many updates like a newer oak kitchen, oak floor and chair molding, recessed lights, vinyl siding, furnace and electrical. Nice fenced yard with a shed and kennel. 2 car garage w/ attic storage. \$169,900 (P-445MO)



IN THE HEART OF CANTON Super Cape Cod with a striking great room floor plan offering a fireplace, finished basement, first floor master and a patio for summer enjoyment. Clean and inviting home. \$299,900 (C-214 SA)



COUNTRY CONTEMPORARY Wonderful ranch in Huron school district. Plenty of cabinets in Kitchen w/ deep sink and spacious Breakfast Nook. Master suite with WIC and jetted tub. Home is located on over 3 acres. \$229,900 (C-433CA)



RANCH ON 4 ACRES! Located in Canton, offering a large floor plan with over 4 acres (possible split), 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths and a 40x48 pole barn. Family room fireplace and appliances remain. Call now. \$374,900 (C-331SA)



A GREAT BUY! Nice 2 bedroom ranch in the Downriver area with all of the big ticket items updated for you. Windows, siding, furnace, roof, cement work, water heater, remodeled kitchen & more. \$99,900 (C-830KA)



EXQUISITE CONDO Just 2 years new, this light, bright and airy condo is decorated to the nines! Hardwood floors, upgraded carpeting and light fixtures, fireplace, 1st floor laundry & great master. This is a 10 plus! \$179,900 (C-947CA)

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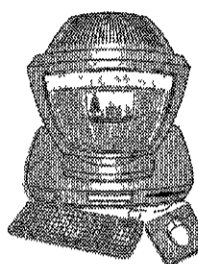
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Berkley 3847

By Owner

BERKLEY
2252 CAMBRIDGE 5 YRS OLD 2000 sq ft of living space Finished bsmt, formal dining, 2 full bath, 2 half bath, 3 bdrm, 2 car attached garage \$337,500 (248) 548-5366

COMPLETELY UPDATED '90'S BUNGALOW
Along Treeline Blvd 3 bdrms, 1 bath, new kitchen, 3.5 car detached garage w/ electricity, newly landscaped, hardwood floors, all appliances incl. unfinished bsmt **MOVE RIGHT IN!** \$229,000, 248-544-2359

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Canton 3080

CANTON - GREAT PRICE
3 bdrms, 2 1/2 baths, one in master bdrm, oak kitchen, Pergo flooring, nicely done bsmt, huge deck, 2 car attached garage & more. Immediate occupancy. \$218,000
CALL LORRAINE HAYES KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY (734) 459-4700

LOCATION - LOCATION!
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home backing to nature preserve, living room, family room w/fireplace, furnace & a/c '05, 2 car garage. \$210,000
CENTURY 21 PREMIER (734) 453-4300
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RENT 2 QWN. Land Contract.
Bad credit okay 3-4 bdrm bsmt garage. Call on Schools Call 888-856-034

Farmington Hills 3145

FOR SALE BY OWNER.
24319 El Marco. Fully renovated from 2001 to 2003 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 2005 sq ft, 2 car garage, fenced yard \$295,500 By appt 248-219-4742

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1-800-579-7355

Farmington Hills 3145

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY!
4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial, 2651 sq ft. family room w/fireplace, dining room, living room, library, 1st floor laundry, all appliances, 2 car garage. \$379,000
CENTURY 21 PREMIER (734) 453-4300
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Garden City 3170

BUILT IN 2000
31495 Cambridge 1350 sq ft brnk ranch, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car attached garage, \$199,900 734-564-5535

GREAT STARTER
2 bdrm, 1 bath, all new in and out immediate occupancy \$105,000 For sale by owner (419) 502-7786

PRICED TO SELL!
New construction 1800 sq ft 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 3 car attached Warren/Merriman \$219,900. 734-564-5535

Hartland 3200

A HOME FOR ALL SEASONS!
This wonderful 1643 sq ft home that includes 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, kitchen with hardwood floors opens to dining area and comfortable Great room! Doorwalk off dining area leads to spacious deck. Yard is partially fenced and professionally landscaped. Neat oversized shed offers workshop. Home also has a partially finished basement and a 2 car attached garage! Lake privileges to Handy Lake. Hartland Schools \$299,900.

YULE LOVE...the peaceful
2.38 acre setting that surrounds this lovely 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on paved private road. Home features family room with striking full wall brick fireplace and doorwalk to 10x15 screened porch, attractive white kitchen, large 18x14 walk-in closet off master bedroom, walkout basement, large deck for relaxing, 2 car attached garage plus 4 car detached garage and 10x12 potting shed! Hartland Schools \$295,000

Howell 3230

BUYERS - FREE REPORT
Reveals how to get the 10 best buys in any price range
FREE recorded message 866-836-9144 ID #4004
Amazing bargain on this home in quiet neighborhood.
3 bed, 2 bath. \$204,500.
FREE recorded message 866-836-9144, ID #4999
Michigan Group
6870 Grand River, Brighton
Livonia 3250

3 BEDROOM BRICK RANCH
With attached 2 car garage. Partially finished, basement, breakfast room with cozy fireplace and doorwalk leading to patio and yard. Great curb appeal. New carpeting, new tile in kitchen. \$169,900
CENTURY 21 Hartford North 734-525-9600

JUST LISTED!
Beautifully updated 3 bdrm, 2 bath brick ranch. Remodeled kitchen. Finished bsmt. 2 car garage. \$174,900
Susan & Rachel Rion 734-522-2429
Remax Alliance 734-462-3600

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DEERCREEK SUB
19995 Wayne Rd. \$419,900
34922 Pembroke Ave \$469,900
Info on these fine homes at karencamilleri.com
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Novi 3280

By Owner

GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD
Everything you are looking for many updates, quiet street, move-in ready, 4 bdrm, Colonial, 3 1/2 baths, large kitchen. Priced to sell! Northville Schools 45100 Huntingcross Dr \$359,900. 248-348-4415

Oak Park 3305

BAD CREDIT? No Money Down
Oak Park Bungalow Great family neighborhood 3 bedrooms, new kitchen, newer siding and roof 2 car garage
Close to downtown Ferndale Immediate occupancy
Call Randy 248-709-2244

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Redford 3350

JUST LISTED!
11363 Hazelton \$109,900
All info can be found on karencamilleri.com
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Royal Oak 3370

NO MONEY DOWN ROYAL OAK
Updated 3 bedroom bungalow. \$159,900 313-220-3555

South Lyon 3400

By Owner

4 BEDROOM COLONIAL
2.5 baths. Large lot. Immed occupancy \$319,900 For an appt (248) 446-0146

West Bloomfield 3440

(NORTHWEST) 3-4 br, 3 bath
Flexible layout. 1900 sq ft Big 2 car garage. With deck which views private wooded preserve. Below Market. \$299,900. Agents Protected. Call 248-761-3487 no listings.

Westland 3445

JUST LISTED!
32656 Cowan Rd. \$169,900
All info at karencamilleri.com
Century 21 Row 734-464-7111, ext. 246

Westland 3445

JUST LISTED!
WESTLAND
Lovely 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick ranch w/attached garage. Finished bsmt., Florida room. \$153,900.
Call Greg Mollet 734-718-7244
Century 21 Row 734-464-7111

WHY RENT? Own this ranch style home
Updated kitchen & bath, beautiful Florida room with wood burning stove & French doors, newer windows & carpet, only \$115,000.
SHARPI!
3 Bedroom ranch, nicely finished basement w/ possible 4th bedroom, 2 full baths, 2 car garage, newer windows & roof, \$126,900
LIVONIA SCHOOLS
3 Bedroom brick ranch, large kitchen & dining room, 2 full baths, finished basement, attached garage, \$144,900.

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Genesee County 3500

CELEBRATE ALL YEAR...
in this lovely 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath builders home. Sharp kitchen with convenient floor plan includes snack bar, wood floors and all appliances. Cheerful breakfast room surrounded by windows & door to large custom Trex deck. Great room with gas fireplace formal dining room. Study could be 4th bedroom. Basement is prepped for bath 2 car attached garage. Fenton Schools \$244,000

BRING YOUR ICESKATES!
Beautiful new waterfront ranch on Little Long Lake. Spacious open floor plan includes beautiful kitchen with maple cabinets, granite countertops and wood floor. Great room with gas fireplace and doorwalk overlooking water. Master bedroom w/ private porch. Full laundry full walkout lower level plumbed for 3rd bath, 3 car attached garage and more! Lake Fenton Schools \$289,900.

A NEW HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Lovely country 2 "new" ranch. Home includes 2,000 sq ft 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, wet planned kitchen with an abundance of cabinets and eating area, large formal dining room, Great room with gas fireplace, basement, covered front porch for relax and 30x28 attached garage! Be the first to own this wonderful country home! Linden Schools \$261,900!

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Condos 3720

BIRMINGHAM First floor, end unit, 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 790 sq. ft. Newly remodeled. \$92,900. 248-705-8818

Bloomfield Hills - City of
Gorgeous condo 2 bdrm, 2 bath, den, dining room, living room, kitchen w/a nook. 2 car attached garage, model condition. Overlooking park-like setting. 1835 sq. ft. \$349,000 or lease \$349,000 or lease \$349,000 Michael @586-929-6055 Killarney Realty, 1280 US 12.

WESTLAND - Warren Road & Central City location.
Pool-side 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, upper, large walk-in in master bdrm, new Pergo floor in kitchen, updated bath, incl kitchen appliances, new full size washer/dryer, new hot water heater, carpet, great cond. Immediate occupancy. Must see! \$89,900 Call for appt. 734-525-2629

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2 Bedroom, 2 bath condo overlooking pond with clubhouse, pool, tennis courts and sauna. Great place to live, close to shopping and restaurants. All appliances stay! Must see!
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78 sq. ft., 3 bed, 2 bath. Deluxe GE appliances. **ONLY \$29,900**

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• 929 sq. ft. w 8x24 tag 2 bed, 2 bath, appl. & deck **REDUCED TO \$13,500**

• Multi-sectional 3 bed, 2 bath, appl., fireplace, C/A, master bath w/jacuzzi & shed. **ONLY \$59,000**
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By owner, better than new, completely updated, 3 bdrm, 3.5 baths, library, atrium, finished bsmt. MUST SEE! \$549,900 (248) 433-1184

FARMINGTON HILLS 2 bdrm plus den, finished walkout, 3 bath, light & bright, separate dining room, gas fireplace, free lined backyard 5 min to freeways \$254,900 By owner 248 478 1955 No Realtor

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\$89,900 Great starter house or investment property (248) 980-4916

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ROCHESTER HILLS - Stream-
wood, 2 bdrm, 1st floor, park-like setting, move-in cond., \$126,500. 248-650-3850

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Spotless, super sharp brick ranch w/3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. This home has a country kitchen, FR with fireplace, door to patio. Great features for entertaining. Updates include windows, furnace, paint. Rec room w/ wet bar. Clean as a pin!

LIVONIA
Super end unit ready to move in! All appliances stay. Natural fireplace in living room. Finished basement, central air. Pool, tennis courts, clubhouse for your enjoyment.

