

**SUNDAY**  
December 27,  
2009

The Observer & Eccentric  
Newspapers

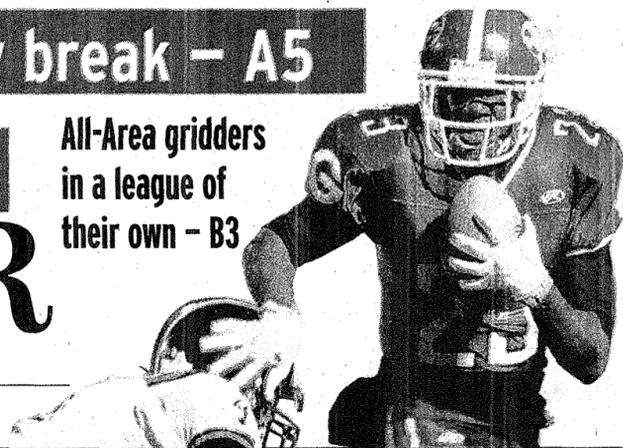
Volume 45  
Number 62

75 CENTS

**50 things to do over holiday break - A5**

# WESTLAND OBSERVER

All-Area gridders  
in a league of  
their own - B3



online at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

## AROUND TOWN

### MLK breakfast

Redford Township and the Redford Ministerial Alliance will host the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Prayer Breakfast at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, 27201 West Chicago, at 7 a.m. Jan. 18.

The featured speaker is the Rev. Faith Fowler of Cass Methodist Church. The pancake breakfast includes sausage, fruit, muffins and beverages, with entertainment by the Thurston High School Concert Choir.

Admission is \$8, and organizers are asking attendees for a donation of a personal care item such as laundry detergent, soap, shampoo or dish soap. All items will be donated to the Redford Interfaith Relief Food Pantry.

For more information, call (313) 387-2787. Make checks payable to: Redford Township, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, MI 48239. Deadline for registration is Jan. 13.

### Contest winners

There's an art show of sorts on the second floor of the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland where the entries in the Westland Parks and Recreation's annual "We Promise You A White Christmas" poster contest are on display.

Elementary-age youngsters were asked to draw a poster showing their homes covered in snow on Christmas Day.

This year's winner was Noah Delrose, 10, a fourth-grader at Edison Elementary School. His poster showed a sense of whimsy as well as clearly depicting his home covered in snow.

Honorable mentions went to Emmalee Sample, 10, a fifth-grader at Hamilton Elementary; Abigail Attereld, a third-grader at Hayes Elementary; Zachary Greenshields, 8; Toni Alicia Davis, 9, a fourth-grader at Wildwood Elementary; Sarah R. Jaworski, a fifth-grader; and Riley Hunt, 9, a fourth-grader at Edison Elementary.

The posters will be on display at the Bailey Center in the Westland civic center complex at Wayne and Carlson throughout the holidays.

### Youth Choir auditions

Auditions for the Livonia Youth Choir will be held 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road (at Inkster), in Livonia.

No appointment is necessary. Students in grades 3-8 are invited to audition for placement at two levels of musical participation with the Lyric Choir or the Bella Voce Choir.

Contact Tina O'Donnell at (734) 748-3415 or [livoniayouthchoir@sbc-global.net](mailto:livoniayouthchoir@sbc-global.net) for more information.

# Not worth the cost

## Penalties make drinking, driving an expensive endeavor

For related story, see Page A14.

With the calendar having passed Christmas and inching toward New Year's Day, revelers around the metro Detroit area are moving into one of the biggest party seasons of the year.

And with most local police departments on the lookout, drivers should be aware of the chance of — and penalties for — getting caught driving under the influence.

Fines, fees and sentences vary from court to court, with issues largely being solved on a case-by-case basis, but everyone agrees on one thing: Driving under the influence is going to cost the driver.

In the 35th District Court (which covers Plymouth, Canton and Northville), for instance, a first offender with a relatively low (but still illegal, for drivers) blood-alcohol content who does not appear, after an evaluation, to have a drinking problem can expect to be sentenced to six months' nonreporting probation, five days of community service, participation in an alcohol awareness program and a 90-day license restriction, plus fines and costs.

On the high side, repeat offenders can get up to 93 days in jail, two years' probation and community ser-

Please see **PENALTIES, A14**



FILE PHOTO

Police departments often stage mock drunken-driving accidents to warn youngsters of the dangers of drinking and driving. Here, Livonia police Officer Jim King checks the pulse of Clarenceville student Amber Mills, who portrayed a victim thrown from the vehicle in just such a mock drunken-driving accident.

## Drunken driving costs add up financially, personally

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
CORRESPONDENT

Ron W. is learning the hard way that he can't afford to drink and drive. The \$2,000 in fines and court fees, \$20 a week for alcohol testing and the loss of a job were only the financial costs imposed on him when he was sent to jail for 90 days over the holidays last year.

The emotional impact is another story. Imagine trying to explain to your 15-year-old daughter, wife and in-laws why you won't be home to celebrate Christmas and that attorney fees are taking another \$2,000 out of the family budget.

Ron W. (not his real name) wants to spare his family from further embarrassment. He does, however, want to share his experience with others in hopes they will learn from it.

His time hasn't been his own. In addition to undergoing inpatient and outpatient treatment and counseling, Ron W. has completed 234 hours of community service. He goes for alcohol testing three times a week and meets with his probation officer twice a month.

In the beginning, he saw the probation officer once a week and appeared before the judge twice a month. He also attends AA meetings



FILE PHOTO

Judges agree the penalties are higher if drivers under the influence cause an accident.

and has to go to marriage counseling ordered by the court. The rest of the time he is on work detail at 35th District Court in Plymouth.

"It's pretty embarrassing," said Ron W. "Nobody trusts you. I was in jail through the holidays last year and you can't hide that."

This wasn't his first offense. Ron W. has been arrested three times for driving under the influence (DUI), the first time years ago.

After the first offense, he was arrested twice within six months. He received 90 days in jail for the third offense when he violated probation

by drinking and driving. He's been sober since March.

### THIRD OFFENSE

Ron W. kept his license until the third offense when the judge ordered an ignition interlock.

"I vaguely remember the day of being pulled over," Ron W. said.

"I have three children and my biggest fear as a father is my daughter is 15 and she'll be driving soon. I told her how the problem with alcohol is hereditary and DUIs are bad enough

Please see **COSTS, A8**

## WHAT IT COULD COST

Fines and penalties at local district courts for alcohol-related driving offenses (arrest statistics from 2008):

COURT	AREA	ARRESTS	FINES (1st Offense)
16 th	Livonia	273	\$500 - \$2,000
35 th	Plymouth Canton Northville	1,021	\$500 - \$2,000
21 st	Garden City	78	\$300 - \$1,000
18 th	Westland	606	\$500 - \$2,000
47 th	Farmington Hills	433	\$1,500
17 th	Redford	151	\$500 - \$2,000

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## Help wanted: Warming Center puts out call for volunteers

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Thelma Ivey puts her faith in God. When the Lighthouse Home Mission opens the doors of its warming center to the homeless at 7 p.m. Jan. 1, she knows there will be warm food, a shower and a place to sleep and volunteers to help.

She also knows that the faces of those coming there will be changing.

"The need is great, as everyone knows," said Ivey, a Garden City resident who has been working with the homeless, first in Detroit and now in the western suburbs for more than 20 years. "I think for the first time families facing eviction will turn to us for help and through the grace of God we'll be able to provide it. Families that used to help us are now the ones coming to us seeking our help."

For three months, Jan. 1 through March 31, the center provides the homeless with a place to stay 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. at Full Gospel Temple on Palmer

Road in Westland.

According to Ivey, the outreach coordinator, some of the people who come to the warming center and a soup kitchen that's open at lunchtime each day aren't homeless in the strictest sense of the word. Some might have jobs; but can't afford to have a place to stay. The heartbreaker, she said, are those who chose to be homeless.

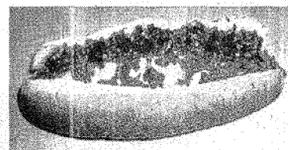
Ivey has worked on the warming center since 2004 with the Rev. B.C. Beneteau, director of the Lighthouse Home Mission. The mission covers the electric and heating bills, but it's donations that provide clothing and bedding for the center. Volunteers serve as the night watchmen at the center or help launder the bedding.

### FEED MY PEOPLE

The mission also relies on donations to feed the homeless. Ivey's name is synonymous with

Please see **WARMING, A13**

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Lois Panackia of Livonia enjoys the tea.



Marie Preuss is vice regent for the DAR's Plymouth and Northville chapter.



Bonnie Berg of Canton and Doris Richard of Plymouth share a spot of tea.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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# DAR takes a tea at Greenmead

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lois Panackia of Livonia spent time Monday with other members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, celebrating the group's lineage to the Revolutionary War that founded the United States. And it was all a little fun, a holiday tea complete with Christmas carols at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia. The 30 members enjoyed tea sandwiches, vegetables and dip and cookies at the private luncheon. "The food is excellent," Panackia said. It was just a fun little gathering for the historical society for the holidays, said Marie Preuss, vice regent for the DAR's Plymouth and Northville chapter.

Preuss is a descendant of Nicholas Stansell of New York. After joining the DAR, she found out that Stansell's son is buried at a cemetery at a Northville church on Eight Mile Road, not far from where Preuss lives.



Barbara Hudgins of Northville and Mary Hazlett of Plymouth pass the tea sandwiches.

The group promotes historical events. Constitution Week is the third week in September. "We get involved with reading the Constitution," Preuss said. A speaker appeared recently before the group to discuss the signers of the Constitution and what lengths they went through to sign the document, she said.

Sue Daniel, chair of the Livonia Historical Commission, said the DAR was a natural fit for Greenmead, given the park's history. "That's what this building is for," Daniel said of the Alexander Blue House.

Jean Hill, former owner of the Greenmead property who

sold it to the city of Livonia in 1976, was a member of the DAR, Daniel said. "She belonged to this chapter and was a member of this group," Daniel said.

Kathleen Ripley Leo's grandmother was a member of the DAR, as she was a descendant of soldier Elkanah Dyer. Leo has been a member for 25 years. "I participate for my grandchildren," she said.

She planned to sing Christmas carols for the group that day, including *Oh Holy Night*, *Conventry Lullaby* and *God Bless America*.

Panackia thinks this nation's history is important to remember. "Our future depends on our heritage," she said. "You know where you came from."

"It's important to me in different ways. I think about them when I turn on the hot water, or even cold water. They survived all the hard times. I appreciate everything they went through."

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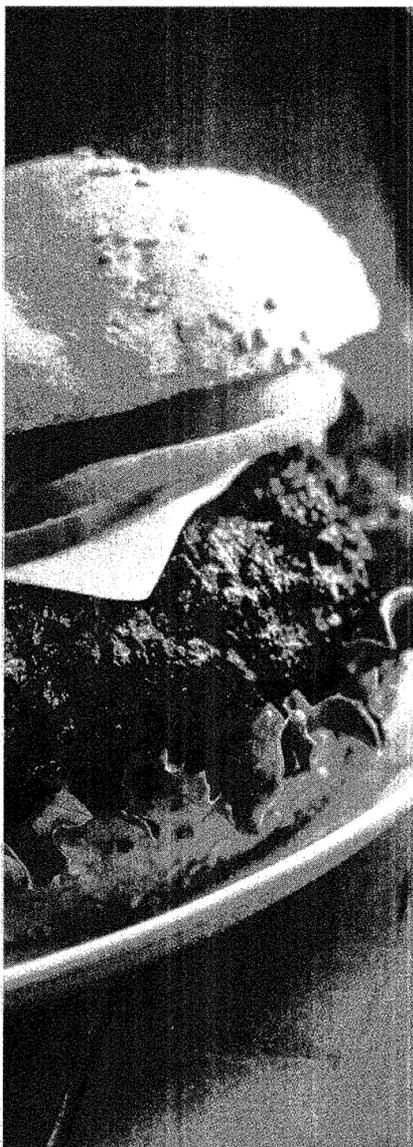
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# Livonia residents can sign up for crime alerts

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

City residents can now sign up for community alerts from the Livonia Police Department.

This community information service, created by Nixle, delivers neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications by Web, e-mail and cell phone. Residents can sign up at nixle.com.

Sgt. Patrick Moug of the Detective Bureau/Crime Prevention Bureau at the Livonia Police Department has sent out notices of specific crimes and safety tips since October and is planning on using the service as much as possible.

Moug said Nixle is an excellent way for the department to get information to the community instantly.

Moug used Nixle last week to warn residents to watch their purses and money while holi-

day shopping after a purse was taken out of a shopping cart at one of the retail stores. A second one was taken at about the same time Moug was dispatching the information to Nixle users.

A woman who said she was rushing to complete her Christmas shopping had left her purse in the child seat of a shopping cart at Walmart, 29555 Plymouth, shortly after 6 p.m. Dec. 16. She left the store, realized she had left her purse and returned to the store. She called the store, but no one had turned in her purse and it was gone.

While there wasn't an arrest made in either theft, Moug said Nixle is an excellent way for the department to get information to the community instantly for public safety purposes.

"My goal is to encourage as many citizens and business owners within the city of Livonia to register with Nixle," Moug said. "I have already used

it to inform of recent criminal activity in our area and also for general safety tips during the holiday season."

Craig Mitnick, founder and CEO of Nixle, said Nixle differs from current services such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter, which provide unauthenticated platforms for connections. Nixle solves that problem by providing a single standardized service for consumers to receive immediate and credible neighborhood-level public safety and community information.

"Nixle is a first-of-its-kind tool for communities that need to provide critical information to their residents," Mitnick said. "When it comes to public safety information, you have to trust the source. Residents of Livonia can rest easy that the local messages they receive are authentic."

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## POLICE BRIEFS

### Livonia

#### Garage fire reported

No one was injured in a garage fire Saturday, Dec. 19, at a home at 30628 Greenland.

The fire occurred shortly before 4 a.m. A neighbor was leaving for work at about that time when he smelled a fire in the area. He saw white smoke drifting from the house and saw flames coming from a neighbor's garage. He went to the home and began beating on the door. The father of the household woke up and awakened three other members of the family.

All of the family members got out of the house safely. Firefighters responded and extinguished the blaze. Fire officials continued their investigation.

### Garden City

#### Larceny

An estimated \$40 in returnable cans was taken Dec. 17 from the garage of a home in the 200 block of Venoy Circle. The homeowner told police that the garage was unlocked

and that the returnables were the only items taken. She suspects that several boys who live in the neighborhood may be responsible. The boys had been caught in the garage before taking the cans.

#### Vandalism

A woman told police that someone had damaged her car Dec. 19 while it was parked in front of a residence in the 6700 block of Henry Ruff. The driver's side rear-view mirror was hanging by electrical wires and there were several dents above the wheel well and on the hood of the car, apparently done by a hand or foot. Damage was set at \$1,500.

#### Disorderly person

An Inkster man was arrested for assault and battery Dec. 18 after he threatened to kill patrons at Albert's on the Alley, 5651 Middlebelt.

The manager told police he had asked the man to leave the restaurant after he became aggressive and started threatening the staff. He said

the man stated that he had a handgun on him and that he was going to shoot everyone inside.

The man left the restaurant, but stood in the parking lot, yelling at the staff and patrons. When police arrived, he was found walking across Middlebelt. When he was arrested, police noted there was a strong smell on intoxicants on him and his speech was slurred.

#### Shoplifting

The owner of the Fast Track Convenience Store in Garden City Hospital, 6245 N. Inkster, told police over the past six months the same two suspects have entered his shop and taken approximately \$50 in merchandise each time.

The store is open 24 hours a day. It has no employees and uses a self-scan cash register. The suspects come at different times of the day and the store has lost approximately \$1,000 in merchandise mostly because of the suspects, the man said.

- Compiled by Observer staff writers

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Schoolcraft College will hold an open house Monday, Jan. 11, for its Innovative Culinary Technology Certificate program designed to give professional chefs a leg-up in the restaurant and hospitality industries.

Interested candidates can tour the most advanced instructional kitchens in the Midwest and meet the instructors who will be able to answer questions and give an overview of the program.

The program is in response to the U.S. Department of Labor's projection that by 2016, there will be an additional 1.9

million jobs available in U.S. restaurants.

Many of these jobs will be in the commercial kitchens and will provide growth opportunities for cooks and professional chefs.

The Innovative Culinary Technology Certificate program is a three-course curriculum with an optional internship. The three courses are geared to progress a student quickly through the program while focusing on equipment and topics like combination ovens, rapid cook ovens, impingement, induction, holding, blast chilling/freezing, Sous Vide, "green" use of energy, kitchen design for various

business channels, quality control, food cost savings and more.

The open house will be held in the Culinary Arts Demonstration Lab in the VisTaTech Center on the main campus in Livonia, Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile roads.

Registration for winter semester is currently underway. Class sizes are limited. For more information, contact the Continuing Education and Professional Development Department at (734) 462-4448 or visit <http://www.schoolcraft.edu/cepd/culinarytechnology> or email [CEPD@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:CEPD@schoolcraft.edu).

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Blood drive

During the holidays, blood donations tend to drop with an increased number of people traveling or taking vacations. To help meet the demand, Garden City is holding a Community Winter Drive 1-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28, at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman.

Donors can stop by or sign up online at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org). Enter sponsor code gcommunity and have a chance to win a \$500 hotel voucher and two round-trip tickets to anywhere in the United States. Donors must be 18 years or older to win the trip.

Individuals age 17 who meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on height) and who are in good health are eligible to donate.

#### ACT workshops

Schoolcraft College is offering three separate ACT Prep Workshops to prepare high school juniors for the Michigan Merit Exam. The seven-week classes begin Saturday, Jan. 9, Monday, Jan. 11, or Wednesday, Jan. 13, and will finish just before the MME test in March.

The cost is \$250. Go online to [www.schoolcraft.edu/lac](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/lac) for more details and a registration brochure, or call (734) 462-4436.

#### Trash collection delayed

In Livonia, trash collection services will be on the normal schedule for Thursday's area, while Friday's area will be collected Saturday,

Jan. 2, due to the New Year's holiday.

In Westland, residents with a Friday trash pickup day will have their collection delayed one day.

#### Holiday closings

City of Livonia and city of Westland offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's.

On Wednesday, 18th District Court will be closed to the public for case inventory. The Bailey Recreation Center will be open Thursday, New Year's Eve, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Friendship Center will be closed until Monday, Jan. 4.

#### New Year's Eve at Rec Center

The registration deadline is Monday, Dec. 28, for New Year's Eve at Rec Center. Sponsored by the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, this event for all ages runs 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, and includes swimming, playing on a giant inflatable, rock wall climbing, holiday crafts and face painting for kids, dodge ball, food, music and balloon twisters.

Cost is \$6 per person for Livonia Community Recreation Center pass holders, \$7.25 for Livonia residents and \$8.50 for non-residents. The maximum charge for families is \$24 for pass holders, \$29 for residents and \$34 for non-residents. Tickets must be purchased in person at the rec center. Call (734) 466-2900 for more information.

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# Here are 50 things to do over holiday break

Whether you're trying to find activities to keep your youngsters occupied during their school break or entertaining family and friends visiting from out of town, here are 50 fun ideas. Always call ahead.

1. Marvyn's Marvelous Mechanical Museum, 31005 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, is bound to make young and old smile. Admission is free, but bring quarters to this historical and modern arcade with sideshow. Call (248) 626-5020 for holiday hours or go to [www.marvin3m.com](http://www.marvin3m.com).

2. Make your own cuddly friend at Build a Bear. Stuff it, dress it, make a wish and give it a heart. At Twelve Oaks in Novi, (248) 374-8987, Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor, (734) 761-2285 or Somerset Collection in Troy, (248) 822-8988.

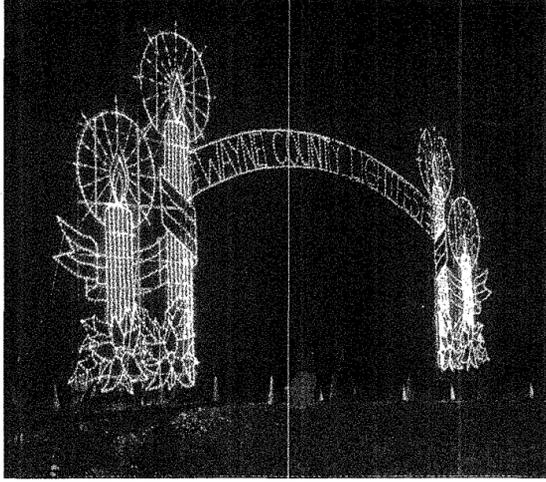
3. Visit the Wayne County Lightfest beginning at Hines Drive and Merriman. The display features 36 giant animated displays with more than one million lights along a four-mile stretch of Hines Drive. Open 7-10 p.m. daily through Dec. 31. A \$5 donation per car is requested.

4. Walk around downtown Plymouth and look at the Kellogg Park Walk of Christmas Trees. Bundle up the family and come stroll through Kellogg Park and enjoy one of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce traditions, "The Walk of Trees." See more than 50 trees each decorated by a local family, club or business.

5. Check out the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann St., which inspires everyone to discover the wonder of science, math and technology with imaginative and interactive learning experiences. Call (734) 995-5439 for holiday hours or visit [www.aahom.org](http://www.aahom.org).

6. See the Detroit Zoo during the winter. Don't miss the Butterfly Exhibit and Arctic Ring of Life, the world's largest polar bear exhibit. 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak. (248) 541-5717 or [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org).

7. Lace up a pair of skates and take a spin or two around the local ice skating rink. Area rinks offering open skate, drop-in hockey, sticks and pucks over the holiday break include: Eddie Edgar Ice



Lighted poinsettias and candles flank a sign welcoming residents to the annual Wayne County Lightfest, open through Dec. 31.

Arena, Livonia, (734) 422-5172; Redford Ice Arena, Redford, (313) 937-0979; Farmington Hills Ice Arena, 3500 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills (248) 478-8800; Mike Modano Arena, 6210 Wildwood, Westland (734) 729-4560; Garden City Civic Arena, 200 Log Cabin Road, Garden City (near intersection of Merriman & Cherry Hill Roads); Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton (734) 487-7777 or [www.arcticarenas.com](http://www.arcticarenas.com); Plymouth Cultural Center & Ice Arena, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, (734) 455-6620 or [www.ci.plymouth.mi.us](http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us). The Mike Modano Arena in Westland will feature a special "New Year's Eve — Glow Open Skate" 5-6:30 p.m. Dec. 31.

8. Go to Compuware Sports Arena at M-14 and Beck roads in Plymouth and score a few tickets for the family. The Plymouth Whalers play the Erie Otters at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28. (734) 453-6400.

9. Visit the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Let yourself go at the DIA's Target Family Sundays featuring family performances, storytelling, art-making workshops and more. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Call (313) 833-7900 or visit [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org).

10. Learn about the Mystery of the Christmas Star at the

Cranbrook Institute of Science through Jan. 3. An astronomical look at the Christmas story. Planetarium programs run Friday evenings, Saturday and Sunday, and daily Dec. 28-30. For other programs, visit <http://science.cranbrook.edu>. The 12:30 p.m. program is for ages 5 and above only. Call (248) 645-3200.

11. Take a day trip to Belle Isle and visit the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. A flagship of the Midwest's inland lakes maritime heritage museums, it stands on the shore of Detroit's historic Belle Isle. While on Belle Isle, feed the deer and enjoy the beautiful scenery and wildlife. (313) 833-5538.

12. Spend a day at a community recreation center or local YMCA including: Bailey Recreation Center 36651 Ford Road, Westland. (734) 722-7620; Livonia Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, (734) 466-2900; Livonia Family YMCA, 14255 Stark, (734) 261-2161; Farmington Hills YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, (248) 553-4020.

13. Browse the Pewabic Pottery Museum and Education Center, 10125 E. Jefferson, Detroit. Founded in 1903, Pewabic is nationally renowned for its tile and pottery in unique glazes. You can make your pieces at the nonprofit ceramic art education center. Call (313) 822-0954 or visit [www.pewabic.com](http://www.pewabic.com).

14. Spend time in the kitchen. Teach your child how to make a cherished family recipe.

15. Make your own ceramic pieces. Create your own pottery at Creatopia Paint it Yourself Pottery, 924 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, (734) 453-8797 or the Bee's Knees, 145 E. Main, Northville, (248) 347-6718.

16. Schedule a date for an old-fashioned fountain treat at Sander's, 37702 Six Mile, inside Laurel Park Mall, Livonia, (734) 591-2147 or in downtown Birmingham, 745 E. Maple Road, (248) 594-2056.

17. A Red Ryder Christmas Story exhibit continues through Jan. 24 at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, just north of downtown Plymouth. The exhibit draws its inspiration from the popular 1983 movie, *A Christmas Story*, in which the main character, Ralphie, longs for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Period toys, clothing and other artifacts are on display. The museum is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, as well as Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Call (734) 455-8940 or go to [www.plymouthhistory.org/](http://www.plymouthhistory.org/).

18. Visit the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Current exhibits include: Legends of Music, the Photography of Leni Sinclair and Joe Louis: Hometown Hero. 315 E. Warren, Detroit. Call (313) 494-5800 or [www.maaah-detroit.org](http://www.maaah-detroit.org).

19. Visit the Motown Historical Museum, 2648 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, (313) 875-2264 [www.motownmuseum.org](http://www.motownmuseum.org). Celebrate Motown's 50th anniversary and see where it all began at Hitsville USA.

20. Plan a Ford Rouge Factory Tour (departs from The Henry Ford). Go to [www.thehenryford.org/rouge](http://www.thehenryford.org/rouge).

21. Roller skating is a great way to spend the afternoon and burn a few calories, too. Area skating rinks have lots of holiday break activities planned. Check out Riverside Arena, 36635 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 421-3540 ([www.riversidearena.com](http://www.riversidearena.com)); Bonaventure Roller Rink, 24505 Halsted, Farmington Hills, (248) 476-2200 or [www.bonaventureskating.com](http://www.bonaventureskating.com).

22. Teach your children about history at the Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills. Watch presentations of the European Jewish com-

munity culture and the haunting history of the Holocaust during World War II. (248) 553-2400 or [www.holocaustcenter.org](http://www.holocaustcenter.org).