LIVONIA
LOOK OUT! This condo can be yours! It's incredible updated & neutral decor thru out. Large 2 bedrooms with formal dining. Low association includes gas, water & pool. Home warranty included \$123,900

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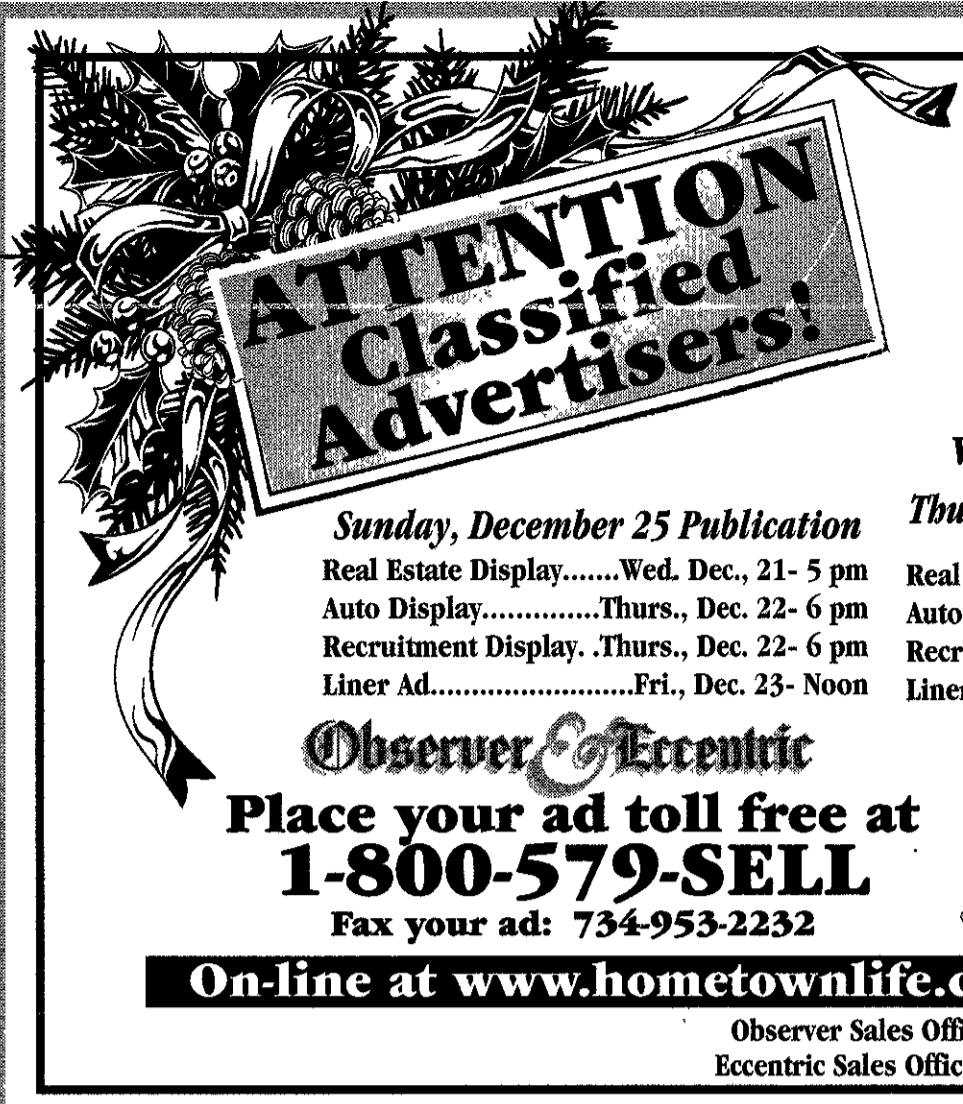
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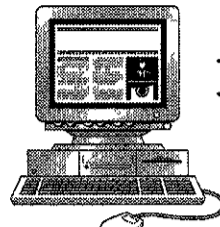
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Real Estate Display.....Wed. Dec., 21- 5 pm
Auto Display.....Thurs., Dec. 22- 6 pm
Recruitment Display...Thurs., Dec. 22- 6 pm
Liner Ad.....Fri., Dec. 23- Noon

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
Auto Display.....Thurs., Dec. 29- 6 pm
Recruitment Display...Thurs., Dec. 29- 6 pm
Liner Ad.....Fri., Dec. 30- Noon



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Clean 1 & 2 bed apts \$565 - \$665/mo</p> <p>\$0 Security deposit and 1 month free w/approved 13-month lease.</p> <p>Call 248-585-5077 www.royalmadisonapt.com</p>	<p>4000 Apartments/Unfurnished</p> <p>Plymouth</p> <p>ONE MONTH FREE</p> <p>Rent starting at \$575</p> <p>FREE HEAT & WATER Newly Upgraded 1 & 2 Bedrooms</p> <p>Plymouth Manor Plymouth House Close to downtown Plymouth</p> <p>734-455-3880 www.yorkcommunities.com Equal Housing Opportunity</p>	<p>4000 Apartments/Unfurnished</p> <p>TROY'S NICEST - 1 Bdrm apt incl full size washer/dryer, carport, C/A, dishwasher, pergo/carpeting, vertical blinds, balcony & pool, incl heat & water \$745. 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<p>Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)</p> <p>Farmington Hills</p> <p>TIMBERIDGE APARTMENTS</p> <p>30310 Timberidge Circle N. of 8 Mile on Tuck, between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake</p> <p>1 Bedroom - \$575 2 Bedroom - \$665</p> <p>Immediate Occupancy</p> <p>CALL (248) 478-1487</p> <p>Reduced Rental Rates (For a limited time only)</p> <p>Fully Equipped Kitchen Large 4x6 Storage Room Carports Available On-Site Laundry Facilities Swimming Pool Basketball Court</p>	<p>Farmington Hills</p> <p>WALNUT CREEK</p> <p>HOLIDAY SPECIAL REDECORATED COMPLEX (On Site Manager)</p> <p>700 + sq. ft. 1 bdrm only Low Security Deposit STARTING AT \$545/Mo. Call: (248) 961-2753</p> <p>FARMINGTON HILLS: Annge Apts. Heat included! 1 bedroom \$485. Appliances, carpeting 9 Mile/Middlebelt 248-478-7489</p> <p>FARMINGTON PLAZA APTS. ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIALS</p> <p>Deluxe 1 bedroom - \$600 Includes heat & water. (248) 478-8722</p> <p>FIVE, FIVE, FIVE. ONE MONTH FREE To Qualified Applicants, Studios, 1 & 2 bedrooms available in town Birmingham 565 S. Old Woodward. Call Jessica (248) 645-1191</p> <p>KEEGO HARBOR 2 bdrm Cass Lakelront Immaculate, heat incl., free month \$895 (248) 770-7067</p>	<p>Northville Novi Road North of 8 Mile</p> <p>TREE TOP APARTMENTS</p> <p>Stunning 1 bedroom with den from \$765 includes HEAT and washer/dryer. Charming 1 bedroom from \$645. Covered parking.</p> <p>For an appointment please call: (248) 347-1690 EHO</p> <p>NOVI Meadowbrook N. of 10 Mile</p> <p>ONE MONTH FREE</p> <p>Hurry...includes our beautifully remodeled apartments with new kitchens and in-unit washer / dryers! Limited availability come see why! EHO</p> <p>TREE TOP MEADOWS (248) 348-9590</p> <p>OAK PARK NORTH LINCOLNBRIAR APARTMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 bedroom 1.5 bath to 1160 sq. ft. 3 bedroom 1.5 bath 1380 sq. ft. + full basement <p>FROM \$795</p> <p>FREE GAS HEAT! 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BIRCK Stove fridge carpet & blinds \$550 into 4th 2bdrm, 5bdrm, w/hotel Lease 734-455-0397</p>	<p>Westland</p> <p>\$99 DEPOSIT</p> <p>1 MONTH FREE RENT + \$50 OFF 6 MONTHS RENT 1st VISIT ONLY</p> <p>*SELECT UNITS ONLY</p> <p>VENOY PINES APARTMENTS</p> <p>NEWLY RENOVATED KITCHENS & BATHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 & 2 bedroom apts some with fireplace Clubhouse <p>(734) 261-7394 www.yorkcommunities.com Equal Housing Opportunity</p> <p>Westland</p> <p>FREE, FREE, FREE!</p> <p>Free rent until Jan 31, 2006. No application fee with this ad. Immediate occupancy available (734) 455-7100</p> <p>Westland</p> <p>HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS LIVING AT WESTERN HILLS</p> <p>with</p> <p>FREE HEAT! FREE RENT! FREE WATER</p> <p>\$199 MOVES YOU IN!</p> <p>1 Bdrm. \$489 2 bdrm \$559</p> <p>(734) 729-6520 Mon-Fri 8-6pm, Sat 10-2 *CONDITIONS APPLY</p>	<p>Westland</p> <p>Blue Garden Apartments from \$530*</p> <p>AMAZING! MOVE IN SPECIAL</p> <p>\$100 OFF 1st 7 MONTHS RENT REDUCED SEC. DEPOSIT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HEAT/WATER INCLUDED POOL CLUBHOUSE CABLE READY Pet Welcome <p>Spacious 1 and 2 bdrm. apartments with Balcony</p> <p>Call for Details* 734-729-2242</p>	<p>Westland</p> <p>KEEP THAT INCOME TAX REFUND IN YOUR POCKET!</p> <p>1 & 2 Bedrooms PAY NO RENT until February 2006 NO APPLICATION FEE \$99.00 MOVES YOU IN (734) 729-4020</p> <p>4010 Apartments/Furnished</p> <p>248-701-2014 561-392-6482</p> <p>FARMINGTON HILLS - Park Hotel Furnished rooms, efficiency & apts from \$150/week No deposit 248-474-1324</p> <p>Westland</p> <p>ONE MONTH FREE Plus Rent A 2 Bedroom For The Price Of A 1 Bedroom</p> <p>Call for details.</p> <p>ORCHARDS OF NEWBURGH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger Apartments 1 & 2 Bedroom plans Playground Area Pool & Clubhouse Carport Included <p>(734) 729-5090 www.yorkcommunities.com Equal Housing Opportunity</p>	<p>Westland</p> <p>248-701-2014 561-392-6482</p> <p>FARMINGTON HILLS - Park Hotel Furnished rooms, efficiency & apts from \$150/week No deposit 248-474-1324</p> <p>4020 Condos/Townhouses</p> <p>BLOOMFIELD HILLS 1 Bdrm, washer/dryer, large storage unit Club house, pool \$650/mo 248-310-9129</p> <p>BLOOMFIELD HILLS 2 bdrm, 2 bath, lakefront, renovated, \$990/mo, heat included 248-891-1918 or 248-891-4203</p> <p>CANTON Beautiful condo, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, gas fireplace, 1 car, \$1200 734-398-5001</p> <p>COMMERCE Brand new 2 bdrm, both master suites, 2.5 bath, 2 car attached, fireplace, private patio & entrance, appliances \$1,250/mo Call (248) 212-4555</p>	<p>4030 Duplexes</p> <p>Belleville 2 bdrm Hwd floors, updated Kitchen w/d appliances, new vinyl windows, new blinds, bsmt w/washer & dryer hookup & possible 3rd bedroom, \$615/mo, \$900 sec dep. 2 unit available Call Tina 734-416-8736</p> <p>CANTON 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, Appliances No pets Ford/ Sheldon area \$865/mo Call 248-514-0565</p> <p>NORWAYNE 2 bdrm \$600 move in! Remodeled kitchen and bath, newer carpeting, freshly painted 313-276-0282</p> <p>REDFORD 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, new carpet stove refrigerator central air No pets \$750/mo \$1000 dep Garage available 248-790-7848</p> <p>Westland - 2 bedroom Full basement Clean & neat Quiet neighborhood Immediate occupancy From \$645/month. Call Jamie 734-721-8111</p> <p>WESTLAND Norwayne area Duplex \$1561 Alpena, 2 bdrm, \$525 mo + security, 32406 Lapeer 3 bdrm, \$625 + sec Call (248) 420-0573</p> <p>DETROIT-7 Mile/Telegraph Clean 2 Bdrm lower lg kitchen/living room Enclosed porch, furnished \$550/mo + utilities & sec (313) 937-1064</p> <p>PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP 2 bdrm lower flat Available immediately \$695/mo (248) 888-8400</p> <p>PLYMOUTH-DOWNTOWN 1 bdrm, lower flat. Hwd floors, updated Kitchen with all appliances, central air, full bsmt w/washer & dryer, 1 car garage, plenty of storage space \$675/mo, \$1000 sec dep 1 year lease Pets nego Call Tina 734-416-8736</p>	<p>4030 Duplexes</p> <p>NEW HOMES FOR RENT</p> <p>FREE RENT!</p> <p>1 month free and \$100 off FIRST 6 months.</p> <p>3 bdrm, 2 bath, \$559/mo.</p> <p>All appliances and a/c included.</p> <p>Pets Welcome 888-304-0079</p> <p>College Park Estates 51074 Mott Rd Canton MI 48188 (Between Geddes & Mich Ave. off Ridge Road)</p> <p>*on select homes</p> <p>Skyline/Clayton Retailer</p> <p>GARDEN CITY Gorgeous 3 bedroom home with finished basement, new appliances. \$1050/month. 248-342-2271</p> <p>GARDEN CITY Just remodeled, super clean, 3 bdrm, 2 car garage, all major appliances includes washer & dryer. \$1200/mo. (734) 748-5536</p> <p>GARDEN CITY Newly remodeled, 2 bdrm home, 1 car garage, \$850/mo (313) 350-5227</p> <p>INKSTER 3 bdrm brick ranch, garage, dining room, \$600, 3 bdrm ranch, bsmt, \$600 Option on both 248-788-1823</p> <p>LEASE TO OWN HOMES</p> <p>Brussels credit OK. Awesome locations incl. Plymouth & W. Dearborn. No bank qualifying Small down 313-505-3600</p> <p>Livonia \$1,275 w/\$500 move in! Beautiful ranch w/3 bdrm, 1.5 baths Attached garage Hix/Loy area. Mark Regal, Agent. Direct 734-718-6176</p> <p>LIVONIA - Updated 3 bdrm ranch, 1 bath, 2 car attached garage, fenced yard, \$1085/mo 734-420-5154</p> <p>LIVONIA 3 Bdrm ranch 2 car garage freshly remodeled - fenced Option to buy of \$1,070/mo 313-905-5375</p> <p>LIVONIA 3 bdrm ranch, master bdrm suite w/ fireplace, air, all appliances \$1295, (248) 943-2963</p> <p>LIVONIA 3 bdrm, brick ranch, 2 bath, Livonia schools, lg garage, hardwood, \$1085/mo, avail Jan 15, 810-923-0057</p> <p>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</p> <p>NOVI 5 acre home, tri-level, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, Walled Lake Schools, \$1300/mo, + utilities \$1275-88-8400</p> <p>DAK PARK CUTE & remodeled 2 bdrm ranch, immediate occupancy Option to buy avail. \$550 248-788-1823.</p> <p>PINCKNEY Immediate Occupancy! Clean 1600 sq. ft. house on 10 acres. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, laundry room, all appliances, clean/dry basement, Pinckney Schools, \$320 Patterson Lake Rd. \$1075 760-598-6000</p>