23. Go bowling! Here are a few local spots to select from:

Please see **ACTIVITIES, A10**



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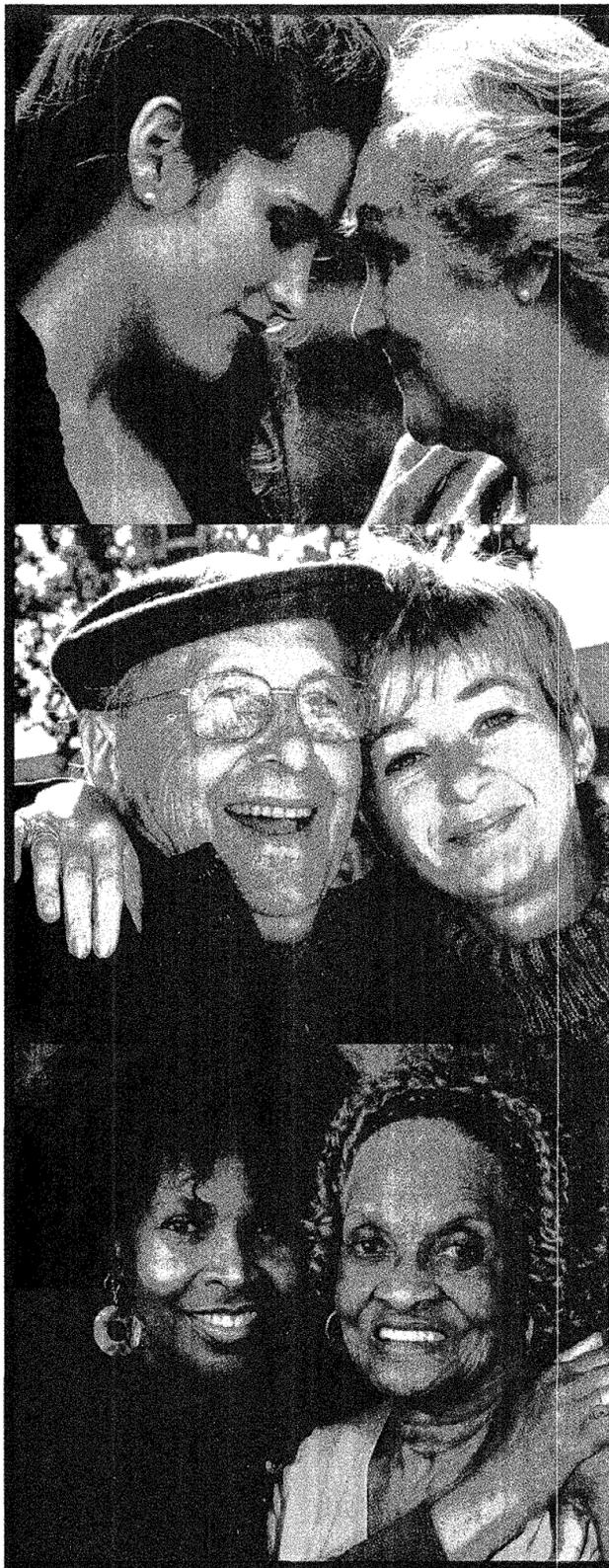
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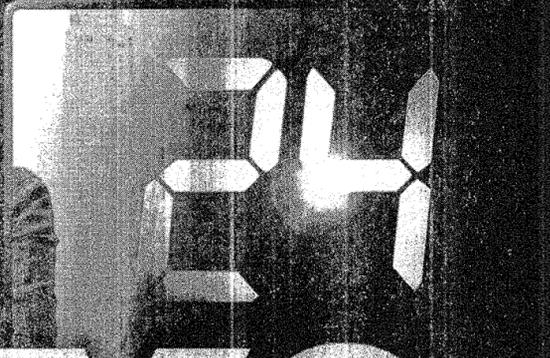
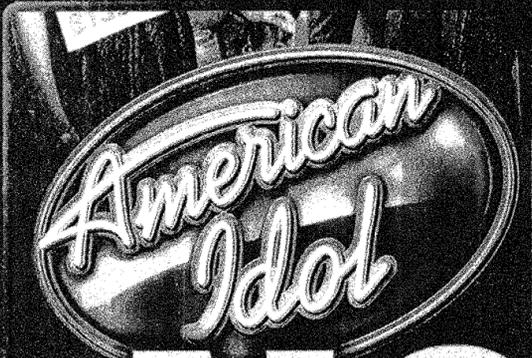
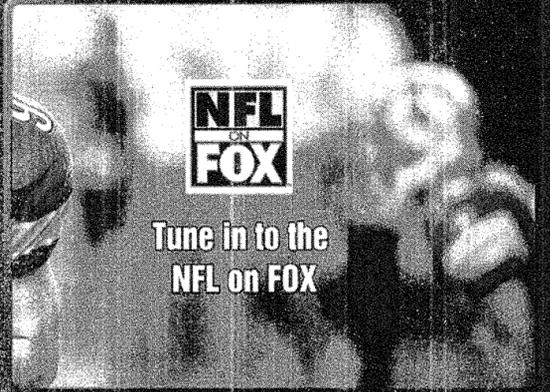
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# VFW Post provides food, toys for needy families

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Members of the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 in Westland gave away 24 holiday food baskets to needy families, although the name might be a misnomer.

"We gave each of them a ham and a turkey — that's not counting canned food, drinks for the kids and toys," said Sheila Files-Gedman, who chairs the post's Ladies Auxiliary.

"It's probably a week's worth of food, if not more," said Greg Sloup, post commander.

Neither Files-Gedman nor Sloup knew how long the post had been providing food baskets to needy families at the holidays. A post member 30 years, Sloup said the food basket program went back at least that far.

"The money we spend to buy food that isn't donated comes from our post relief fund," Sloup said. "When we sell poppies, that money is earmarked for the relief fund that helps needy veterans and needy



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sheila Files-Gedman of the Ladies Auxiliary and Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 Post Commander Greg Sloup stand in front of food boxes the post prepared for needy families.

families. When you see us out there selling poppies, that is what the money is for — it's not to repaint the building or for new floor tiles."

Along with the relief fund, the post also received cash donations from individual members, a local restaurant and a sizeable contribution from Dillon Jewelers, located just north of the post on Wayne

Road, and Spartan Stores.

"We use the money to buy food that isn't donated," Sloup said.

For the most part, the post relies on Wayne-Westland Community Schools staff to provide names of needy families. Families picked up their food baskets the Saturday before Christmas; baskets were delivered to those who

couldn't come to the post. "The schools screen the families. We've been assured that the families aren't duplicated (to receive assistance from another source)," Sloup said. "We ran into that problem last year. We had a family that was hurrying off to pick up things from another group."

Youngsters whose families got food baskets also received toys thanks to a special giving tree at Child Time Day Care Center in Canton.

"The tree had mittens with the age and gender of the child. Someone would take the mitten and that's who they bought for. They bought some awesome toys," Files-Gedman said.

"One of the toys cost \$40 — they weren't Happy Meal toys," Sloup added.

The 740-member post also provided Thanksgiving food baskets for 32 families.

"If there is a vet in need, we help them out throughout the year," Sloup said.

irogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

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FROM PAGE A1

let alone killing or injuring anyone. You never think it's going to be you."

Today Ron W. is turning his life around by going to school to become a physical therapy assistant.

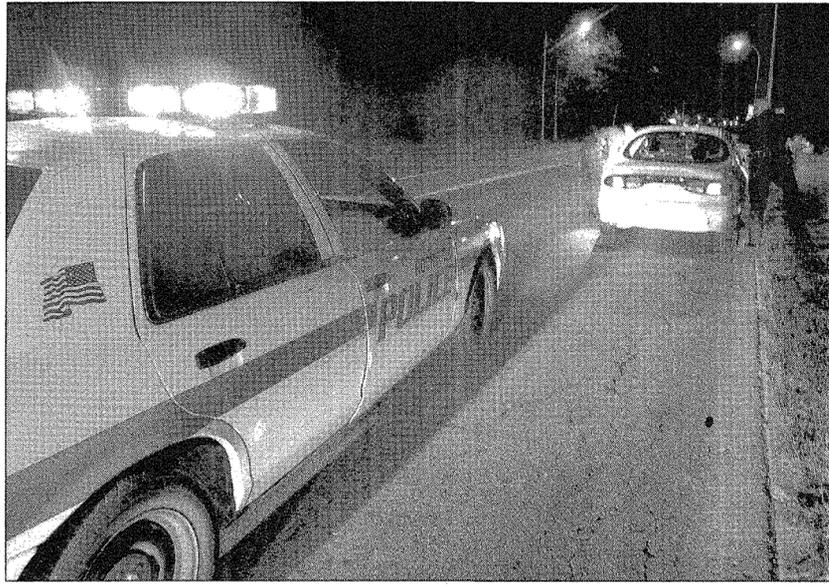
Although sentencing for drunken driving varies from judge to judge, offenders usually are not sentenced to jail for their first conviction, allowing them to make positive changes in their lives.

**JUDICIAL APPROACH**

Judge Ronald Lowe, chief judge of the 35th District Court (serving the cities of Plymouth and Northville and the townships of Plymouth, Canton and Northville) believes incarceration is not the answer for substance abuse, at least at first.

"The rule of thumb is the third drinking offense you go to jail to be absolutely sure where alcohol is in their life and why they're abusing it," said Lowe.

"The first time is a penalty and fine and community service. The rest of the sentence is about helping the defendant address his substance abuse problem. The second offense steps up that. The punishment is more serious. By the third offense it's apparent this person is not going to take hold of this substance abuse problem."



FILE PHOTO

A familiar sight for drivers operating under the influence, particularly during the holiday season, when many police departments put extra emphasis on keeping drunken drivers off the roads.

Although 47th District Court (serving Farmington and Farmington Hills) Judge Marla Parker hears DUI cases against a variety of ages, she is especially alarmed by the increase in drinking by young drivers.

She too believes the focus should be on helping the offender overcome substance abuse but she wants to make sure they don't appear before her again on the same charge.

Every offender is required

to go through substance abuse screening and an interview with the probation department before sentencing.

**YOUNG OFFENDERS**

"I've been hearing drunk driving cases (for) 17 years and one of the things I'm noticing is particularly troubling to me, the younger drunk driver with high blood levels. They're not just drinking but drinking to great excess.

"Tolerance intends to increase over time unless addressed and alcohol affects their decision making," said Parker.

The result of a decision to drink and drive could result in a

maximum 93 days in jail for first offenders, up to one year for a second offense.

"My goal is to punish somebody and hope other people will get the message and stop others (from drinking and driving), make them think twice, then I look at what should be done," said Parker.

"We have a sobriety court program specifically for the drunk driver who more than likely is a repeat offender who has significant issues with alcohol."

Offenders are required to undergo alcohol testing, attend 12-step meetings like AA, appear for regular court reviews, and perform community service.

If they're not in compliance, they go to jail.

"The focus is getting somebody sober just by the testing first then helping with education, employment to stop the cycle," said Parker. "Fines for a first offender are between \$1,300 to \$1,500, subsequent offenders over \$2,000 in costs in addition to having to pay their lawyer, costs from Secretary of State for \$125 to reinstate their license, plus a driver responsibility fee ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Insurance increases with a DUI and that's not counting the lives lost, medical expenses, property damage, deductibles."

**CONSIDER CONSEQUENCES**

Like Parker, Judge Mark McConnell of the 18th District Court in Westland advises anyone thinking of drinking and driving to consider the consequences.

McConnell handled drunken driving cases as an assistant prosecutor for 13 1/2 years in Westland before being elected to the bench last November.

"Michigan is pretty strict, one of the stricter states. Our courts we take them very seriously. Rehabilitation, some people it works, some doesn't. I've seen multiple teenage drivers, 17 and up. The oldest were people into their 70s," said McConnell. "It doesn't take a lot to hit .08 (blood alcohol level), especially an older female who usually weighs less and has a lower tolerance level. A couple of drinks and a person can be over that limit without realizing it."

Chief Judge Sandra Cicirelli of the 18th District Court refers each of her cases to the Westland probation department.

"I follow their recommendations most of the time, look at the blood alcohol content. If it's extremely high it tells me that the person isn't still able to function. It's on a case-by-case basis," said Cicirelli. "I have ordered alcohol tethers on the individual for the second-time offender, a repeat offender. I see my job as protecting the public."

According to Chris Raymond, chief probation officer of Westland's district court, an offender with a .25 blood alcohol is not someone who drinks once a month. Raymond, and probation officers Eric Lange and Melanie Sheridan thoroughly evaluate offenders before making recommendations to Cicirelli and McConnell. The first offense is usually \$1,500 fines and costs, restitution for police arrest, plus two to three days in the program which requires them to work off their debt to the city of Westland by cutting lawns or shoveling snow. They usually recommend drug screening as well since alcohol abusers often turn to other substances because they can't drink as part of probation.

"Offenders have lost marriages, jobs," said Raymond. "We see people their family wants nothing to do with anymore. Some have never been in trouble in their life. I'd like to see car makers put an alcohol device in every single car. The person would have to perform a test to start their car. To me, this would save lives."

Judge Lowe would like to see the return of an alcohol enforcement team. It would more than likely increase his caseload but for good cause.

Not much has changed since he's been on the bench in the last 15 years except for the period when federal grant money put an extra police car on the road on weekends to catch drunk drivers.

"I had three or four more cases," said Lowe. "Now there are either less drunk drivers or fewer getting caught."

Lowe's advice to those considering drinking and driving - don't.

"It surprises me how many people can come into court and if you ask them what they drank they can't remember, not because of intoxication but they don't pay attention to how much they drank. If you can't be aware of that put your keys back into your pocket. They don't realize how little it takes to get to .08."

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Livonia Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year  
Teachers of the Year from :  
Livonia Public Schools, Clarenceville Public Schools  
Ladywood High School**

**Nominate the 2010 Livonia First Citizen and  
2010 Livonia Outstanding Youth**

**LIVONIA  
2010  
First Citizen Nomination**

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Title or Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

The First Citizen Award recognizes a local person for outstanding volunteer community service. On a separate sheet of paper, outline the nominee's community service, including the impact on the population group or persons served, including length of time and offices held.

**Application deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan 13.  
Nominations can be e-mailed to Karen Smith at  
ksmith@hometownlife.com,  
faxed to her attention at (313) 223-4650  
or mailed to her at the Livonia Observer,  
615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.**

**LIVONIA  
2010  
Outstanding Youth Nomination**

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

The Outstanding Youth Award recognizes a local student for outstanding volunteer community service. On a separate sheet of paper, outline the nominee's community service, including the impact on the population group or persons served.

**Student must live in or attend a Livonia public or parochial school.**

**Application deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan 13.  
Nominations can be e-mailed to Karen Smith at  
ksmith@hometownlife.com,  
faxed to her attention at (313) 223-4650  
or mailed to her at the Livonia Observer,  
615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.**

**Go to the chamber's website [livonia.org](http://livonia.org) for nomination details  
for large and small businesses of the year!  
For tickets call the chamber at 734.427.2122**



**ACTIVITIES**

FROM PAGE A5

Beech Lanes Bowling Center, 15492 Beech Daly, Redford, (313) 531-3800; Cloverlanes Bowl, 28900 Schoolcraft, Livonia, (734) 427-6410; Garden Lanes, 29145 Warren Road, Garden City, (734) 427-2200; Merri Bowl Lanes, 30950 Five Mile Road, Livonia, (734) 427-2900; Super Bowl, 45100 Ford Road, Canton, (734) 459-6070; Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 522-4515; Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road, Westland, (734) 722-7570, Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River Avenue, Farmington, (248) 478-2230; Country Lanes, 30250 W. Nine

Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 476-3201; Mayflower Lanes Bowling Center, 26600 Plymouth Road, Redford, (313) 937-8420; Plaza Lanes, 42001 E. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, (734) 453-4880; Wonderland Lanes, 28455 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 427-1060; and Vision Lanes, 38250 Ford Road, Westland, (734) 641-8181.  
 24. The Henry Ford is a must destination if you have family and friends visiting. Enjoy Holiday Nights ([www.thehenryford.org/holidaynights](http://www.thehenryford.org/holidaynights)) and step back in time and walk through an old-fashioned village. Or enjoy hundreds of attractions in the museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, (313) 982-6001 or [www.thehenryford.org/museum](http://www.thehenryford.org/museum).  
 25. Help your children open a bank account with money saved

or received over the holidays. Show them how deposits are made. This is a gift they will watch for a lifetime.  
 26. Check out the holiday break camp at the Livonia Family YMCA. Y camp offers swimming, sports, crafts and more. Call the Livonia Y at (734) 261-2161.  
 27. Take the whole family to play laser tag at Zap Zone in Canton, 41953 Ford Road, (734) 844-7746 or Farmington, 31506 Grand River, (248) 471-6777.  
 28. Visit and hike through a local park. See how many times you can walk around the perimeter. Then go home and make some hot chocolate.  
 29. Check out the lunch or dinner theater at Genitti's Hole in the Wall, 108 W. Main Street, downtown Northville. Visit [www.genittis.com](http://www.genittis.com) for a schedule of events or

call (248) 349-0522.  
 30. Spend a day volunteering at a food pantry or soup kitchen. Visit an area nursing home and take a plant or flowers to brighten someone's day.  
 31. Visit a bead shop and let the kids make what they want. Pam's Bead Garden, 550 Forest, Suite 1, Plymouth, (734) 451-7410 and Bead Bohemia, 33321 Grand River, Farmington, (248) 474-9264.  
 32. Bring out all of your holiday pictures that need to be put into albums. Let your children design a holiday photo keepsake.  
 33. Have a family meeting and decide on a charity you would like to support for the new year.  
 34. Have your kids make cards and send them to U.S. troops overseas.  
 35. Go to the local library or

a bookstore and start planning vegetable and flower gardens. Let the kids draw a diagram and brainstorm about what they want to grow.  
 36. Go to The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton and see Las Vegas magician Aaron Radatz, who will perform two holiday magic shows Dec. 27. Call (734) 394-5460 or [www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater](http://www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater).  
 37. Encourage teens to start thinking about summer jobs. Send them out to start applying and/or working on a resume.  
 38. Have your child call an elderly relative, cousin, grandma or even a friend at school who wouldn't otherwise get a friendly message.  
 39. Take a day trip to Frankenmuth and enjoy the famous chicken at Zehnder's

or spend the night in Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel and Waterpark (more than 30,000 square feet of aquatic fun). Call (800) 863-7999 or go to [www.zehnders.com](http://www.zehnders.com).  
 40. If you love planes, the Yankee Air Museum in Belleville won't disappoint. Includes several authentic 1940s aircraft, including the legendary B-17G Flying Fortress. Call (734) 483-4030 or visit [www.yankeeairmuseum.org](http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org) for more information and directions.  
 41. Visit the Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. (313) 582-2266. Learn about Arab American history and culture.  
 42. Spend the afternoon at the Putting Edge, Fountain Walk 44225, 12 Mile Road, (248) 348-4022 or [www.puttingedge.com](http://www.puttingedge.com) or Glo Golf, 41969 Ford Road, Canton, (734) 844-2244. Experience 18 holes of glow-in-the-dark mini-golf. Don't forget to wear white and you'll glow, too!  
 43. Jungle Java, 1200 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, (734) 397-6960 or 27658 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills, (248) 919-3284 gives the kids a chance to exercise and have fun while parents mingle with other parents.  
 44. Want to entertain children ages 3 and older? See a live performance of the classic *Pinocchio*, the story of how a wooden puppet becomes a real boy, at the Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville, (248) 349-8110 or [www.northvilllemarquistheatre.com](http://www.northvilllemarquistheatre.com).  
 45. Go see a first-run movie. Check out the offerings at AMC-20 in Livonia, 19500 Haggerty Road, Livonia, (888) AMC-4FUN; Emagine Theater in Canton, 39535 Ford Road, (888) 319-FILM and Novi, 44425 W. 12 Mile, (888) 319-FILM.  
 46. Ski and snowboard close to home at Alpine Valley in White Lake ([www.skiplinevalley.com](http://www.skiplinevalley.com)), Mt. Brighton in Brighton ([www.mtbrighton.com](http://www.mtbrighton.com)), Mt. Holly ([www.skiholly.com](http://www.skiholly.com)) or Pine Knob in Clarkston ([www.skipineknob.com](http://www.skipineknob.com)). Check on snow conditions.  
 47. High Velocity Sports, 46245 Michigan Avenue, Canton, (734) HV-SPORT or [www.hvsports.com](http://www.hvsports.com) offers camps by the day during school breaks. The All-Sport Camp includes soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, kickball and much more.  
 48. Watch a movie at the historic Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth. *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* (rated PG) plays Dec. 27 and 31 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. All seats are \$3. [www.penntheatre.com](http://www.penntheatre.com). Catch a movie at the Farmington Civic Theater, 33332 Grand River Avenue, Farmington, (248) 474-1951 or [www.farmingtoncivictheatre.org](http://www.farmingtoncivictheatre.org).  
 49. The Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R, (313) 577-8400, [www.detroitssciencecenter.org](http://www.detroitssciencecenter.org) is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 26-31. Enjoy planetarium shows, hands-on exhibits and more.  
 50. "Walking With Dinosaurs — The Arena Spectacular," based on the award-winning BBC Television Series, returns to Cobo Arena for eight performances Dec. 29 through Jan. 3. Ten species are represented from the entire 200 million-year reign of the dinosaurs' evolution, complete with the climatic and tectonic changes that took place, which led to the demise of many species. Tickets at all Ticketmaster locations and [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com). Call (800) 745-3000. For additional information, call (313) 471-6611.

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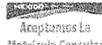
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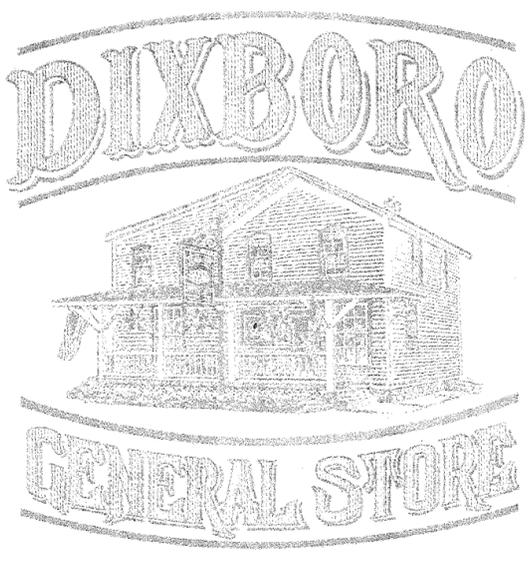
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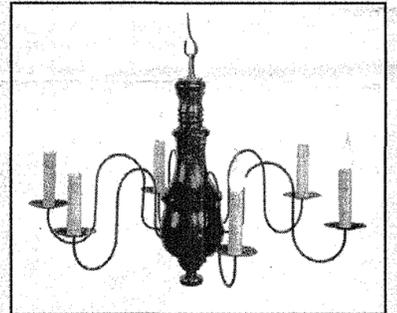
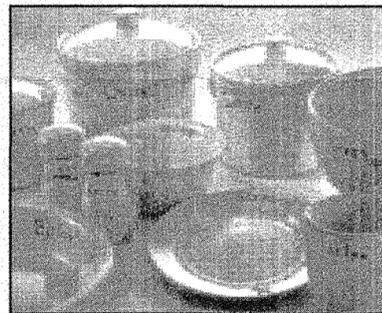
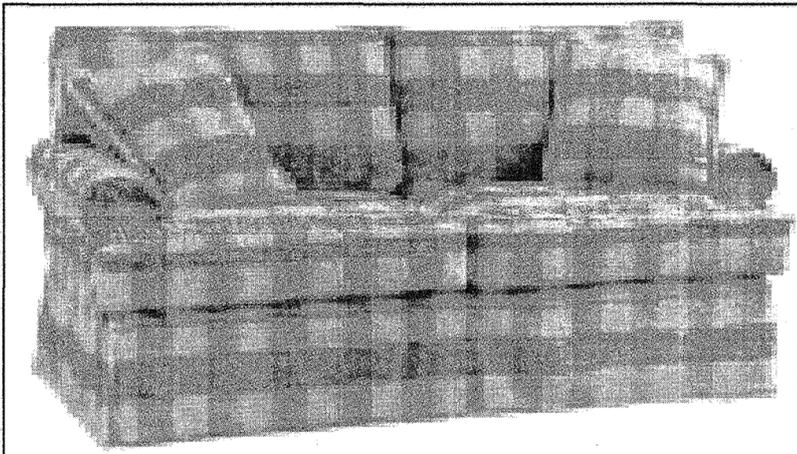
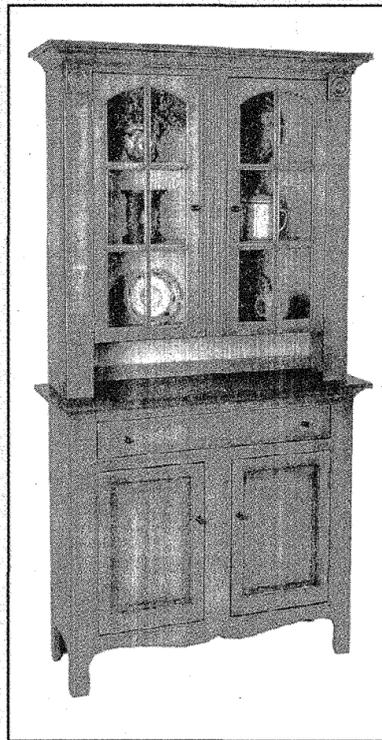
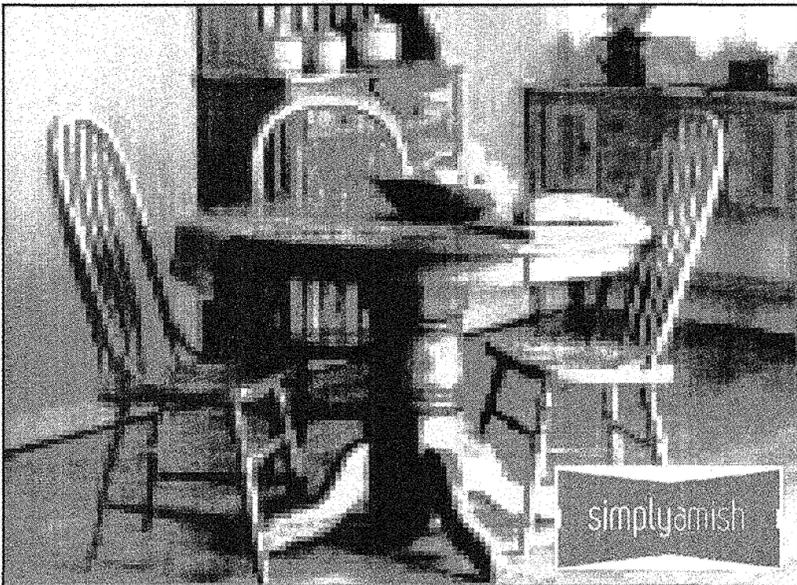
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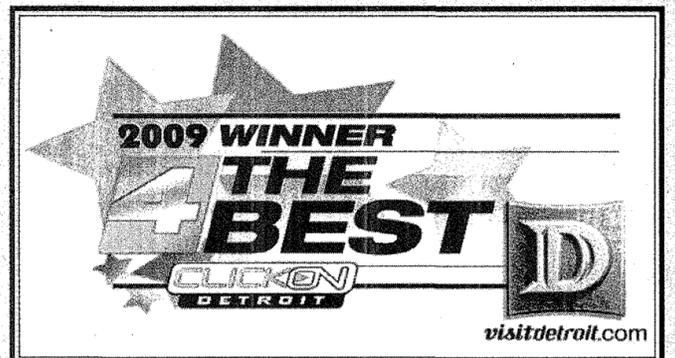
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**WARMING**  
FROM PAGE A1

bologna sandwiches. The first Wednesday of each month, volunteers at her church, Warren Road Light and Life in Westland, prepare more than a thousand bologna sandwiches that are served at the warming center and at the soup kitchen. Donations of leftover soup from area restaurants fill out the menu for the evening meal although the later donations have dwindled as restaurants have downsized to cut costs.