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4040 Duplexes

248-701-2014 561-392-6482

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4040 Flats

WESTLAND Norwayne area Duplex \$1561 Alpena, 2 bdrm, \$525 mo + security, 32406 Lapeer 3 bdrm, \$625 + sec Call (248) 420-0573

DETROIT-7 Mile/Telegraph Clean 2 Bdrm lower lg kitchen/living room Enclosed porch, furnished \$550/mo + utilities & sec (313) 937-1064

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP 2 bdrm lower flat Available immediately \$695/mo (248) 888-8400

PLYMOUTH-DOWNTOWN 1 bdrm, lower flat. Hwd floors, updated Kitchen with all appliances, central air, full bsmt w/washer & dryer, 1 car garage, plenty of storage space \$675/mo, \$1000 sec dep 1 year lease Pets nego Call Tina 734-416-8736

4050 Homes For Rent

BAD CREDIT? YOU CAN STILL BUY A HOME WITH SO DOWN IN ANY AREA!

Short term employment OK Bankruptcy OK. Call Randy Lesson, METRO FINANCE 248-709-2244 metrofinance.net

BIRMINGHAM - DOWNTOWN Totally remodeled 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath. Finished bsmt. Attached garage, wood floors. All appliances, fenced deck area. \$2200. 248-258-6888

BIRMINGHAM 1598 Pierce 3 bdrm 1 bath, renovated, furnished, 2 car garage, fenced yard \$1400/mo 248-706-1050

BIRMINGHAM 2604 Manchester. Renovated 3 bdrm, 2 bath Hardwood floors, all appliances, fireplace, finish bsmt, garage, fenced, deck, \$1595/mo 248-761-0627

CANTON - We have new homes for rent. Pets welcome. Call Sandy at Sun Homes for details at: 888-304-8941 Skyline/Clayton Retailer

COMMERCE 5 bdrm, 2 car garage, \$1395/mo. Also 3 bdrm avail \$1295. Both brick homes on lg wooded lots Option to buy 248-613-3732

DEARBORN HEIGHTS 6190 Mayburn 3 bdrm brick ranch, 1 car garage, fenced. Avail. immediately. \$695. SHOWING: Sunday @ 4pm Wednesday @ 6PM. Call: 248-783-5870. 248-647-8726

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 or buy/land contract. \$1000/mo. 734-716-5257

DETROIT W of Telegraph 2-3 homes. 2 to 3 bedrms, bsmt. \$500, \$650, \$775. Call Iris, 248-474-6414

DOWNTOWN NORTHVILLE 3 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 car garage. Hardwood Floors. Clean Walking distance to Downtown \$1500/month Call (248) 347-4460

FARMINGTON HILLS 1 bdrm, 1 bath w/office & deck, appliances, large yard, pets negotiable \$650, 248-669-3012

FARMINGTON HILLS 8 Mile & Grand River. 2 bdrm ranch. Attached garage, bsmt, new windows, hardwood floors. \$825+ deposit. References. 248-348-0066

FARMINGTON HILLS Exceptional 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath Optional, 3000 sq. ft. \$2600. ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620

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*on select homes

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Brussels credit OK. Awesome locations incl. Plymouth & W. Dearborn. No bank qualifying Small down 313-505-3600

Livonia \$1,275 w/\$500 move in! Beautiful ranch w/3 bdrm, 1.5 baths Attached garage Hix/Loy area. Mark Regal, Agent. Direct 734-718-6176

LIVONIA - Updated 3 bdrm ranch, 1 bath, 2 car attached garage, fenced yard, \$1085/mo 734-420-5154

LIVONIA 3 Bdrm ranch 2 car garage freshly remodeled - fenced Option to buy of \$1,070/mo 313-905-5375

LIVONIA 3 bdrm ranch, master bdrm suite w/ fireplace, air, all appliances \$1295, (248) 943-2963

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PINCKNEY Immediate Occupancy! Clean 1600 sq. ft. house on 10 acres. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, laundry room, all appliances, clean/dry basement, Pinckney Schools, \$320 Patterson Lake Rd. \$1075 760-598-6000

PLYMOUTH Downtown, 2 bdrm, 1300 sq. ft., updated, townhouse w/ bsmt, c/a, appliances, \$900. (734) 716-6257

Redford 19435 Poinciana. Sharp 2 Bedroom. Basement. Garage Large Lot. \$700 mo 248-478-6498

REDFORD Immaculate 3 bdrm, 1 bath, garage, finished bsmt All appliances, no pets \$950/mo + sec. dep. (248) 821-8925

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REDFORD-SOUTH: Bachelor furnished room, non-drinker, digital TV. \$100 moves you in. 248-477-5728, 248-866-2152

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Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease **4220**

Farmington Hills Office space On Orchard Lake Rd, N/18, Mile \$13 sq ft. gross. (248) 408-1710

FARMINGTON HILLS Premier sleep clinic suite in medical building on Orchard Lake Road, 3000 sq.ft., ideal layout on ground floor with interior & exterior entrances. Available early 2006 or sooner. (248) 352-9770

Livonia - 5 Mile/Farmington 1 & 2 room windowed offices, utilities included. 734-422-2321

NOVI - OFFICE SUITE 440 sq.ft. 9 Mile & Novi Road area Utilities incl \$475/mo. 248-349-0260 ext 202.

WALLED LAKE - Near M-5 connector. Medical office, 1225 sq.ft. 6 rooms. Outdoor sign available. 248-626-5939

Lease/Option To Buy **4580**

CANTON 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2 car attached. Gorgeous! Won't last long. \$1595/\$7500 negotiable. 248-921-2432



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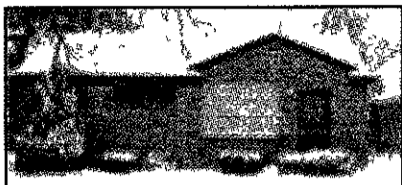
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DETROIT Ready To Move Into
Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch overlooking a park. Large fenced backyard, lovely family room with fireplace, finished basement with full bath. Newer carpet, roof and painted.

(E35WES) 734-455-5600 \$129,000



WESTLAND Maplehurst Condo
This immaculate premium location 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath condo backs to woods and pond offers full basement, spacious deck, attached garage and 2 walk-in closets. Built in 1998.

(E15SHE) 734-455-5600 \$174,900



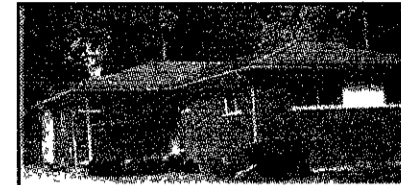
BROWNSTOWN A Rare Find
In this 3 bedroom condo in newer complex offering eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, living room w/gas fireplace, master suite w/WIC, C/A, 2 car attached garage, bsmt & close to freeway & shopping. Blt '02.

(E37MCC) 734-455-5600 \$206,900



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



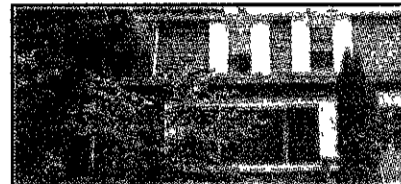
REDFORD Exceptional Brick Home
3 BR, 2 BA ranch w/10' or 4th BR. 4 car garage. Finished bsmt w/partial kit. Hwdw flrs. Eat-in kit. Newer woodburner for energy saving. Lg fenced yard on cul-de-sac. Newer deck. Lg rooms. Yard fully fenced.

(E61BRA) 248-349-5600 \$189,500



CANTON Unbelievable Value!
In this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath updated colonial w/part finished bsmt, 2 car att garage, newer kitchen w/cab, floor, sink & countertop FR w/fireplace, formal LR & dining room. Eat-in nook w/doorwall to deck.

(E84RAI) 734-455-5600 \$229,900



GARDEN CITY Charm & Character
Fill this 1930's farmhouse on a large private lot offers 4 bedrooms, 2 ceramic baths, oversized 2 car garage, basement, large Florida room on the 2nd floor & 2 tiered deck off kitchen - unique kitchen.

(E17JOH) 734-455-5600 \$224,900



DEARBORN You'll Love This One
2 full baths in this 3 bedroom ranch offering family room with natural fireplace, bright kitchen with spacious breakfast area, large yard, appliances, a garage sitting on a pretty street.

(E15SYR) 734-455-5600 \$135,000



NORTHVILLE Must See in Maple Hills!
Spacious tudor style colonial, 4 bedrooms, formal LR & DR plus FR w/fireplace, MBR suite w/WIC & private BA w/sep shower, kitchen w/built-in appliances & breakfast area, FR, hwdw foyer, private rear yard w/deck & pool.

(E16CAM) 248-349-5600 \$340,000



NORTHVILLE Condo Living At Its Best
Meticulous 3 bedroom, 3.1 bath condo in desirable CCV. This home boasts a FF master ste, open floor plan, oversized loft. It's one of the only 8 W/O's in community. All finished & ready for your holiday entertaining. FFL.

(E54OAK) 248-349-5600 \$349,900



DETROIT Own & Rent
Wonderful multi-family home. Each unit offers 2 bedrooms. Upper unit has formal dining room, lower unit has mock fireplace & bay window w/seat in living room. So live in one and rent the other!

(E76KEN) 734-455-5600 \$135,500



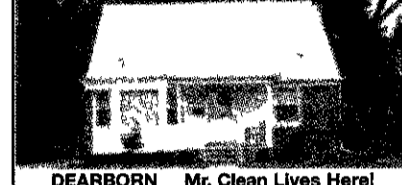
PLYMOUTH Private Treed Interior Lot
In Ridgewood Hills! Full front porch, hardwood floors in LR, DR, kit & lib. Kit new '03 w/Corian counter & sink, cherry cabs, formal DR w/newer Andersen bay window, FR w/frp/c, 2 tiered deck, bsmt & 2.5 car att gar.

(E86WOO) 734-455-5600 \$359,000



VAN BUREN Attention To Details
In this 4 BR, 2.5 BA colonial w/high ceilings, crown molding, maple cabs T/O, hwdw flrs & more. Mid-level master suite w/cath ceilings, large 3 car attached garage, extra deep bsmt w/daylight windows. Spotless.

(E91PON) 734-455-5600 \$340,000



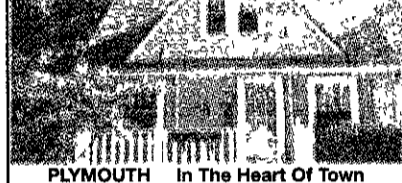
DEARBORN Mr. Clean Lives Here!
Wonderful brick bungalow with 1.5 car garage. Walking distance to Oakwood Hospital. Newer kitchen. Pergo floors. White cabs. Stunning bay window. Newer roof. turn/AC. Newer carpet, appliances w/side by side fridge.

(E12VEN) 248-349-5600 \$144,900



WIXOM Amazing Home & Lot
Fabulous 4 BR, 3 BA home on approx. 5 acre wooded lot. Home boasts huge country kit w/earth area, 2-story GR, 1st floor MBR, FFL, screened-in porch, profs landscaped, brick paver walkways, sprinkler, 1 yr warr.

(E64HED) 248-349-5600 \$359,900



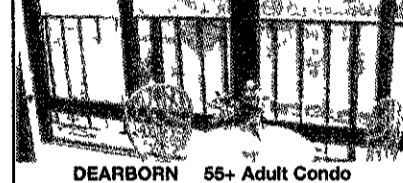
PLYMOUTH In The Heart Of Town
Charming colonial w/wonderful curb appeal offers newer vinyl siding & windows, open floor plan, oak staircase & banister, living room w/fireplace & mantle + partially finished basement & garage.

(E57PAL) 734-455-5600 \$209,500



CANTON Custom Built Cape Cod 2005
New const. On approx 1 acre lot w/4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 4 car attached garage, fireplace in both GR & library. Large kitchen w/bayed nook area. Admired 2 staircase layout. 2 story foyer, full bsmt & so more.

(E51ROL) 734-455-5600 \$790,000



DEARBORN 55+ Adult Condo
Gorgeous 1 BR, 1 BA condo. Freshly painted w/newer cprt, dishwasher, disposal, shower door (all in 2004). Custom mirrored foyer doors, blinds & drapery, updated kit. Assoc fee includes taxes & utilities.

(E00MOR) 734-455-5600 \$74,900



BROWNSTOWN Beauty From Door To Deck
Brick 1.5 story condo - new in 2005. Open island kitchen, GR w/frp/c, FFL, 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 car att gar, C/A, sprinklers & deck. Beautiful quiet setting. Shopping & restaurants within walking distance.

(E74WES) 248-349-5600 \$188,500



REDFORD Welcome Home
Maintenance free brick ranch offers 3 spacious bedrooms and 1.5 baths. Updates include newer windows, roof & furn, newer kit fr. Wonderful sunroom to enjoy your private wooded ravine lot. Fin bsmt.

(E50ROS) 248-349-5600 \$150,000



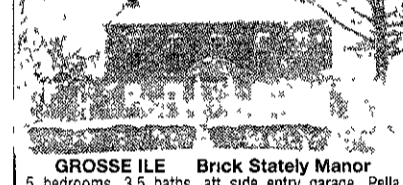
GARDEN CITY Don't Miss This One!
Great opportunity to own this charming 4 bedroom bungalow with attached garage, large kitchen, deck off side door, hardwood floors and double lot all in a great city.

(E74PIE) 734-455-5600 \$119,900



WESTLAND Condo
Nice upper unit condo in Westland with Livonia Schools. Deck, quiet surroundings, tennis courts and pool. Nice sized rooms, low association fee.

(E50WOO) 734-455-5600 \$84,500



GROSSE ILE Brick Stately Manor
5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, att side entry garage, Pella windows, gas fireplace, lg park-like yard. Open kitchen w/Corian counters & island, hardwood floors, ceramic baths, FR, den, office, lib, DR & tm bsmt w/bath.

(E41MER) 734-455-5600 \$494,900



LIVONIA Great Colonial
4 BR, 1.5 BA, formal LR. Beamed cath ceiling in FR & woodburning system in natural frpic. Replacement doorwall & many of the windows. Huge kit/nook area open to FR. Updated half BA, 2 car att gar & deck. Warr.

(E22EDG) 248-349-5600 \$219,900



NOVI Exceptional Home
Bright 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial on approx 1 acre w/wood FFL w/washer/dryer. Custom light fixtures. Frpic w/Italian mantle. Fin W/O w/profs workout rm. Pressed concrete patio & deck. Nr/vic schs.

(E81DEE) 248-349-5600 \$649,000



VAN BUREN Awesome Location
This 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial backing to Stonebridge Park offers spacious living room, family room w/fireplace & media room, 2 car attached garage, basement & kit appls. Trails, pool in 2001 built home.

(E60WAL) 734-455-5600 \$299,900



VAN BUREN Outstanding Condo
2 bedroom, 2 bath upper unit ranch with WIC in master bedroom, great room w/vaulted ceiling, large oak kitchen with snack bar, doorwall to deck and appliances.

(E33WIL) 734-455-5600 \$127,500



FARMINGTON HILLS Premium Lot
Private court to approx 6.9 acres of wooded commons. GR w/nat frpic, DR, kit w/snack bar. Fin LL W/O. Tear off roof '01, ext painted '04, 2.5 car gar w/newer door & opener. Some hwdw. Lib w/French drs 1 yr warr.

(E90QAC) 248-349-5600 \$324,900



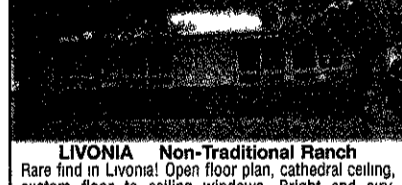
NORTHVILLE Springwater Condo
This is a 10+, upgrades include Corian counters T/O (including all 2.5 baths), hwdw flrs, intercom, alarm, sound sys, tile foyer & baths, maple kit cabs. Apple stay 2 car att gar, C/A, MBR w/WIC & MB. Low assoc fee.

(E72SFR) 248-349-5600 \$279,000



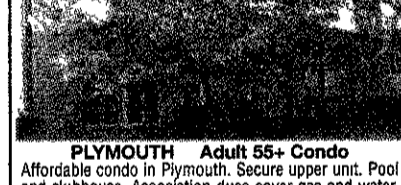
WATERFORD Bring Your Boat
3 bedroom brick cape cod on double corner lot with lake access to Loop Lake. Dining room features hardwood floors and 4 bay window. 1st floor master. Spacious living room with stone fireplace.

(E01SEE) 248-349-5600 \$161,900



LIVONIA Non-Traditional Ranch
Rare find in Livonia! Open floor plan, cathedral ceiling, custom floor to ceiling windows. Bright and airy hardwood floors throughout. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, basement, move in condition. Beautiful.

(E27CIN) 734-455-5600 \$169,000



PLYMOUTH Adult 55+ Condo
Affordable condo in Plymouth. Secure upper unit. Pool and clubhouse. Association dues cover gas and water. Kitchen sink and A/C wall unit in '05. Soooo affordable!

(E99SHE) 734-455-5600 \$65,900



GARDEN CITY New Construction Ranch Condo
2 BR, 2 BA condo w/watertight direct access garage. Open floor plan with cathedral ceilings. Doorwall to patio. Master bedroom w/doorwall & double closets. 26 unit adult (50+) community. Selections can be made.

(E05MEA) 248-349-5600 \$137,900



NORTHVILLE A New Home Of Outstanding Merit
New FR, 2.5 BA, all indisp, deck, patio, warr. All new SS appls incl double ovens & gas cooktop stove. Cherry kit cabs & Corian cnts. Formal DR, FR has nat/gas frpic, hwdw flrs, FFL, French drs to office/lib.

(E81ALG) 248-349-5600 \$495,000



FARMINGTON HILLS Welcome Home
Is what this home says to you! Cape cod 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath with vaulted ceilings, GR with built-ins, deck off DR, 3 season room off kitchen. Some updates, 2 car side entry garage. Large treed lot and much more.

(E84WIL) 248-349-5600 \$425,000



DEARBORN Shows Like A Model
Super clean & well maint. From the recently refinished hardwood floors on main floor & staircase to the 30+ replaced windows. Partially finished basement, fireplace in LR, 2 car garage all in this 3 bedroom colonial.

(E53APP) 734-455-5600 \$164,000



CANTON Absolutely Gorgeous
3 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo with outstanding view of the beautiful pond. Master suite offers WIC, full bath with garden tub, fireplace in great room, formal dining room, appls, attached garage and finished basement.

(E69HUN) 734-455-5600 \$179,900



NORTHVILLE Luxury Living
Spacious 2 BR condo w/library. All new '05 Cherry cabs, granite & hwdw floors. Backs to nature pond w/spectacular view! First floor laundry, 2.5 car garage. Daylight basement. Too beautiful to last. Nr/vic Schs.

(E06CAR) 248-349-5600 \$324,000



WARREN Enjoy Condo Living!
Why rent when you can own this clean & neutral 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse conveniently located near GM Tech Center & Warren City Hall. Low monthly fee including gas & water. All appls, quick occupancy.

(E32KAR) 248-349-5600 \$84,900



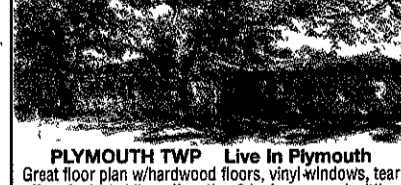
COMMERCE Priced & Designed To Sell
City chic w/pottery barn flair. This spacious 4 BR, 3.5 BA home on huge tucked away lot near lakes. Costly amenities & upgrades incl: HW floors, newer carpet, 2-tone paint, high ceiling, stone frpic. Crowns fin LL W/O.