Ivey is looking for another church to also make sandwiches so the warming center and a soup kitchen open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily can handle the increasing demand.

"I've shared that with churches in the past, but none have ever picked it up," she said.

The warming center has a wish list and the top of it is volunteers. There's a need for men with vans and trucks to pick up donations from businesses and people as well as help unload the trucks from Gleaners and Forgotten Harvest on Mondays. The church serves as a drop-off site for those who get help from the two organizations.

**GREAT NEED**

But what is desperately needed are men and women to work in the soup kitchen, which is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and serve as night watchmen at the warming center. Two shifts are available — 6-10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Also on the list are socks, especially white tube socks that fit both men and women and all sizes of feet; any warm clothing in sizes medium to extra-large, including thermal underwear; men's clothing, especially blue jeans; sweat shirts and pants for men and women, which can be used for sleepwear at night and worn under clothing during the day; warm hats, gloves and boots and pillows with plastic sanitary covers.

The center also is in need of travel-sized toiletries and Ivey is looking for a church that will take on the job of creating plastic bags filled with those items to give out to the homeless.

Likewise, backpacks would be a welcome donation. The people who turn to the shelter at night can only bring in one bag of clothing.

And always welcomed are cash donations that will be used to help the needy throughout the year.

According to Beneteau, Lighthouse's mission "is

**WARMING CENTER**

**What:** Lighthouse Mission Warming Center, a temporary overnight shelter for homeless men and women during the winter months, and a soup kitchen.

**When:** The warming center is open 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily Jan. 1 through March 31. The soup kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

**Where:** At the Full Gospel Temple, 34033 Palmer, east of Wayne Road, Westland.

**What:** The center provides a hot meal, showers and a place to sleep for up to 50 homeless individuals. It is staffed by volunteers and operates with the help of donations from individuals and businesses and the support of several area churches and organizations — Westland Free Methodist, Warren Road Life and Life and the Full Gospel Temple in Westland, Merriman Road Baptist in Garden City, Abundant Life Church in Canton, First Methodist in Wayne and Safe Stay.

**Information:** To make a donation or to volunteer to help, call Thelma Ivey at (734) 326-3885.

to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the cold."

"This isn't a very popular thing for churches to do these days. However, we believe that it is our responsibility not the government's," she said. "We will reach all who come to us with Jesus."

People interested in donating or helping the warming center and soup kitchen can call Lighthouse Home Mission at (734) 326-3885.

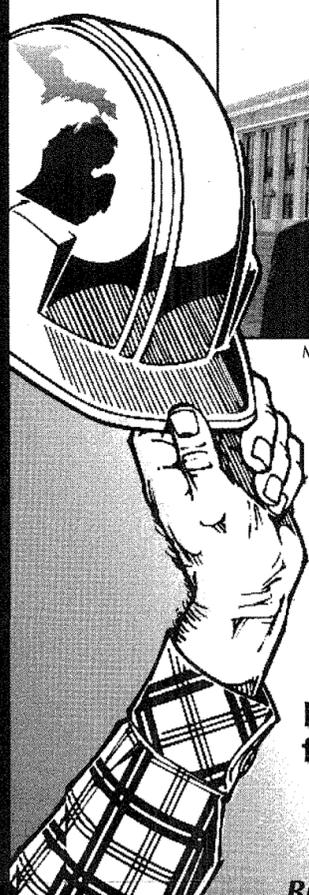
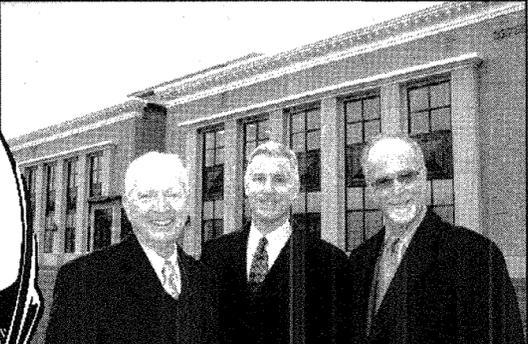
"If every church united together to help someone in need, they wouldn't need to come to Lighthouse," Ivey said. "They would know to go to their local church. It's what churches did in the past. We have 20 churches that have signed up through Churches United Against Hunger."

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Mayor Jack Kirksey, Steve Dailey and Mark King outside of the new 16th District Court House.

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HD Pack - channels 690, 691, 693, 694 & 695  
International Channels - channels 580-585

These services will not be available on uni-directional retail devices as of the date(s) noted above. If you want to subscribe to these services, you will need a digital set-top box or similar bi-directional (two-way) equipment from Bright House Networks. Customers may continue to use their uni-directional retail device and CableCARD to receive video programming other than the programming delivered on the SDV system. Customers will be notified in advance of any other programming changes.

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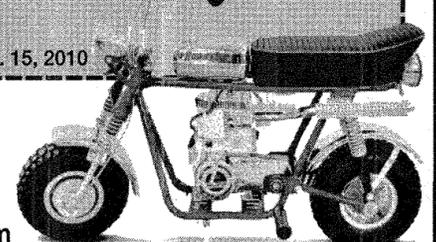
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# PENALTIES

FROM PAGE A1

vice in addition to fines and costs — and a license suspension, typically for a year. Vehicles can be immobilized.

An offender with two or more prior convictions, or a defendant suspected of causing death or serious injury while driving drunk, can be charged with a felony, which means the case would move to Wayne County Circuit Court.

"You have to give great weight to an accident when it's time for sentencing," said first-year Judge Jim Plakas of the 35th District Court.

In many areas, alcohol-related arrests are rising. Livonia's 16th District Court, for instance, processed 273 drunken driving arrests in 2008; through October 2009, the court already had more than 300 alcohol driving offenses, including both operating under the influence and driving while impaired cases.

The 35th District Court processed 1,021 cases in 2008. In Westland, 606 drunken driving cases were disposed generating fines and costs of more than \$883,000.

The penalties including

punishment and fines are determined on a case by case basis with a range that could go from \$750 to more than \$2,000 depending on the case, according to 16th District Court Administrator Dennis Epler.

But the costs could extend well beyond the court, Epler said.

"The person could incur increased insurance costs or even cancellation," Epler said. "Attorney fees can go from \$500 to over \$3,000 depending on the case and its complexity."

Drivers can be assessed the Secretary of State driver's responsibility fee which can be either \$500 or \$1,000 a year for two years. Driving restrictions are handled by the Secretary of State with each type and severity of charge having its own set of restrictions, Epler said.

"It may be a 30-day restricted license, a one-year loss of license or a five-year loss of license," Epler said. "These restrictions or actual loss of license cause economic problems of their own. This is especially true since public transportation in this state is lacking."

Most police departments work hard to reduce the number of impaired drivers on the road at a given time. Of Garden City's 78 arrests in 2008, 11 drivers were under the age of 21, and 17

were repeat offenders. Fourteen drivers were driving on suspended licenses.

In early 2009, road patrol officers and their supervisors analyzed the data from 2008 and formed a plan to focus on reducing the number of impaired drivers on the road.

"The results have been impressive," said Garden City Deputy Police Chief Bob Muery.

"As of Nov. 30, officers have arrested 151 impaired drivers. That is nearly double the total for 2008, and there is still another month to go," he added.

Of course, the highest cost of drunken driving isn't a monetary issue at all. It comes when there is a fatality. The deaths of Judy Weinstein and her sons, Alex and Sam, caused by a drunken driver in Farmington Hills in May 2005 is one such case.

It's a reason penalties and fines are so high, and also something that could so easily be avoided.

"Many people don't think of themselves as someone who could be a drunk driver," said Judge Marla Parker of the 47th District Court in Farmington/Farmington Hills. "But a drunk driver is really anyone who has had too much to drink and gets behind the wheel of a car." Of course, judges and court



How many drinks does it take to reach a blood alcohol concentration of .08?

A 170-pound man would have to drink approximately four drinks in one hour on an empty stomach or a 137-pound woman would have to drink approximately three drinks in one hour on an empty stomach. At .08, a person is 11 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than someone who has had nothing to drink.

SOURCE: Studies cited by MADD

officials hope drivers learn the lessons early and don't become repeaters.

Some first offense drivers learn their lesson quickly, said Judge Charlotte Wirth, chief judge of the 17th District Court in Redford. The fine, restrictions — such as being subject to spot alcohol level testing — has the intended affect.

But others have a chronic problem.

"I've had drivers drunk when they show up in court," Wirth said. "They're in contempt of court, and they go directly to jail."

Most courts refer drunken driving cases to their individual probation departments. In Westland's 18th District Court, Judge Sandra Cicirelli said she relies "heavily" on the judgment of her probation officers.

"When (drunken drivers) come, I refer them to the probation department for evaluation. Before sentencing, I look at the recommendations from the probation department," she said. "I also look at the BAC (blood alcohol content). That's an important factor. I've had people with a .30 or .40 BAC. As a nondrinker, I'd have to be hospitalized with that level."

Staff writers Ken Abramczyk, Sue Buck, LeAnne Rogers, Susan Steinmueller, Brad Kadrich and Matt Jachman contributed to this report.

# Families, friends grieve for victims

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
CORRESPONDENT

Linda Bernhardt brushes aside the memory of the drunken driver who put her in the hospital with facial injuries that required plastic surgery. The experience was painful but not as heart-wrenching as the thought of the drunken driver who killed her friends, Rick and Cindy Cameron of Canton, in 1984.

The Camerons and their unborn baby boy died after being hit head-on on Sheldon Road at Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth.

Bernhardt had become friends with the Canton family in prenatal classes. The two women were both first-time mothers-to-be who bonded with two others in yoga and Lamaze classes. Together, the four women planned to start a play group after their babies were born.

Today, Bernhardt tells their story as a victim advocate speaking to offenders in the 18th and 29th District courts.

Once a month, 75 offenders or more gather as part of a court order to hear a victim's advocate panel put together by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. It is estimated that MADD has helped save 330,000 lives since the non-profit was established in 1980 to stop drinking and driving.

"The purpose is to tell them the consequences of drunk driving," said Bernhardt.

"The offender has to live with this. You don't have intentions of hurting people, but it's not an accident when you put that liquor to your lips and then drive. You can be involved in a crash."

Once every 45 minutes a person is killed by a drunken driver. That is just one of the statistics victim impact speakers like Bernhardt and Paulette Gibson use to dissuade first-time offenders from drinking and driving again.

### SPEAKING OUT

Gibson spoke at the Tie One On For Safety kick-off campaign presented by MADD at Westland Shopping Center Dec. 5. MADD is urging drivers to tie a red rib-

bon onto their car's antenna as a reminder not to drink before getting behind the wheel.

Gibson's 19-year old daughter April was killed by a drunken driver in 1992. April was so badly disfigured Gibson couldn't recognize her.

"She had a habit of chewing her nails. I picked up her hand in the hospital and knew it was her," said Gibson of Milford.

April not only left behind her grieving mother, but a 4-year-old daughter, Savannah. April's younger sister, Amy, is just now finally coming to terms with the fact April died before she had a chance to say goodbye. April had dropped Amy off at work and was on her way back home when she was killed.

"I didn't know anything about it until it was too late and that made it hard for me," said Amy Gibson of Canton.

According to MADD statistics, more than 16,000 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes in 2007 in the U.S.

Home Smith, executive director of MADD for Michigan, is working to encourage judges to order ignition interlocks on the vehicles of offenders.

"We are grateful there has continued to be a decline in fatalities and injuries over the past decade, but there are still too many tragedies," said Smith.

"I'd like to see judges using the ignition interlock that the court can require even on a first-time offender. New Mexico law mandates ignition interlocks. In three years, they've seen a 30-percent reduction in crashes. Twelve states now require the locks for all offenders. Michigan does not.

"The scary thought is 80 percent of offenders continue to drive. We believe every drunk driver has earned the right to have an ignition interlock on their vehicle and judges can make that happen without changing the laws."

For more information, visit [www.madd.org/mi/semichigan](http://www.madd.org/mi/semichigan) or call (586) 997-6504. Twenty-four hour victim assistance is available at (800) 323-6233.



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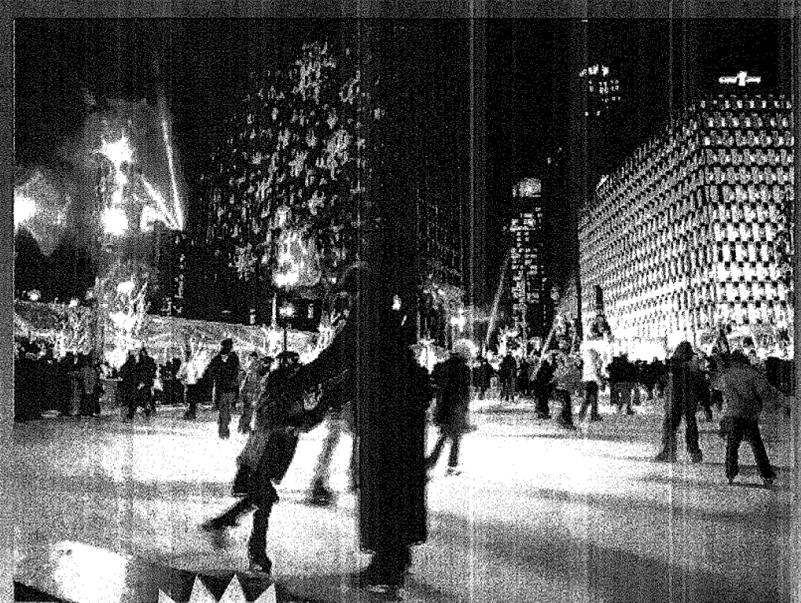
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# Regional Marketplace

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## A place to call home...