(E60STA) 248-349-5600 \$365,000



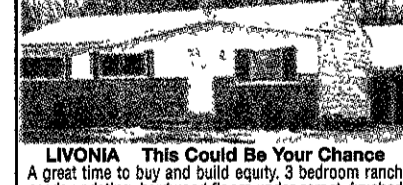
DEARBORN HGTS A Wonderful Condo
Spacious 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath condo offers hardwood floors in large living room, formal dining room and bedrooms. Very nice layout and glass block windows in basement.

(E28GAR) 734-455-5600 \$88,500



PLYMOUTH TWP Live In Plymouth
Great floor plan w/hardwood floors, vinyl windows, tear off roof, vinyl siding offers this 3 bedroom ranch sitting on a double lot w/2 car attached garage. Low twp taxes but all the amenities of living close to downtown.

(E45BRO) 734-455-5600 \$195,000



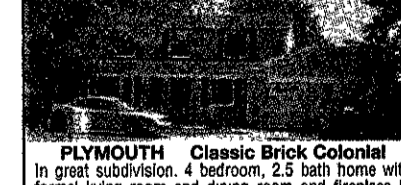
LIVONIA This Could Be Your Chance
A great time to buy and build equity, 3 bedroom ranch needs updating, hardwood floors under carpet, finished basement, 2 car garage with storage loft. Home warranty provided.

(E55GRE) 248-349-5600 \$149,900



LATHRUP VILLAGE Spacious Colonial
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 2-story at a great price. Newer carpeting in both living room and family room. Huge master with double closets. Two car attached garage. Basement. One year home warranty & quick occupancy.

(E10LIN) 248-349-5600 \$189,900



PLYMOUTH Classic Brick Colonial
In great subdivision, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with formal living room and dining room and fireplace in family room w/doorwall. Lg kitchen w/appliances, Den, 1st floor laundry, basement & 2 car attached garage.

(E56CAN) 248-349-5600 \$319,900



WESTLAND A Place To Call Home
Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch offers 2.5 car garage, family room w/fireplace and 2 doorwalls, partially finished basement and above ground pool. Newer roof and furnace. This one is waiting for you.

(E69MAE) 734-455-5600 \$179,900



BELLEVILLE Gorgeous Cape Cod
3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home w/full basement, 2 car attached garage, loft study, great room w/fireplace, FF master w/WIC & Jacuzzi, FFL, formal dining room, hardwood & ceramic floors, home warranty, built 2001.

(E73STR) 734-455-5600 \$249,000



CLINTON TWP Contemporary Home
Dramatic surprising fun architecture. Large GR w/fireplace, lib, kit w/iss, FFL, MBR ste w/oversized BA, 2 person soak tub, sep glass shower & more. Prof fin bsmt w/office & tons of storage. 3 BR, 3.5 BA.

(E20DUN) 248-349-5600 \$324,000



LIVONIA A Beauty In Burton Hollow
3 BR, 2.5 BA brick ranch. Spacious open floor plan. Newer oak kit, roof, windows, updated electric, copper plumb, A/C FR w/frp/c. Superb landscaping, backyard patio, 2 car att gar, Livonia schs, immcd occup.

(E36SUR) 248-349-5600 \$265,000



FARMINGTON Newly Decorated Quad
Updated 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Hardwood floors, living room with picture window, walk-out room, kitchen with appliances, breakfast room with doorwall to fenced yard and garage.

(E30KIR) 248-349-5600 \$216,500

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THE BUSINESS CASE FOR COMPASSION



WORKWISE
by Mildred L. Culp

What is compassion? What is the business case for it?

In the workplace, generalities

such as "Be good to people and they'll be loyal" and "Give a customer a break and you may get/keep him" reflect how superficially people understand compassion.

There is some understanding of compassion outside of the corporate arena. Sister Cheryl Allen, corporate ethicist at St. John Macomb Hospital in Warren, Mich., says that compassion "has to do with serving the person with what they really need. "It involves finding out from the person you're supposed to serve what's important to them." Her system of 11 Detroit-area hospitals, St. John Health, provided unreimbursed care and services of \$141.146 million in 2004.

Phillip Maltin, partner and litigator at Silver & Freedman A.P.L.C., in Los Angeles, defines compassion as "sympathy toward another's distress combined with the desire to alleviate it." In other words. In business, at least, the internal state of sympathy is not

enough. Action must accompany it. **ETHICS AND OUTCOMES**

The business case for compassion straddles two spheres in companies -- HR and operations. It assumes that compassion as an ethical issue transfers naturally to favorable business outcomes. Focusing only on outcomes is pure cynicism; only on ethics, impractical. Still, where a compassionate environment exists, there may be benefits from personal well-being.

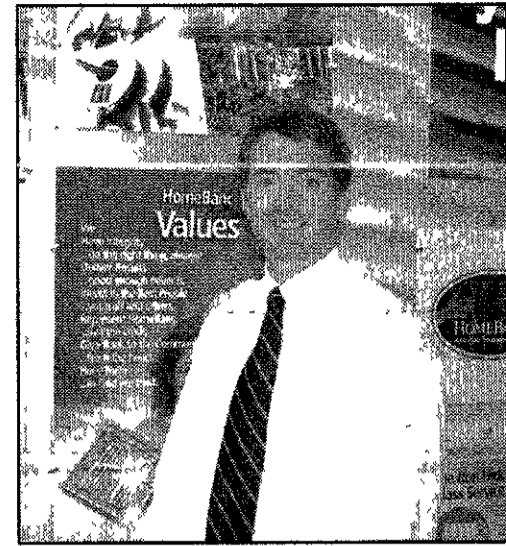
Gary Welch is vice president at HomeBanc Mortgage Corp. headquartered in Atlanta, which closed approximately \$5.62 billion in loans last year and employed 1,300 people in three southern states. Welch views compassion as "doing the right thing. This may mean I'm not always compensated for it. It may mean educating our buyers or referring them (elsewhere), internally or externally."

He speaks of a co-worker with non-Hodgkins' lymphoma, a man working on commission. "Fighting cancer," he explains, "meant being out for an indefinite period of time, going to Nebraska in the dead of winter, leaving behind his wife and children for 7 weeks of treatment. The CEO called him to his office and gave him a base salary for an indefinite period." He

wanted him to fight the cancer, not worry, and scheduled his commission as salary -- \$10,000 per month. The company also bought a one-page advertisement in Omaha's World Herald newspaper, which said to this golf-lover, "You de Man." It must have been effective, because he drove back to Atlanta before he was scheduled and is a company leader today.

This isn't an isolated incident in a compassionate culture. When the mother of a sales associate was diagnosed with cancer, the CEO assured the son that "he'd take care of him while he took care of his mother," Welch says. "He's now the leader of the Carolinas." How productive are the other mortgage bankers? A spokesperson reports that in 2004, HomeBanc's experienced mortgage bankers exceeded the industry's average production by \$6.2 million (for a total of \$10.6 million).

Rita Gunther McGrath, associate professor at Columbia Business School in New York City, consults with Finland's Kone Corp., a leading manufacturer of elevators, escalators and moving walkways. She recalls a terrorist incident in a department store: "Among the gravely injured was the son of an ordinary Kone worker. Imagine his surprise when the firm's CEO, Antti Herlin, visited his home and promised



Gary Welch vice president of HomeBanc Mortgage Corp. views compassion as "doing the right thing."

that the company would support his family through this tragedy, including helping with the cost of medical bills and any necessary retraining." Such a compassionate gesture, she indicates, contributes to minimal employee turnover.

Finally, Welch says, "People win just by being human at an uncertain time." He points to a return of incalculable value: "people who flourish as leaders."

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp comments upon the workplace in national media. Copyright 2005 Passage Media.)

Observer & Eccentric

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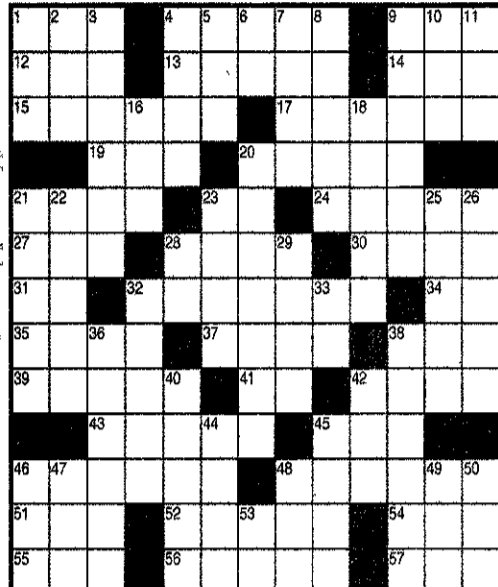
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42 'Ai - ch'uan.
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48 Cato's hello.
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Truck, RV or Boat? Place a classified ad in the Observer & Eccentric and get quick results at affordable rates!

NEW HOME SALES ASSISTANT

Home Builders Advantage Michigan's largest new home sales company is seeking smart, friendly, motivated candidates.

DELIVERY/SALES

\$675-\$950/wk. Need cash for Holidays? Cash daily, co. vehicle. Will train. 734-466-9820

LEASING CONSULTANT

Part time in Westland area. Good communication skills. A must: Experience preferred.

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

Account Executive

Leading Apartments is an international network of the World's most luxurious properties providing its clients assistance in procuring the highest quality in furnished and unfurnished housing solutions.

SCHOOL NURSE

Min. 2 yrs. community or public health experience. Qualifications: B.S. in Nursing, State of Michigan License.

STILL SEARCHING?

For Career Marketplace on the front cover of the Employment section for more careers!

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

BARTENDERS & WAIT STAFF

Experienced. Apply in person Mon - Thurs; after 7 pm. Kickers.

CHEF / LINE COOK

Family type establishment, looking for energetic, creative person. Call 734-748-3685.

COFFEE LOUNGE CAFE

Opening soon! Hiring Full/Part-Time. 45610 Cherry Hill, Canton (734) 844-2495

COOK, DISHWASHER & WAITSTAFF

With some exp. Immediate openings. Apply in person Sam's All Star Coney Island.

COOK-FULLTIME

Fortune 500 Company. Weekday position, daytime hours. Must be skilled & experienced.

DON'T MISS

Career Marketplace on the front cover of the Employment section for more careers!

NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS

Quinn's, 36171 Plymouth Rd., Livonia. Please call 734-560-5537

PANERA BREAD

is now hiring smiling faces Associates, supervisors, via Panera Coordinators.

RESTAURANT NOW HIRING

Full or Part Time. Apply @ Papa John's 34527 Grand River Farmington

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

A NEW CAREER? REAL ESTATE IS BOOMING

Excellent Commissions. Great Training. TIM COURTNEY Oakland/Livington area (248) 437-2600

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Help Wanted-General 5090

POLICY

All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card.

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LEASING CONSULTANT

Part time in Westland area. Good communication skills. A must: Experience preferred.

Help Wanted-General 5000

FOR MORE JOB LISTINGS AT

HAIR STYLISTS

Now hiring for Canton, Plymouth, S Livonia & Westland locations. Guaranteed hourly rate. Please call Steve (734) 595-6003

HANDYMAN - (m/f)

Looking for worker exp in handyman type services, carpentry, drywall, plumbing, electrical, tile. 248-489-5955, 313-868-1711

Hotel seeks: Front Desk & Sales Manager

Exp. Preferred. Apply in person. Holiday Inn Express 3950 S. Lotz Rd., Canton

HVAC INSTALLERS

Experienced. Top Pay & Benefits. Dan Wood Company. Call 313-348-4242 or Email. dmw4msu@aol.com

INSTRUCTOR

Degreed individual needed to work after school program. Part Time. Visit. www.excelinstitute.com

JANITORS/CLEANERS

\$8.00/Hour. P/T. M-F. 5:00pm-9:00pm. PLYMOUTH. 734-283-8934

Help Wanted-General 5000

Landscape Company Needs: Designer, Sales, Foreman

Must be fully qualified. Please send resumes to: Cumboli Nursery, Inc. 50145 Ford Rd. Canton, MI 48187 (734)495-1700

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Full-time no exper. Req. d. We train. M/F. age 17-34. Good pay, excellent benefits, educational and travel opportunities.

LEASING AGENT

For Westland Apts. Part Time. Leasing / Customer Service exp. Preferred. May work Saturdays. 734-425-0052

For The Most Complete Rental Listing In the Detroit Area...Look NO Further!

Loan Officers

Expanding Southfield broker. Looking to fill desks with great people. Experience helpful, but not necessary. Call 248-423-7775 x21

Search local businesses

hometownlife.com

YELLOW PAGES

Help Wanted-General 5000

LIFEGUARD

Accepting applications for the position of Lifeguard. \$9.24 per hr. Must be at least 16 yrs of age. Job description with complete qualifications.

LEASING AGENT

For Westland Apts. Part Time. Leasing / Customer Service exp. Preferred. May work Saturdays. 734-425-0052

Loan Officers

Expanding Southfield broker. Looking to fill desks with great people. Experience helpful, but not necessary. Call 248-423-7775 x21

Search local businesses

hometownlife.com

YELLOW PAGES

Employment

Observer & Eccentric

Market Place

Help Wanted-Sales 6120

SALES
Masters Green, Michigan's largest and fastest growing independent lawn sales co., is currently seeking confident, reliable, energetic individuals for sales positions at our Canton location. Exp. preferred, but will train the right individual. Base salary + comm, paid health, 401k, and advancement opportunities. Call for interview appointment. 734-451-8500 Ask for Colin

Help Wanted-Part-Time 6200

AVON NEEDS
Representatives Now!
Call 734-425-1947

Help Wanted-Domestic 6240

DISABLED FEMALE
w/ children, needs caregiver. Non-smoking Call btwn 9am-noon & 5-7:30pm only. 248-853-0924

Health Care 6240

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED
3 days. West Bloomfield. Non-smoking References req. 248-561-8220 Btwn. 3 & 8pm

Job Opportunities 6310

Hiring 2005 Postal Jobs. \$17.50-\$50.00 hour Full federal benefits paid training/vacation. No experience necessary. Green Card OK Call 866-907-5295 x9000

Movie Extras, Actors, Models! 6310

Movie Extras, Actors, Models! Make \$100-\$300/day No exp. required. FT/PT. All looks needed! 800-341-0798

Movie Extras, Actors & Models! 6310

MOVIE EXTRAS, ACTORS & MODELS! Make \$75-\$250/day. All ages and faces wanted! No exp. required. FT/PT 1-800-714-7051

Now Hiring for 2005 Postal Positions 6310

Now Hiring for 2005 Postal Positions \$18.50-\$50.00/hr Full benefits/paid training & vacations. No experience necessary. 1-800-584-1775 reference #4501

SECRET SHOPPERS NEEDED 6310

SECRET SHOPPERS NEEDED For store evaluations. Get paid to shop. Local stores, restaurants & theaters. Training provided, flexible hours. Email required. 1-800-585-9024 ext 6333

WEEKLY \$1,000-\$3,426! 6310

WEEKLY \$1,000-\$3,426! Typing from home. Data entry workers needed online immediately. Everyone qualifies. NO experience required. Never leave your home. NO selling. Amazing opportunity! Guaranteed program! www.DataEntryPro.com

Position Wanted 6340

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/TIMING ANALYST
With BA degree and Ford Motor resume. 248-853-0924

EUROPEAN HOUSE CLEANER 6340

EUROPEAN HOUSE CLEANER
Will make your house shine. exp Call Margaret (248) 960-9676

NOT ENOUGH HOURS IN THE DAY? CALL KRISTIN ERANDS. 6340

NOT ENOUGH HOURS IN THE DAY? CALL KRISTIN ERANDS. pick ups, shopping and more. In available days & evenings. rates negotiable, first call first serve. 312 477-3350

Childcare/Baby-Sitting Services 6370

LIVONIA MOM
has opening for 2 children, full or part time. Non-smoker. Call Jodie: (734) 513-2262

LOVING HOME ENVIRONMENT 6370

LOVING HOME ENVIRONMENT Planned activities & meals provided, 6:00am-5:30pm Dearborn area 313-563-5881

Childcare Needed 6380

LOOKING FOR SITTER For 2 children ages 10 & 8, for afternoon, evenings & some weekends Contact Katherine, (734) 578-6962

Loving, Playful, Adult Sitter 6380

Loving, Playful, Adult Sitter Needed to come into Canton home to watch preschooler, part time. Call 734-635-0884, Work 248-685-6597

NANNY NEEDED 6380

NANNY NEEDED
2-3 mornings per week. References req. Non-smoker. Birmingham 248-506-4092

Childcare Needed 6380

NANNY/ PART TIME 15-17 hours per wk. Must have transportation. Laundry and Housekeeping, non-smoker. Dog okay. (248) 788-0053

WEEKEND CHILDCARE 6380

WEEKEND CHILDCARE For active 3 yr. old boy. Students welcome. Patience & ref req. Call Michele 248-471-6721

Education/Instruction 6600

ARITHMETIC, GEOMETRY, ALGEBRA (+, -, %, .) Call Bill, 313-543-0037 HS Math Teacher 7 yrs.

LEARN TO BE A MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIST 6600

LEARN TO BE A MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIST Medical Coding Courses Avail. In as little as 7 weeks. Certificate Program, State License. Student financing available (248) 223-0150

STOP THE NON-REWARDING PAYCHECK CHASE! 6600

STOP THE NON-REWARDING PAYCHECK CHASE! Full time position. Allowing you to contribute to the well being of others. Must like working with children, have good attention to detail and planning skills. Perfect for OTAs. Being personable and energetic is a must! Career oriented benefits. Your personal growth dictates your compensation. E-mail resume to: Kasher@SuburbanEyeCare.com.

WANT MORE SATISFACTION FROM YOUR WORK? 6600

WANT MORE SATISFACTION FROM YOUR WORK? Educational background required. Opportunity for the right person to join our OTAs. Being personable and energetic is a must! Career oriented benefits. Your personal growth dictates your compensation. E-mail resume to: Kasher@SuburbanEyeCare.com.

Financial Services 6640

ACCESS LAWSUIT CASH NOW!!! Injury lawsuit dragging? Need \$500-\$500.000 within 48 hours? Low rates and bad credit is ok. APPLY NOW BY PHONE 1-888-271-0463 www.injuryadvances.com

Business Opportunities 6740

ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE. Do you earn \$800 in a day? 30 machines & candy all for \$9,995 800-893-1185

EARN \$4375.00 WEEKLY! 6740

EARN \$4375.00 WEEKLY! Processing simple E-mails online! \$25 per Email sent! Answer simple surveys online! \$25.00-\$75.00 per survey! Free government grants! \$10,000-\$250,000 per year!

UCF BUSINESS 6740

UCF BUSINESS is looking for golf play better golf. Help people thru charities. Earn an awesome income and it's a business expense. 800-516-8767 24/7

Learn to make your annual income a monthly income 6740

Learn to make your annual income a monthly income Home based by your own boss, have time, freedom. Call now, 2 minute message 1-800-480-2108

Management - BEST SELLING AUTHOR 6740

Management - BEST SELLING AUTHOR seeks serious entrepreneur for management team. 1-888-677-1444

YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER!!! 6740

YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER!!! Bulletproof, guaranteed. New System! Jointed 10-28-05, broke even 11-3 now pushing \$6000+. Call now-free brochure, company toll-free, 800-291-0183

6000-6980

LOOK HERE!

Personals 6600

For a Great NEW YEAR'S GIFT! tweetytunes.com

THANK YOU ST. ANTHONY 6600

THANK YOU ST. ANTHONY For favors granted. P.P.

Announcements & Notices 6200

New Year's Eve Party At the Rochester Elks Call 248-851-4840 for details

Cards Of Thanks 6300

ST. JUDE Thank you for all your answered prayers V.E.



Antiques/Collectibles 7020

Another Holiday Sale Nov. 10th - Dec. 31st Town & Country Antiques (Behind East Side Market) 31630 Plymouth Rd. Livonia 734-425-4344

Antiques Bought! Paper dolls, postcards, dishes, perfume bottles, Shelley bone china, factory badges 248-624-3385

DEL GIUDICE ANTIQUES 7020

DEL GIUDICE ANTIQUES We make house calls, estate and private sales and internet sales insurance and estate appraisals. We are also looking to purchase: Fine china, crystal, silver, oil paintings, furniture, costume and fine jewelry. Member of ISA 515 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak Mon-Sat 11-5 248-399-2808 Visit our website: www.deljudiceantiques.com

DEPT. 56 VILLAGES 7020

DEPT. 56 VILLAGES \$25 each Accessories \$5-\$10. 248-931-2294

DINER PINBALL exc. condition 7020

DINER PINBALL exc. condition \$1400/best offer. CD ZAXXON, \$500/best offer. CD Jukebox \$2500 Firm 734-844-0532

VICTORIAN MINIATURE DOLL HOUSE 21 X47 X40, electrical 7020

VICTORIAN MINIATURE DOLL HOUSE 21 X47 X40, electrical installed, selling w/ some furniture, blue w/ picket fence. \$295. (248) 788-2310

Auction Sales 7080

A & J COLLISION 24680 Telegraph, Southfield, 248-352-4766 1997 Mercury Tracer Vin# 1MELM13P7VW630388

HOUSEHOLD AUCTION 7080

HOUSEHOLD AUCTION Thursday 6:00 PM 5089 Dixie Hwy Waterford

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN 7080

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of an Auction of contents held at Safe Keeping Storage LLC, 26400 W. Eight Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48075. Auction on 12/29/05 at 10:00 AM. Items Household & Misc. Furniture

- 1 James Howell (71, 88, 216)
- 2 Raymond Bryant (231)
- 3 Alice Woods (271)
- 4 Rick Dubay (boat)
- 5 Krystal Brand (200)
- 6 Miles Tucker (63)
- 7 Mary & Kevin Latta (207)
- 8 Steve Smith (159)
- 9 Joseph Aston (262 267)
- 10 Ernestine Lockett (23)
- 11 Latrina Lowary (205)
- 12 Francetta Jamison (14)
- 13 Lisa Ann Ally (257)
- 14 Tanya Blanks (35)
- 15 Tracy Thomas (86)
- 16 David Henry (52)
- 17 Georgia Reid (264)

7100 Estate Sales 7100

PONTIAC - DOLLAR DAYS! MOM'S ATTIC 51920 Woodward Avenue 9-5pm, Wed., Thurs., Fri-Sat

West Bloomfield Sale By Americana - Dec 22-24, 10-4pm 6254 Oak Trail Drive, Royal Pointe Sub. N off Maple, E. of Drake. Designer Furnishings, Etched Glass Dining Set, Coffee Table, Lighted Display Cabinets, Designer Sofa, King Bed Set, Clothing, Collectible Vanity Items, Jewelry, Pinball, Music Boxes, Matchbox, Big Screen TV, 1998 Continental, Plus More. Go to markblondy.com for details or 248-738-4197