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BY ALISON BERGSIKER  
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

When Rita Stubbs moved out of her three-story condo last January into a two-bedroom apartment at Abbey Park at Mill River, she was finally relieved from climbing the stairs.

"I have never been so comfortable in any place in my life," the 82-year-old said. "It reminds me of home. The only things missing are the stairs."

Stubbs loves participating in Nintendo Wii bowling tournaments, playing bingo and coming and going in her own car for shopping and doctors appointments — and said she is happy and safe in her new home.

With nine new residents moved in this month and more on their way, more seniors are choosing the luxury retirement community, Abbey Park at Mill River in Lyon Township.

The vast 195,000-square-foot luxury retirement community has all of the necessities for a comfortable, active senior lifestyle — 24-hour staffing, a medical alert system, dining room, café, theater, chapel, library, hair salon, fitness center and full-facility generator.

"It's a whole lot more than bingo around here," said Tamra Ward, Abbey Park Administrator. "Anything our seniors are willing to do, we make available to them. We keep them as active as they can be for as long as possible so they can maintain their independence."

### Never a dull moment

A typical week at Abbey Park kicks off on Sunday with an elegant Champagne Brunch, all-faiths church service and relaxing time with family and friends.

Then its on manicure and pedicure Mondays, Wii bowling league Tuesdays, dinner night out Wednesdays, ice cream social Thursdays, Happy Hour Fridays and Grand Kids Day on Saturdays once a month.

Every day of the week is filled to the brim with planned entertainment or trips, a two-course dining menu and activities to encourage

seniors to live for the best of their lives.

"I'm busy all the time," Stubbs said. "We love going out on the bus on Wednesdays to dinner. We've been to the South Lyon Hotel, the Cantina and most of the restaurants in the area."

Family visits at Abbey Park are strongly encouraged. Stubbs said many of her grandchildren attend every Grand Kids Day and look forward to visiting. Her family in Salem Township and Novi are just a phone call or short drive away.

"All eight grandchildren that live nearby came to the grandkids day," Stubbs said. "The ones that can get around love to go up in the playroom and they like to play the piano. They love it."

Trips once a month to the casino, attendance at local plays and visits to the shopping mall are just the cusp of activity going on at Abbey Park.

*"I have never been so comfortable in any place in my life. It reminds me of home."*

— Rita Stubbs

Abbey Park at Mill River resident

Like a community all their own, residents operate a small Country Store with basic grocery and personal items, and participate on a council that weighs in on the daily menu and activities schedule.

"People call my office looking for their loved ones and say they're never in their rooms," Ward said. "There's so much to do here that most of our residents are busy socializing, watching a movie, playing a game of cards or something else going on that day."

With the standard of living at an all-time high in Lyon Township, Abbey Park fits right in with a well-maintained outdoor landscape and a vast indoor entranceway, complete with fireplaces, comfortable sitting area, water fountain and piano.



Rita Stubbs gets cozy in her two-bedroom apartment at Abbey Park at Mill River.

### Recent News

#### Abbey Park is now on Facebook

Check out Abbey Park's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), search: "Abbey Park at Mill River" to become a fan. Check out photos from year-round events, offer feedback or keep up on scheduled events.

#### Kudos to senior spellers

At a recent Livingston County Senior Spelling Bee, the regional finalist was an Abbey Park resident. Three residents participated in the finals after preparing in mock spelling bees for almost two months.

#### Happy ever after

At Abbey Park at Mill River's sister community in Grand Blanc, residents Dora Mayo and Joe Ashley recently married in the community's lobby after a courtship of one year.

Mayo moved into Abbey Park November 2008 after losing her husband of 57 years and four of her five children. Ashley moved in weeks later after losing his wife of 63 years. After meeting in Abbey Park, the two are now inseparable and happily married.

#### Grandkid's Day a success

At Grandkid's Day on Nov. 7, children enjoyed coloring and games in the activity center, puzzles in the café, letting loose in the playroom, Nintendo Wii bowling, a movie and ice cream and a presentation about safety dogs!

#### Bowling banquet

Abbey Park at Mill River recently held its second annual Nintendo Wii Bowling Tournament with an awards banquet and trophies. Congrats, winners!

#### Affordable luxury

The service at Abbey Park is similar to what you'd find in Lyon Township and South Lyon — businesses going the extra mile with friendly staff and affordable prices.

Residents have access to a number of complimentary conveniences that are often an added expense at other retirement communities. On a daily basis, staff offers to make beds, empty trash and prepares two delicious meals. Once a week, Abbey Park residents are treated to a full cleaning service of their apartment, including bed linens and towels.

The community's apartments vary from one or two bedrooms with or without a den, kitchen, living room, bathroom and walk-in closet options. An emergency pull cord is accessible in each room of the apartment in case a resident needs assistance from a nurse. Each apartment has an enclosed patio or balcony as an added safety feature, and all top floor apartments have cathedral ceilings as an added amenity. Even heat, water and basic cable are included.

Stubbs said she recommends Abbey Park as a comfortable place to live, and welcomes any opportunity to make new friends.

"I'm definitely, positively absolutely at home," she said. "My kids come to visit and say 'Mom, we sure made the right decision when you decided to move here.' I just love it. They treat me wonderful."



A group of seniors prepare for a trip into town on the Abbey Park bus.

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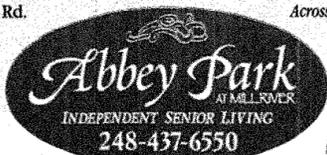
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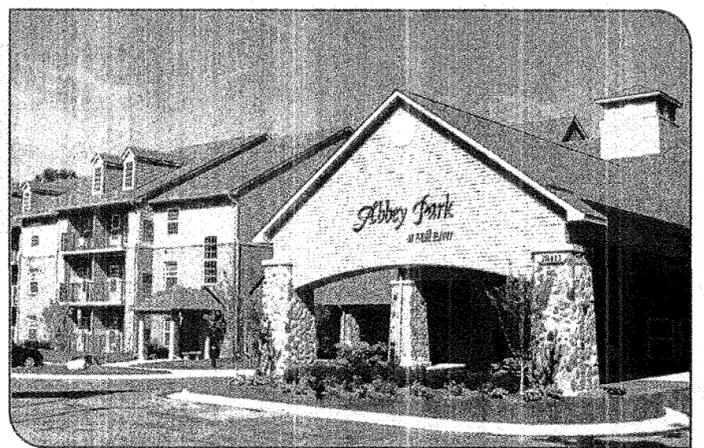
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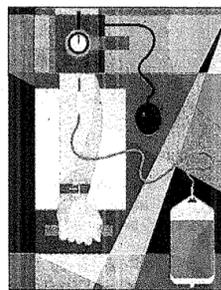
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# HOMETOWN LIFE



## Hail to the Chiefs

### Canton runs roughshod over Marlins, 56-24

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Talking about facing a strong opponent is one thing.

But Farmington Hills Mercy's girls basketball team found out that facing such a team — Canton — is something completely different.

The host Chiefs blitzed the Marlins from start to finish Tuesday night, rolling to a 56-24 non-conference victory.

"I think it's indicative of how good Canton is," Mercy coach Gary Morris said about the 32-point defeat. "You can talk about a team being very good, being physical, with the ability defensively to take you out of your offense."

"But until you actually play them and see them doing it to you, I think it's hard for the kids to relate."

Keying Canton (4-1) to an insurmountable 27-10 halftime lead was junior forward Kayla Bridges, who tallied all nine Canton points over a three-minute stretch late in the first and early in the second quarters.

Bridges (15 points, six rebounds) tallied a nifty reverse layup to start the string, making it 14-4 after one quarter. To

open the second, she connected on a putback, short hook shot and a layup.

"She (Bridges) had a great game, really a great first half. She came in and sort of sparked us," Chiefs head coach Brian Samulski said. "And that's what Bridges does. I thought her putbacks were good, she ran the floor well and she scored inside."

Also providing offensive punch were the Schmitt twins. Kari scored 12 points and also grabbed six boards, while Sara registered 10 points and four rebounds.

For Mercy (4-2), Elena Vlachos and Janelle McQueen led with eight and seven points, respectively.

According to Samulski, getting defenders in the way of McQueen and the other Marlins went a long way toward the outcome.

"It comes down to defending and rebounding," Samulski said. "I thought we did a nice job of that. I thought we kept McQueen in front of us and didn't let her get going."

"And I thought we defended their other players well and kept them off the glass."

Mercy switched to a zone

defense in the second half and played the Chiefs relatively even for the first portion of the third quarter.

A bucket by Diana Jasser cut the Canton lead to 35-15 with under three minutes to go in the quarter.

But that edge was bumped up to 40-17 after the third quarter, following baskets from senior guard Lindsey Winters (eight points) and Kari Schmitt.

For good measure, the Chiefs went on a 14-0 scoring spree during the fourth with points scored both inside (Bridges, Sara Schmitt) and beyond the arc (triples by Winters and junior forward CarolAnn Sexauer — seven points).

"We adjusted to that well, started attacking their zone," Samulski said. "Winters got some shots, CarolAnn got some shots and we continued to get looks inside from those kids."

Morris said he was hopeful that his squad would learn from the blowout loss, particularly with another tough matchup (Jan. 5 at Birmingham Marian) to open Catholic League action.

"We're a fairly young team," he said. "So next time we get in a similar situation, we'll react better."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton junior guard Melanie Pickert focuses on making her shot despite defensive attention from Sarah Benson (22) and Alexa Bahoura of Farmington Hills Mercy.

## GAME WRAPS

### Patriot cagers in OT

Senior guard Andy McCaffery scored a game-high 19 points Wednesday as host Livonia Franklin edged Farmington, 45-43, in the consolation final of the Patriots' Holiday boys basketball tournament.

McCaffery's desperation three-point banker with only 1.7 left in regulation sent the game into OT at 41-all.

Jack Chinavare added 10 points for the Patriots, now 1-3 overall.

Mitch Sanders scored a team-high 15 for the Falcons (2-3).

### Franklin iced, 4-1

Benny Iaquinata made 32 saves as Wednesday night as Walled Lake Western downed host Livonia Franklin in a KLAAs Kensington Conference boys hockey game, 4-1 at Edgar Arena.

Kyle Shreve had a pair of goals for the Warriors, who improved to 3-6 overall and 3-2 in the KLAAs Central.

Zach Powell added a goal and assist, while Jarrad Wysong had an empty-netter. Dustin Brewer also had two assists.

Tyler Satkowiak scored for Franklin (0-7, 0-3) from Tyler Hewitt and Kevin Webb.

Anthony Crechiolo had 35 saves for the Patriots.

### Crusaders edged

In a game marred by cold shooting from both sides, it was the Madonna University women's basketball team that went cold at the wrong time, falling 59-56 Tuesday night to host Calvin College inside Van Noord Arena in Grand Rapids.

Junior guard Tabatha Wydryck led the way for the Crusaders, now 4-6 overall, with 18 points to go along with six rebounds and a like number of assists.

Freshman center Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) added 13 points, including 3-of-4 from double-figures from behind the arc to go along with five rebounds. It was McGrath's seventh double-double of the season.

Kim Olech also pulled down nine rebounds to go along with seven points.

Carissa Verkaik led all players with 19 points and 14 rebounds for the 11-1 Knights, who are ranked No. 19 in the latest NCAA Division III poll. Kelsey Irwin came off the bench to score 12 points.

Calvin led 36-33 at intermission. The Knights shot 36.1 percent from the floor (22-of-61), while MU was 18-of-55 (32.7 percent).

All six MU losses have come against ranked teams including four NAIA opponents and two NCAA Division III schools.

## Rochester FTs sink Patriots, 66-62

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Rochester got to the rim and the foul line with an alarming frequency Tuesday night to advance into the finals of the Livonia Franklin Holiday Tournament.

The Falcons, who evened their boys basketball record at 2-2 overall, downed host Franklin in the second game of a double-header, 66-62.

Rochester held a 24-21 scoring edge in the final period thanks to a 14-for-14 showing at free throw stripe.

"Free throws and layups are called the little things, but tonight they were not so little — this time they turned out to be pretty big," Rochester coach

John Pleasant said.

The Falcons shot 25-of-32 from the line (78.1 percent), but were only 19-of-51 from the field (37.2 percent).

Senior guard Nick O'Neil tallied 10 of his game-high 20 points, including 6-of-6 foul shooting, during the final eight minutes after the Falcons seized a slim 42-39 advantage after three quarters.

Paris Periera, a 5-foot-3 sophomore guard, and Taylor Perry, a 6-3 sophomore forward, added 11 each. Senior guard Billy Klotz chipped in with 10.

Senior guard Alontae McElhane came off the bench to score 10 of his team-high 17 points in the first quarter to lead the Patriots, who were tied at 17-all.

Franklin, which led 30-20 at intermission, also got 14 points from 6-3 senior guard Andy McCaffery and 13 from 6-3 senior forward Jack Chinavare.

"We wanted to come out and pressure," Pleasant said, "but number 14 (McCaffery) does a nice job and that took away our ability to that defensively. We had to go with a small lineup, and tried to isolate against their big man."

Many of Rochester's 22 field goals came off uncontested layups off the half-court set.

Meanwhile, Franklin was 15-of-24 from the foul line (62.5 percent) and a respectable 22-of-46 from the field (47.8 percent).

"This is extremely disappointing," said Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault, whose team slipped to

0-3 overall. "They (Rochester) wanted it more. There were not many bright spots. We were careless with the ball (17 turnovers) and we did not execute. The other team wanted it more. Our guys even said it themselves — they were overconfident and thought they'd already in the finals against (Taylor) Kennedy."

The loss put the host Patriots in the 5:30 p.m. Wednesday consolation game for the second straight year against 2-2 Farmington, which was shelved by unbeaten Taylor Kennedy in the first game of the twinbill, 61-36.