Moving Sales 7130

LIVONIA MISC ITEMS 11723 Cavell, Dec. 26-30, 9am-5pm. 734-658-9616

Clothing 7140

VINTAGE CLOTHING from the 30s/40s thru 70s. Including fur stoles w/ tails, some shoes 248-542-9264

WEDDING DRESS - Stunning, satin, lace & beaded, w/ train & plastic cover for small frame, worth \$2000, asking \$500 248-417-1458

Baby & Children Items 7150

BELLINI CRIB White, With matching 3 drawer chest and changing table, bumpers & bed skirt included. Exc cond. \$395 (248) 417-0715

KIDS BEDROOM SET white metal frame bunk beds w/ mattresses, nightstand, 3 drawer dresser, armoire, dresser w/ hutch (12 drawers in all) Dressers are white Formica \$500. 248-738-8415

Household Goods 7160

- FURNITURE - LEAVING STATE Must sell! Will sacrifice beautiful near new furniture: items include elegant Italian leather sofa & loveseat (cost over \$3,000), will sell both pieces for \$1,500), also have beautiful 13 piece formal Chippendale cherry dining room suite, 2 king-sized cherry 11-piece bedroom suites, 2 cherry queen-sized bedroom suites, cherry five piece game set, 3-piece cherry pub table set, all wood 9-piece cherry kitchen set, cherry & mahogany grandfather clocks, two 3-piece cherry coffee table sets, gorgeous 24 percent lead crystal and solid brass lamps, pictures, silk trees, etc. All less than 3 mos old & in excellent condition. Must be sold as soon as possible. Private party. Please call 248-853-8124

A NEW KING PILLOW TOP MATTRESS SET. 7160

A NEW KING PILLOW TOP MATTRESS SET. New in bag, only \$250. Deliverable, 734-891-8481

BABY GRAND PIANO 7160

BABY GRAND PIANO Immaculate, make offer. Patio, table, 4 chairs, washer, dryer, make offer 248-396-4105

BED - Brand New super pillow-top mattress set, in plastic, with warranty. Must sell! 7160

BED - Brand New super pillow-top mattress set, in plastic, with warranty. Must sell! Can deliver 734-231-6622

BED - SPLIT KING SIZE BED 9 dresser w/ mirror, 5 drawer bureau chest, 1 end table 7160

BED - SPLIT KING SIZE BED 9 dresser w/ mirror, 5 drawer bureau chest, 1 end table. Mattress hardly used. Like new cond. 248-651-0774

BED-A QUEEN PILLOW TOP MATTRESS SET. 7160

BED-A QUEEN PILLOW TOP MATTRESS SET. New in plastic, sell \$150. 734-891-8481, Can Deliver.

BOOKS, Christmas Decorations, oak finish storage cabinet, office supplies. 7160

BOOKS, Christmas Decorations, oak finish storage cabinet, office supplies. 734-728-2061

CORNER NOOK - CUSTOM TOP green Naugahyde Seats 5 w/ matching chair Call 568-979-2408 You pick up. Price negotiable. 7160

CORNER NOOK - CUSTOM TOP green Naugahyde Seats 5 w/ matching chair Call 568-979-2408 You pick up. Price negotiable.

DINING ROOM table pecan 7160

DINING ROOM table pecan 22' x 36' x 30' \$129.99 \$69.99

FULL SIZE MATTRESS SET. 7160

FULL SIZE MATTRESS SET. New still wrapped w/ warranty. Sacrifice, \$135 (734) 891-8481

FURNITURE - 2 sofas, dining table with 4 chairs, computer desk, antique clock, entertainment center, twin bed, microwave & cart, end table & lamp. 7160

FURNITURE - 2 sofas, dining table with 4 chairs, computer desk, antique clock, entertainment center, twin bed, microwave & cart, end table & lamp. 248-585-7748

FURNITURE - Dark oak king frame w/new mattress, armoire, 2 night stands, dresser w/2 mirrors, \$1200 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 side & 2 arm chairs, servant china cabinet, \$1000 248-651-3893

FURNITURE Dining Table/Chairs:\$40; 6ft bookshelf:\$30; TV Stand \$25, small file cabinet \$20. Or all for \$100. 7160

FURNITURE Dining Table/Chairs:\$40; 6ft bookshelf:\$30; TV Stand \$25, small file cabinet \$20. Or all for \$100. 248-588-7936

FURNITURE Moving! Broyhill couch exc cond, \$350, blue & white Matching blue recliner \$150. Buy both for \$450 Shirley. 734-421-0955 7160

FURNITURE Moving! Broyhill couch exc cond, \$350, blue & white Matching blue recliner \$150. Buy both for \$450 Shirley. 734-421-0955

MATTRESS SET Queen size, like new \$80. Recliner, \$80 Livonia. 7160

MATTRESS SET Queen size, like new \$80. Recliner, \$80 Livonia. (248) 888-0733

ROLL TOP DESK, OAK w/ chair. Excellent condition \$550. 734-523-0901 7160

ROLL TOP DESK, OAK w/ chair. Excellent condition \$550. 734-523-0901

WING-BACK CHAIRS (2) Queen Anne style, Ethan Allen. Asking \$225/ both. 734-354-9569 7160

WING-BACK CHAIRS (2) Queen Anne style, Ethan Allen. Asking \$225/ both. 734-354-9569

FRIDGE - WHITE, SIDE BY SIDE, Exec cond \$350. 734-254-0277 7160

FRIDGE - WHITE, SIDE BY SIDE, Exec cond \$350. 734-254-0277

Appliances 7180

MAYTAG Washer & electric dryer, only used 3 months, paid \$900. Selling for \$400. SOLD

STOVE 7180

STOVE Electric, Cream, great cond, self cleaning \$100. (734) 997-1009

Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs 7190

HOT TUB 2005, Brand New Still in wrapper, seats 6 w/ lounger. Retail for \$3950, sacrifice for \$2950 734-732-9338

Exercise/Fitness Equipment 7215

EXERCISE BIKE Nordic Track SL 720 recumbent exercise with fan, 1 yr old, used twice, \$275 or best offer. 734-522-0008

Video Games, Tapes, Movies 7360

SUPER CHEX Coin operated, bubble hockey game for sale. Brand new in 2005. Great Christmas gift. Use in bar or restaurant. Asking \$2750/best. Cash or money orders only. Contact Liz at 1-800-506-5623

X-BOX 360 2 to sell. New, sealed, w/ receipts. Core + 20g hard drive \$675. Premium system, \$750. 734-459-6094 7460

X-BOX 360 2 to sell. New, sealed, w/ receipts. Core + 20g hard drive \$675. Premium system, \$750. 734-459-6094

Hospital/Medical Equipment 7460

PRIDE Jazzy 1121 Hover Around Handicap Scooter 1 yr old, \$6000 new, asking \$950/best. 566-795-3538

Miscellaneous For Sale 7500

All steel bldgs. Must sell, deposit will hold, 40x40, 50x100, 60x100, can deliver. Call for Jili at 1-800-613-8530

ALL Steel Buildings Clearance! 24x30 \$3,890. 30x38 \$4,990 40x56 \$6,880. 50x100 \$12,950. Must sell! Call for availability. 7500

ALL Steel Buildings Clearance! 24x30 \$3,890. 30x38 \$4,990 40x56 \$6,880. 50x100 \$12,950. Must sell! Call for availability.

Degrees online from home 100%. Job placement assistance Computer and financial aid if qualify Call toll free 866-858-2121 www.onlinedewatertech.com 7500

Degrees online from home 100%. Job placement assistance Computer and financial aid if qualify Call toll free 866-858-2121 www.onlinedewatertech.com

Computer Sales & Service 0540

ANTI-VIRUS, Spam, slow PC, call now! Sales + 10 years PC exp. Plus PC training. Gift certificates avail. 248-504-4489

Delivery/Courier Service 0610

LET UNITED TRANSPORT BE YOUR SANTA! Delivery Call 734-834-8366

Electrical 0780

FAMILY ELECTRICAL - City cert. Violations corrected. Service changes or any small job. Free est 734-422-8080

"ADDITIONS PLUS" Beautiful Additions • Kitchens • Baths • Lower Levels Guaranteed quality workmanship. Complete plan & design service available. Lic. & Ins. 734-414-0448 0840

Matchmaker plus

Brought to you by Mirror and The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ready to meet great new people?



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Answer-an-ad:

1. Note the **☎** number listed in the ad
2. Call **1-900-950-3785**
It's only \$2.19/minute. Must be 18+, Or:
Call **1-800-510-4786**, and use a major credit or debit card
3. Follow the instructions to listen to the advertiser's voicemail greeting
4. Leave a personal message for the advertiser

Place your own ad:

1. Call **1-800-506-5115**
2. Answer some simple questions to create your ad
3. Record a voicemail greeting
4. Learn how to pick up your messages - we'll let you know when new ones have arrived!

Get more:

◆ Chat with local singles right now.

Call **248-397-0123** to learn more

◆ Need help? Some Tips?

Call **1-617-450-8773**

Free Ads: Free ads placed in this section are not guaranteed to run every week. Be sure to renew your ad frequently to keep it fresh.

Guidelines: Personals are for adults 18 or over seeking monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses and have first meetings occur in a public place. This publication reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any advertisement at any time at its sole discretion and assumes no responsibility for the content of or replies to any ad. Not all ads have corresponding voice messages. To review our complete guidelines, call (617) 425-2636



WOMEN SEEKING MEN

LET'S LAUGH TOGETHER

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

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

SWF, 42, Aries, smoker, never married, looking for companionship. Seeking good-hearted, kind, hard-working SWM 30-50 ☎819435

GREAT COMPANION

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

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

ENJOYS THE SIMPLE THINGS

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

VERY ATTRACTIVE

Classy, slim, young-looking, SWF, 57, with good personality and values, financially/emotionally stable, ISO SWM, 53-64, with same qualities for serious relationship. ☎867073

SEXY REDHEAD/GREAT LEGS

DWF, 54, 142lbs, 5'6", enjoys blues, animals, gardening, homeowner, no kids. Seeking SM, 5'4"-5'8", N/S, social drinker for LTR. ☎548938

LET'S ENJOY LIFE

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 book stores, and laughter. ☎759907

SEEKING LTR

SWF, 21, brown/hazel, enjoys bowling, watching movies, computers, dining out and just having fun. Looking to meet a SW/WM, 21-28, who has same interest. ☎873729

ROMANTIC AND HAPPY

Attractive, outgoing SWF, 50, professional, N/S, secure, young-at-heart, RN, no dependents, W/LTM loving man, N/S, with similar qualities, for sharing dinner dates, quiet walks, laughs and staying close. ☎875822

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! ☎923332

LONESOME

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

TRY ME!

Attractive SWF, 49, I enjoy movies, dining, skiing and skating. Seeking an attractive SWM, 45-55, who enjoys most activities. ☎869847

RECENTLY DIVORCED

SWF, 43, N/S, would like to meet an outgoing, friendly, non-smoking man, 35-53, who likes outdoors, bicycling, walking, family. ☎115795

COULD YOU BE MR. RIGHT?

Are you a big, tall, handsome man? DWF, 47, very attractive, loving, fun, seeks SWM to share life together. ☎443339

SEEKING COMPANION

SWF, 52, young at heart, very personable, fun-loving, great SOH. Seeking SWM, who sweet and lovable for friendship first, hopefully more. ☎873722

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

BEAUTIFUL REDHEAD

SF, 58, beautiful both inside/out, wonderful smile, dimples and great SOH, with interests in travel, concerts, movies, cooking, gardening. W/LTM secure, accomplished, fun-loving SM, 50-70, 5'8"+, with similar interests. Call! ☎870556

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

RESCUE ME!

SBF, 41, 5'5", average build, enjoys church, family, shopping, much more. Looking for SBF, 43-47, professionally employed, N/S, who knows how to treat a woman. ☎408635

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 getaways. ☎208051

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

CUTE AND CLASSY

SBF, mid-50s, seeks attractive gentleman, 50+, with similar interests. I love jogging, walks, concerts, quiet evenings. ☎574342

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. ☎669806

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. Seeking single man, 44-60 ☎742486

LOVING LEO

Widowed WFF, 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 gentlemen, 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. ☎780789

GET TO KNOW THIS...

petite, attractive SBF, 57, N/S, enjoys music, concerts, dining. Looking for SBF, 57-63, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎402995

ZEST FOR LIFE

SJF, 61, 5'2", attractive, intelligent, sincere, outgoing, easygoing, down-to-earth, romantic, spontaneous, sensitive, with great sense of humor, loves to laugh/smile, enjoys music, plays, concerts. Seeking compassionate, communicative, quality SWJM, 50-70. ☎444319

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. ☎902703

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

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. ☎157111

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

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

SEEKING AFFECTION AND...

love. DWM, 38, 6'2", 200lbs, blue eyes, lots of fun, likes the outdoors, quiet evenings at home. Looking for a WF, 33-41, for possible LTR. ☎875652

LET'S HANG OUT

SHM, 35, 5'7", 170lbs, employed. Seeking a single female, 22-52, to develop a friendship, leading to a serious relationship. ☎875460

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/WF, 28-39, friendship, possible relationship. ☎760359

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

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

SWM, 28, 5'8", 185lbs, automobile quality control inspector, smoker, seeks outgoing WF, 23-34, N/S, who enjoys traveling, movies, music, and concerts. ☎876563

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

ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN

Single Italian male, 5'7", 160-165lbs, brown/brown, physically fit. Looking for a SF, 25-48, must be attractive, HWTP. I enjoy shooting, darts, pool, bowling, NASCAR and quiet nights at home. ☎875640

HEY LADIES!!

SBM, 29, employed, hard-working, enjoys, movies, playing cards and just hanging out with friends, 23-40, race open. ☎875649

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

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

LETS TRY THIS OUT

Nice SWM, 40s, energetic, accommodating, easy to talk to, seeks a great lady for friendship and love ☎258398

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

LET'S TALK!

SM, 47, employed, secure, easygoing, fun-loving, homeowner, enjoys sorts, weightlifting, fishing, boating, keeping active. Seeking health-conscious, energetic with similar qualities and interests. ☎818938

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

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

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

SINCERE AND LOVING

Retired, 70s, DWPM likes classy, educated woman. 60-70, 5'3"+, likes family, church, gardening, conversation, winter sun areas. ISO romance leading to loving committed LTR. ☎459777

LOOKING FOR YOU

SBM, 45, seeks attractive, reliable, affectionate SBF, not into games, who knows how to enjoy life and have fun. ☎868435

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

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

SAME QUALITIES?

DWM, 50s, 5'5", 135lbs, salt-n-pepper hair, three grown children, looking for an intelligent, honest, sincere woman, 45-65, to have in my life. ☎875745

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

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

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Independent, self-sufficient D.V.M, 45, sturdy build, carpenter, sociable, affectionate likes boating, walks, drives, cycling, cooking. Seeking a special lady to share the good things in life. ☎855207

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

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

NICE GUY

SWM, 66, 5'6", 150lbs, manufacturer's 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

SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED

SBM, 46, looking for that special persona for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. ☎692418

MUSCULAR AND ATHLETIC

SWM, 46, 6'2", 209lbs, brown/blue, degreed, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, workout, new activities seeks friendly SF age/location open ☎531308

ANTIQUES LOVER

BM, 57, 6'1", H/W proportionate, brown eyes, beautiful smile, communicative, engineer, loves vegetable and flower gardening. Seeking woman, 40-63. ☎628249

GENTLE AND SENTIMENTAL

Easygoing, agreeable, cute SWM, 40s, eager to please, willing to try new things, seeks fairly attractive

Observer & Eccentric



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ANY CONDITION, TOP \$\$\$ (free towing) (248) 335-7490 or (248) 939-5123</p> <p>Junk Cars Wanted (8200)</p> <p>ALL AUTOS TOP\$\$ Junked, Wrecked or Running E & M 248-474-4425 Evenings 734-717-0428</p> <p>WRECKED & JUNK CARS WANTED! (734) 282-1700</p> <p>Trucks for Sale (8220)</p> <p>CHEVY 1995 1500 - 4x4, regular cab, long bed, Florida truck, no rust, V6 4.3, runs great, 140,000 miles, good tires. \$3900 734-420-6031</p> <p>CHEVY 1998 1500 V-6 4x4, auto, 8ft bed CD 140,000 miles, good cond \$3500 or best (734) 274-0659</p> <p>CHEVY S-10 LS 2004 Crew Cab, 4 wheel drive, only 7,000 miles, call today JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900</p> <p>CHEVY TRUCK 2003 Regular cab, 8 foot bed \$12,950</p> <p><i>Only At</i> Lou LaRiche Chevrolet Your Hometown Chevy Dealer 888-372-9836</p> <p>DODGE DAKOTA-2004 Club Cab Sport, 32,000 miles, 4x4, V-8, good condition \$14,000 (734) 454-7386</p> <p>FORD F150 2003 Supercab, 23K, \$15,995 Certified Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030</p> <p>FORD F150 2005 Super Cab, low miles, super clean, was \$26,874, is \$19,175 Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030</p> <p>FORD RANGER 1999 Extended cab XLT, 4x4, Flareside, 4.0 V-6 leather, low miles, \$6,450 JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900</p> <p>FORD RANGER 2003 Supercab yellow 4x4 loaded certified \$15,995 Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030</p>	<p>Mini-Vans (8240)</p> <p>CHEVY VENTURE 2004, unbelievable, unbelievable, \$13,900</p> <p><i>Only At</i> Lou LaRiche Chevrolet Your Hometown Chevy Dealer 888-372-9836</p> <p>DODGE 1996 Grand Caravan LE - Alarm, no rust, non-smoker, 1 owner, 70,000 miles, exc cond, \$6000/best. 313-537-1121</p> <p>DODGE 2001 Grand Caravan Sport 4 door, loaded, 73 k pampered miles, exc cond, \$7300 Senior, 248-855-2349</p> <p>DODGE CARAVAN 1999 SE SPORT 4 dr., 73,000 miles, mint cond \$5750, 248-879-7869</p> <p>DODGE CARAVAN 1997, full power, clean, \$3,988.</p> <p>Fox Hills Chrysler-Jeep (734) 455-8740</p> <p>DODGE CARAVAN 2000, 6 cylinder, loaded, \$5,995.</p> <p>Fox Hills Chrysler-Jeep (734) 455-8740</p> <p>DODGE CARAVAN, 1996 All power Runs good. Extended 7 seater. 248-348-9690 or 248-767-0859</p> <p>FORD WINDSTAR 1999-2000 Clean, low miles, dual air, \$8995</p> <p>Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030</p> <p>FORD WINDSTAR SE 2003 Low miles, like new Certified \$13,995</p> <p>Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030</p> <p>GMC SAFARI LT 2003, 8 passenger, low miles, \$14,950 JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900</p> <p>GRAND CARAVAN 2000 Fully loaded, all options. 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The 2006 Pontiac Solstice

Advertising Feature

Thursday DriveTime



BY DALE BUSS

With the new Pontiac Solstice two-seater, score one major victory for General Motors in exactly the category where it most needs to pile up some "W's: an exciting new product.

Priced at \$25,000 and under, this exciting 2006-model roadster accomplishes a number of things just with its appearance in showrooms, no matter how well it ultimately sells through to consumers. It helps Pontiac finally begin again substantiating the "excitement" theme that has been its purported brand identity for decades. The Solstice offers a great option that GM hasn't really covered anywhere else in its product lineup.

And this new vehicle puts a stick in the eye - or, should we say, exhaust in the throats - of GM critics who insist that the company's biggest problem remains not its overwhelming "legacy" costs for pension and health care, not the unfortunate spike in gasoline prices over the last year, but its basic inability field appealing vehicles in the American marketplace.

More than anything else, Solstice is a sop to the faithful consumers who have stuck with the Pontiac brand over the years without much love in return under the banner of so-called excitement. For one thing, the Firebird, that blue-collar expression of Pontiac muscle from the Eighties, has been history for awhile.

Solstice is an extremely attractive, two-door, two-seater, drop-top sports car whose base price actually starts at under \$20,000. It comes with a five-speed manual transmission and a 177-horsepower, four-cylinder engine. It is so basic that it lacks any kind of electronic stability system; antilock brakes cost extra; and occupant safety features are nothing to write home about.

And yet, Solstice is fun, easy to drive, turns heads on the highway and finally gives GM something with which to compete or at least show up with in the roadster category. Corvette is at the center of what amounts to a subculture all its own, and so isn't really seen in the same light as other new two-seaters including the Chrysler Crossfire and -- at the pinnacle of the genre as far as I'm concerned -- the Audi TT. But Solstice certainly is making some noise in that space.



The 2006 Pontiac Solstice gets 20 mpg in the city and 25 mpg on the highway

Any discussion of Solstice must begin with its distinctive and sinewy styling, which basically defines "curvaceous." There is hardly a straight line, a flat surface or a right angle on the entire body of the car. The main reason for it is that Solstice's body is shaped by "hydroforming" of steel, which uses very-high-pressure streams of water to push sheet metal into shape.

Anyway, the most dramatic element of Solstice's design is the front grill which swoops way down low and sort of tucks under the front end, centered around a huge grill and the Pontiac emblem. Headlights and fog lamps recess into the upper and lower outboard curves of the front fenders. Wheel wells in front are positioned at the extreme end of the car.

In the rear, a stubby back end sports an eyebrow effect on the sides. Tail lights sit on top of the fenders, directly above pods housing the combination backup lights and reflectors. The rear end overall rises sharply from the wheel wells and over the trailing edge of the clamshell trunk.

The overall result is a design that is very alluring. Such are the complexities of the Solstice's styling that you really have to study it for a few minutes just to understand how all the curves come together. And the more you look at it, the sweeter it spies.

When it comes to a sports-car ride, Solstice leaves a

bit at the starting line, I'm afraid. Even with such a light and tiny vehicle, 177 horsepower and a four-cylinder engine don't pack a lot of standing-start punch. Solstice's acceleration is satisfying enough once you reach cruising and highway speeds, certainly. And there's little to complain about in terms of its fuel economy: 20 mpg in the city and 25 mpg on the highway.

The stiffness of the hydroformed steel components carries over into Solstice's relatively stiff ride. With its extremely wide base, the car corners well and predictably, for the most part. But I wondered if this stiffness came into play during one late-December turn that I made into traffic, in dry but cold conditions, on a major thoroughfare in Oakland County one day. As I accelerated a bit and cornered into the turning lane, the rear end of the vehicle skipped out on me to the right, causing me nearly to lose control of the car.

Inside, Solstice offers little room and few amenities, though a nice standard stereo system and XM Radio are quality touches. Also, don't plan on taking any kind of trip with this car - even to the supermarket! Not only does the trunk lid open in clamshell style, but it also has practically no usable space because of how the spare tire and roof-retraction mechanism are placed in the space.

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