Rochester and Kennedy (4-0) met in the 7 p.m. Wednesday championship game.

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Franklin's Jack Chinavare (32) works the baseline against Rochester's Taylor Perry during Tuesday's holiday tournament.

## Falcons fall flat in holiday tournament loss

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Farmington High boys basketball team went out for some last-minute Yuletide shopping and came back empty-handed in the opening round of the Livonia Franklin Holiday Tournament.

The Falcons seemed lost at the outset and it showed as unbeaten Taylor Kennedy roared out to a 14-0 lead before coasting home for a 61-36 triumph.

"We knew they were athletic and they could get up and down the floor," Farmington coach Steve Norgrove said of the 4-0 Patriots. "But I'm more disappointed with our energy level. We did not play

with any passion. We acted like we were on winter break."

Farmington, which slipped to 2-2 overall, missed its first 10 shots from the floor before junior guard Jason Wilson broke the ice with a hoop with 59.4 seconds left in the first quarter.

Kennedy led 16-5 after one quarter and built a 31-12 halftime lead.

"They forced us into tough shots during that stretch and we did not play with any poise," Norgrove said. "And due to their aggressiveness, we took bad shots. So consequently there were long rebounds, and they got some run-outs."

Farmington was 4-of-18 from the field in the first half (22.2

percent) compared with 14-of-23 for the Patriots (60.8 percent).

Brandon Jordan, a 6-foot-3 junior forward who wore jersey No. 23, soared like Michael Jordan with three dunks, including a couple of alley-oops to spark Kennedy.

He finished with a game-high 16 points, while Ryan White and Josh Holder added 10 apiece. Dominic Morrow chipped in with eight.

Farmington's best quarter was the third as the Falcons shot 8-of-13 from the floor and held a 17-16 scoring edge.

But the final numbers told the story — 13-of-41 shooting from the field (31.7 percent) and 18 turnovers.

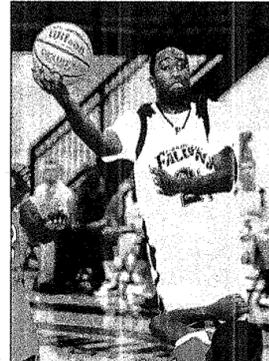
And no Farmington player notched double figures.

Darrin Jackson led with eight, while Charles Anthony and Anthony Rutledge each tallied six.

"I'm very disappointed because there was a lack of enthusiasm, it seemed we did not support each other," Norgrove said. "We acted like a bunch of individuals."

The loss slotted the Falcons into the 5:30 p.m. Wednesday consolation game against host Franklin (0-3), which was edged by Rochester, 66-62, in the nightcap. The championship final between Kennedy and Rochester (2-2) starts at 7 p.m.

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Farmington's Charles Anthony controls the rebound during Tuesday's opening round of the Livonia Franklin Holiday Basketball Tournament.

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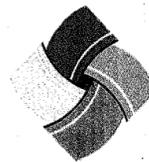


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**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
**Monday, Dec. 28**  
 (Country Day Roundball Classic)  
 N. Farmington vs. Flint N'western, noon.  
**Tuesday, Dec. 29**  
 (Wayne Memorial Holiday Shootout)  
 Frankfort vs. Det. Western, 11:30 a.m.  
 Ferndale vs. Redford Union, 1 p.m.  
 Farmington vs. Thurston, 2:30 p.m.  
 John Glenn vs. Berkley, 4 p.m.  
 Wayne vs. Willow Run, 5:30 p.m.  
**(Livonia Ladywood Holiday Tournament)**  
 Southgate vs. A.A. Huron, 4 p.m.  
 Ladywood vs. South Lyon, 6 p.m.  
**(Pontiac Notre Dame Prep Invitational)**  
 Stevenson vs. Warren Regina, noon.  
 Notre Dame Prep vs. Det. Univ. Prep, 2 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Dec. 30**  
 Notre Dame Prep Invitational, noon & 2 p.m.

Ladywood Holiday Tournament, 4 & 6 p.m.  
**(Wayne Memorial Holiday Shootout)**  
 Albion vs. Frankfort, 11:30 a.m.  
 Thurston vs. Ferndale, 1 p.m.  
 Franklin vs. Berkley, 2:30 p.m.  
 Farmington vs. Willow Run, 4 p.m.  
 Redford Union vs. Det. Western, 5:30 p.m.  
**(Country Day Roundball Classic)**  
 N. Farmington vs. Det. Pershing, 3:10 p.m.  
**PREP HOCKEY**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 30**  
 Franklin vs. Novi at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.  
**PREP WRESTLING**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 29**  
 Salem Invitational, 9 a.m.  
**Wednesday, Dec. 30**  
 Brother Rice Invitational, 9 a.m.  
 Trenton Invitational, 9 a.m.  
 Canton Duals at EMU, 9 a.m.

**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 29**  
**(Hope College Russ DeVette Tourney)**  
 Davenport vs. Grace Bible, 6 p.m.  
 Hope College vs. Madonna, 8 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Dec. 30**  
 Hope College DeVette Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 29**  
 Madonna at Wayne State, 1 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Dec. 30**  
 Mercyhurst (Pa.) at Madonna, 3 p.m.  
**ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
**Monday, Dec. 28**  
 Erie Otters vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Dec. 29**  
 Whalers at Sarnia Sting, 6 p.m.

# Plymouth grapplers 1st at Ida

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Undeclared performances from a handful of Plymouth wrestlers keyed the Wildcats Dec. 19 to the Ida Invitational championship.

Plymouth finished 4-1, as did the host Bluestreaks (the lone team to defeat the Wildcats) and Dexter. But the 'Cats were awarded overall champion because of the tie-breaker — point differential among the three squads.

"It would have been nice to beat Ida and win the tournament outright, but they provide a very difficult matchup for us," said Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey, referring to his team's 41-32 loss to Ida. "Dexter's team has the matchups to beat Ida and we were lucky enough to have that happen."

"Almost any criteria that was used would have been used to break the tie had us come out the tournament champions, we were the most complete team there that day."

Undeclared days by heavyweights Jordan Birman and Wally Eppler, Alec Breckenridge (112) and Jimmy Ahearn (135-140) keyed Plymouth's productive showing at the round-robin tourney.

In the opening round, Plymouth toppled Jonesville, 55-15 and went on to a 48-33 win over Adrian-Madison Sand Creek in Round 2.

The Wildcats then defeated Dexter in Round 3, 48-33, sparked by pins registered by Eppler, Shadi Jammoul, Breckenridge, Ziad Tamimi, Ahearn and (in comeback fashion) Tate Braboy.

Next came the big matchup of the day, with Plymouth

facing Ida — ranked No. 8 in Division 3.

It was a back-and-forth tilt, with Plymouth victories scored by Eppler, Breckenridge, Ahearn, senior captain Brandon Crowther, Jackson Chalmers and Curtis Crosier.

Plymouth finished off the tournament with a 76-4 man-handling of Summit Academy.

"The team was really pleased with how we did," Guernsey noted. "Winning the tournament came at a good time and we look forward to working over the holiday break as we get ready for our conference season to start at home on Jan. 6 against Salem and Novi."

Other Plymouth wrestlers to earn wins were Chase Kallil, Rob Barackman, Brendon Varner, Said Youssef and Brett Echols.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

## Trojan cagers fall to 0-5 on season

The Waterford Kettering boys basketball team made a 17-8 first-quarter advantage stand up Tuesday to beat Livonia Clarenceville, 64-53, in Tuesday's second annual Rocket Roundball Classic hosted by Westland John Glenn.

Ryan Dingman led the victorious Captains, who improved

to 4-0 overall, with 17 points. Brandon Carlson and Brett Hoffman chipped in with 13 and 10, respectively.

Clarenceville senior guard Ben Watts paced all scorers with 19 points.

Senior guards Levonte Brooks and Mike Schiffman contributed 10 and eight, respectively, as the Trojans

slipped to 0-5 overall. Clarenceville trailed 31-25 at halftime and scored the first five points of the third quarter to pull to within one, 31-30.

But the Captains regrouped to lead 49-41 after three periods and held off the Trojans.

Kettering shot 7-of-14 from the foul line, while Clarenceville was 13-of-19.

## Whalers Seguin picked for CHL/NHL Prospects Game

Plymouth Whalers forward Tyler Seguin didn't make the final cut for the Canadian World Juniors Team, getting the bad news last week.

But he did get named to the 2010 Home Hardware CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game. The game will take place at the WFCU Centre in Windsor, Ont., beginning with a skills competition on Tuesday, Jan. 19 followed by the game the next night.

Rosters were selected by the 30 NHL General Managers with NHL Central Scouting and include 18 players from the Ontario Hockey League, 13 players from the Western Hockey League and nine players from the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

"I'm excited about playing," said Seguin, who was listed first in the OHL by NHL Central Scouting in their November preliminary rankings. "It's an opportunity to

play among the best players in the (Canadian Hockey League)."

"The game is something we all dream about when we're growing up, so we're all looking forward to play. It should be a lot of fun."

Home Hardware continues as the title sponsor of the Home Hardware CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game for the eleventh straight year.

Associate sponsors include Bank of Montreal, Subway, and NeilMed. The game will be broadcast nationally live on Rogers Sportsnet and RDS.

More information can be found at the official event website: [www.homehardwaretopprospectsgame.com](http://www.homehardwaretopprospectsgame.com).

**WALERS SPLIT PAIR:** Four goals by Guelph's Mathew Sisca proved too much for visiting Plymouth Saturday, as the Storm earned a 4-3 Ontario Hockey League victory.

The game at Sleeman Centre got off to a positive start for the Whalers, when forward Tyler G. Brown scored his fifth goal of the season at the

4:45 mark of the opening period.

But Sisca put Guelph up 2-1 with a pair in the middle stanza.

Tyler Seguin, back from an unsuccessful bid to make the Canadian World Juniors converted a feed from Robbie Czarnik at 19:14 to knot the contest at 2-2.

The teams traded markers in the third, with Sisca's third making it 3-2 at 5:52 and Plymouth's Beau Schmitz scoring at 16:34 to tie it up again.

Guelph then won the game when Sisca drilled a shot past Plymouth goalie Matt Hackett (also back from a bid for the Canadian World Juniors) at 16:51.

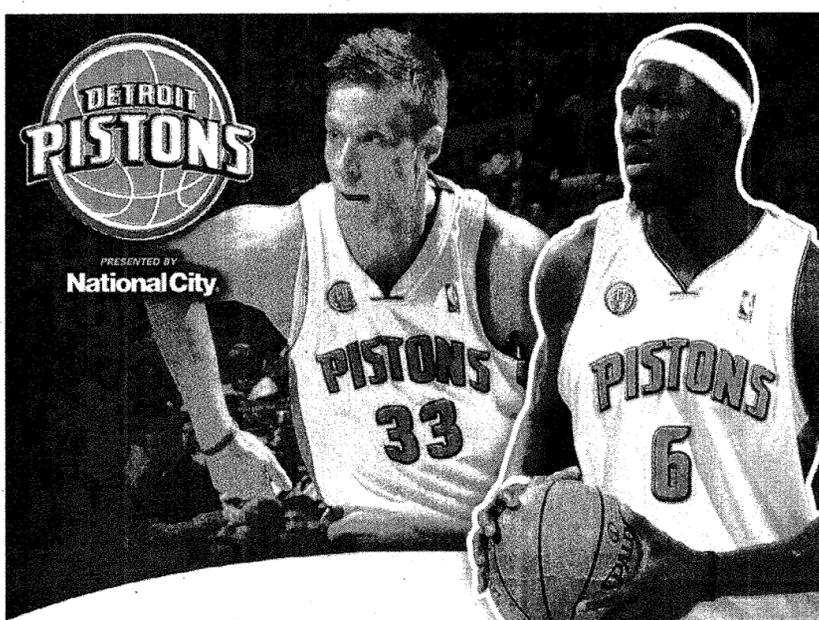
Despite the loss, Hackett played well, stopping 39 of 43 shots for the Whalers (20-16-0-1).

Guelph improved to 14-18-2-1 with the victory.

Meanwhile, on Friday, Dec. 18, goals by Mitchell Heard and Josh Brittain, coupled with a 34-save night by Hackett, enabled Plymouth to earn a 2-1 win over host Oshawa.

The Whalers are idle until 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 when they host Erie at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

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**SPORTS ROUNDUP**

**Soccer openings**  
 The Livonia City Soccer Club has immediate openings for a second team in the under-18 age group.  
 Schoolcraft College men's soccer assistant and LCSC staff member Eric Scott will coach the team. For more information, call (734) 464-8575.

**Westland Holiday Hoops**  
 The City of Westland Parks and Recreation's second annual 1-on-1 Holiday Hoops Champ will offer a second session for ages 5-13 (grades K-6) from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. — Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 28-30, at the Bailey Recreation Center.  
 The cost is \$75 for Westland residents and \$82 for non-residents.  
 For more information, call (734) 418-3190; or visit [www.ion1basketball.com/michigan](http://www.ion1basketball.com/michigan).

**MU softball camps**  
 Madonna University will stage three winter softball camps at the MU Activities Center featuring specialized individual instruction covering all phases of the game for girls ages 7-18.  
 Among the camps offered include:

Fundamental No. 1 — 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 (cost \$150);  
 Fundamental No. 2 — noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 (cost \$150).  
 For more information, call MU head coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail [awhite@madonna.edu](mailto:awhite@madonna.edu).

**Need lacrosse coach**  
 Livonia Ladywood is seeking a varsity girls lacrosse coach for the 2010 spring season. If interested, fax a resume to Ladywood Athletic Director Sal Malek at (734) 591-2386.

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# All-Area grididders in a league of their own

## FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

**Vince Salatino, Sr. QB, Harrison:** Salatino (6-3, 175) passed for 1,620 yards and 21 touchdowns while completing 112-of-215 passes for 52.1 percent. He was voted his team's Most Outstanding Back and led Harrison to a Division 2 playoff berth and a 7-4 record.

"I thought Vince improved steadily as the year went on," coach John Herrington said. "He had to overcome quite a personal loss during the season (with the death of his mother). He didn't want to let his teammates down (never missing a game), and he continued to perform at a high level. He only threw six passes as a junior, so he stepped in as the quarterback, which is a pretty tough job at Harrison, and did very well."

**Jeremy Langford, Sr. RB, Westland Glenn:** The 6-1, 190-pound senior, who possesses 4.41 speed in the 40, rushed for 1,934 yards and 23 touchdowns, along with passing for two TDs.

At defensive back, Langford had 55 tackles and two interceptions.

"Jeremy had a tremendous senior season due to his work ethic in the off-season," Glenn coach Tim Hardin said of the All-State and All-KLAA selection. "He worked hard in the weight room. He is very fast and learned to trust his speed this season."

Langford is being recruited by Colorado, Wisconsin, Michigan State, Indiana and Michigan.

**Austin White, Sr. RB, Liv.** Stevenson: Set to enroll at Michigan next month, the 6-0, 190-pound White rushed for 5,056 career yards with more than 6,700 all-purpose yards and 85 TDs.

This season, White had 1,494 yards rushing in 209 attempts with 21 TDs. He also caught 16 passes for 169 yards.

"Austin was the focal point of every opponent's defense, and deservedly so," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said of the All-State and All-KLAA choice. "He was still incredibly productive this season, and was an outstanding blocker when not carrying the ball. He led our team not only statistically, but in practice week preparation and focus."

**Adam Payter, Sr. RB, Canton:**

Whenever a hole opened up in Canton's offensive line, one of the dangerous running backs to zip right through was the speedy 5-9 Payter.

In his second season as a starter in the backfield, he rolled up 1,763 yards on 142 carries and scored 17 touchdowns. The All-KLAA pick set new Canton school records by tallying 12.4 yards per rush and a shade under 147 yards per game.

"He has very explosive speed, great balance," Chiefs head coach Tim Baechler said. "And with his cutting ability, once he got in the open and with his speed, he could take it the distance. He was an excellent two-year starter."

**Levonté Brooks, Sr. RB, Liv. Clarenceville:**

The 5-7, 160-pound senior, Metro Conference Offensive MVP led the Trojans this season in both rushing and receiving with 1,400 yards of total offense and a team-best 18 touchdowns.

Brooks ended his three-year varsity career with more than 3,000 yards rushing and 40 TDs.

"Levonté has the natural ability to make plays when plays weren't there," Clarenceville coach Ryan Irish said. "We had a young line in front of him, but he could make up for it by making people miss. He will be missed around here."

**Tony DiFranco, Sr. OL, Red. Thurston:**

The 5-11, 240-pound senior anchored both sides of the line of scrimmage for the Eagles in his second season as a starter. At center, DiFranco was instrumental in the success of the ground game, while on the defense proved to be a wall of terror for opposing ballcarriers.

"He is so tremendous at everything he does," Thurston head coach Bob Snell said. "This year he learned how to finish his blocks. He led into you and kept coming and coming at you. He's tenacious and strong and knew how to use his leverage to drive you back."

**Carter Staffeld, Sr. OL, Canton:**

For the second straight year, the 6-1, 240-pound Staffeld put a major hurt on KLAAs defenses, opening up gaps for Canton's impressive roster of running backs to take advantage of. Staffeld, an All-KLAA pick and All-Stater who made the "Dream Team," proved to be the Chiefs' most dominant blocker.

"He's very, very physical," Baechler said. "He's one of those rare guys who can do everything well. He can reach, he can pull, he can block, get to the linebackers, get to the defensive backs downfield. He's just a very explosive football player."

**Jacob Blach, Sr. OL, Redford Union:**

Standing 6-0 and weighing 220 pounds, Blach anchored the offensive line by splitting duties at both center and guard. He proved just as dominant on the other side of the ball where responsibilities at either tackle, end or middle linebacker resulted in a team-leading 55 tackles, including seven for loss, and nine sacks.

"Jacob was our best player, and probably the smartest football player I have ever coached," RU head coach Miles Tomasaitis said. "He knew every position on the field and all their responsibilities."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn's Jeremy Langford rushed for over 1,900 yards this season. He is being recruited by Colorado and Michigan State.

**Nate Coleman, Sr. OL, Liv. Franklin:**

The 6-3, 305-pound senior, a three-year starter on offense, makes his second straight appearance on the All-Observer first-team after helping the Patriots to their third straight Division 1 state playoff berth.

Coleman also excelled on defense with 69 tackles, including five sacks.

"Nate never missed a game in 32 games," Kelbert said.

**Brennen Beyer, Jr. TE, Plymouth:** The junior excelled on both sides of the football for the Wildcats. As a tight end, he wasn't just a player with good hands. His blocking provided ample space and time for quarterback Victor Hicks to run an offense, helping Plymouth reach the playoffs.

And on defense, Beyer was always there at defensive end. The All-KLAA selection tallied 43 tackles, nine assists and nine quarterback sacks.

"He's a great young man on and off the field," Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk said. "Brennen is extremely athletic and can play any position on the field. I am glad that he is only a junior. We are expecting big things from him next year."

**Aaron Burbridge, Soph. WR, Harrison:**

Burbridge (5-11, 165) was Harrison's top receiver with 43 catches for 752 yards and eight touchdowns. He averaged 17.5 yards per catch, and he also started in the defensive secondary.

"I think he's going to be a tremendous player the next two years," Herrington said. "He has great jumping ability and good speed. He's one of the most talented players we've had. If he continues to work hard, he has a great future ahead of him. He's really the whole package. Right now he relies on his athletic ability. Once he really learns the game, I think he can be a D-I prospect."

**Jason Wilson, Jr. WR, Farmington:**

Wilson had 33 receptions for 548 yards and two touchdowns. He also returned punts and kickoffs. As a cover corner on defense, Wilson (6-0, 171 pounds) had three interceptions — one of which he returned for a touchdown — and 28 tackles, including 22 solos.

"He's an incredibly gifted athlete, and he's a game breaker on both sides of the ball," coach John Bechtel said. "Defensively, he's a great cover kid. He's dangerous because of his ability to intercept the ball and go the distance. He busted a punt return for a touchdown in Week 2. After that, teams really didn't kick to him."

**Kyle Brindza, Jr. K/P, Plymouth:**

It was almost routine to watch Brindza send kickoffs soaring through the end zone, always pinning opponents back in their zone. His kicking resulted in 32 touchbacks.

The top-ranked prep kicker in Michigan this year according to Rivals.com — a tool used by college recruiters — he also showed the ability to launch rocket punts (48.7-yard average, three for more than 70 yards) and boot lengthy field goals for the Wildcats (his longest was 48 yards). Brindza again earned selection to the D-1 All-State and All-KLAA teams.

"Kyle is a great weapon on the football field for us," Sawchuk said. "He makes the opposing team have to drive 80 yards after his kickoffs go out of the end zone, he can hit field goals from 50 yards out and can get you out of a jam in your own end of the field with a 70-yard punt."

"Most importantly, he gets it done in the classroom and has great character."

## 2009 ALL-OBSERVER FOOTBALL

### FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Vince Salatino, Sr. QB, F.H. Harrison  
Jeremy Langford, Sr. RB, Westland Glenn  
Austin White, Sr. RB, Liv. Stevenson  
Adam Payter, Sr. RB, Canton  
Levonté Brooks, Sr. RB, Liv. Clarenceville  
Tony DiFranco, Sr. OL, Red. Thurston  
Carter Staffeld, Sr. OL, Canton  
Jacob Blach, Sr. OL, Redford Union  
Nate Coleman, Sr. OL, Liv. Franklin  
Brennen Beyer, Jr. TE, Plymouth  
Aaron Burbridge, Soph. WR, F.H. Harrison  
Jason Wilson, Jr. WR, Farmington  
Kyle Brindza, Jr. K/P, Plymouth

### FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

Austin Micallef, Sr. DL, Liv. Stevenson  
Sean McAuliffe, Sr. DL, Liv. Franklin  
Alex Dixon, Sr. DL, Canton  
Darrell Cohn, Sr. DL, Plymouth  
Dakota Dark-Bird, Sr. DE, Canton  
Leonard Welch, Sr. DL, Farmington  
Jordan El-Sabeh, Sr. DE, Liv. Stevenson  
Desmond Martin, Sr. LB, Red. Thurston  
Aaron Smith, Sr. LB, Westland Glenn  
Steven Murphy, Sr. LB, Westland Glenn  
Austin Root, Sr. LB, Salem  
Arron Boudreaux, Sr. DB, Canton  
DJ Cook, Sr. DB, F.H. Harrison  
Troy Bell, Sr. CB, Red. Thurston

### COACH OF YEAR

Bob Snell, Redford Thurston  
SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE  
Victor Hicks, Sr. QB, Plymouth  
Nick Mills, Sr. QB, Wayne  
Kevin Delapaz, Sr. QB, Canton  
Ethan Haller, Sr. RB, Liv. Westland  
Davion Stackhouse, Jr. RB, Canton  
Justin Kelly, Sr. WR, F.H. Harrison  
Anthony Frezzell, Sr. DB, Liv. Churchill  
Dustin Gajowyak, Sr. DB, Westland Glenn  
Matt Sheridan, Sr. OL, Plymouth  
Christopher Wasczenski, Sr. C, Garden City  
Vince Davidson, Sr. C, Westland Glenn  
Mario Ojenedia, Soph. OL, F.H. Harrison  
Alec Gilo, Sr. OL, Canton  
Marco Iaderosa, Sr. K/P, Farmington  
SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE  
Ben Poire, Jr. DL, Canton  
Tom Norris, Jr. DL, Farmington  
Ethan Walsh, Jr. LB, Salem  
Leonard Hogan, Sr. LB, Liv. Clarenceville  
Nick Catalano, Sr. LB, Redford Union  
Brian Miller, Sr. LB, N. Farmington  
Duran Onnuemene, Jr. LB, Liv. Stevenson  
Zach Washington, Jr. DB, N. Farmington  
Keith Marshall, Sr. DB, Redford Union  
William Webster, Jr. DB, Red. Thurston  
Zack Hardyne, Sr. DB, Wayne  
Mitch Sanders, Jr. DB, Farmington  
Bryan Koessler, Sr. DB, Liv. Stevenson  
Kevin Mozurkewicz, Sr. DB, Liv. Churchill

### HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Paulin Chateau, Dylan Ochala; Franklin: Chris Vantuyt, Anthony Barber, Daniel Muller, Ryan Hurt, Wayne Hawkins, Robert Ringe, Mike Baumgardner; Stevenson: John Paulen, Mike Roy, David Tharpe, Alex Law, Stephen Pollard, Jon Anead, Jon Gudeman, Joe Swingle, Mike Beyer; John Glenn: Caleb Clenney, Davarius Jenkins, Chase Glover, Steve Kulkowski, Kameron Jones, Donnell Brewer, Javarius Snowden; Wayne: Dylan Korzetzki, Kyle Davis, Sean Ogile, Dan Ross, Chris Bowie; Clarenceville: Moses Hobson, Anthony Page; Lutheran High Westland: Vince MacRae, David Moldenhauer; Garden City: Greg Emery, Tyler Steele; Redford Thurston: Josh Bobbish, Trent Campbell, Gary Kostedek, Derrick Rodgers; Redford Union: Brad Billings; Canton: Garrett Bryden, Kevin Buford, Ryan Dunleavy, Rohn Gaudi, Chris Hilton, Tyler Hult, Angelo Lanava, Josh Nolen, Ryan Powell, Jack Slater, Jake Underwood; Plymouth: Jordan Birman, Jernarian Caldwell, James Emminger, Tyler Goble, Matthew Priebe, Anthony Rhoads, Jacob Zawaski; Salem: Marcus Houston; Harrison: Brent Regish, Dominic Maccotti, David Evans, Max Chapman, Derek Heck, Christian Success, Emon Butts, Lido Zefi; Farmington: Matt Craven, Neno Jones-Fletcher, Dae'von Scarber, Kevin Waksmundzki; North Farmington: Chris Stewart, Jacob Carter.

### FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

**Austin Micallef, Sr. DL, Liv. Stevenson:** The 6-1, 270-pound senior, who helped the Spartans to an 8-3 record and a KLAAs Kensington Conference title, racked up 84 tackles, including nine for loss, with two sacks en route to All-KLAA honors.

"Austin has great strength and lateral movement, which makes him hard to block one-on-one," Gabel said. "When he wasn't on the tackle, he was keeping blockers off other members of our defense."

**Sean McAuliffe, Sr. DL, Liv. Franklin:**

The 6-2, 240-pound senior defensive end and guard finished with a total of 85 tackles, including 11 for loss, and four sacks en route to All-State and All-KLAA recognition.



Vince Salatino Harrison



Jeremy Langford John Glenn



Austin White Stevenson



Adam Payter Canton



Levonté Brooks Clarenceville



Tony DiFranco Thurston



Carter Staffeld Canton



Jacob Blach Redford Union



Nate Coleman Franklin



Brennen Beyer Plymouth



Aaron Burbridge Harrison



Jason Wilson Farmington



Kyle Brindza Plymouth



Austin Micallef Stevenson



Sean McAuliffe Franklin



Alex Dixon Canton



Darrell Cohn Plymouth



Dakota Dark-Bird Canton



Leonard Welch Farmington



Jordan El-Sabeh Stevenson



Desmond Martin Thurston



Aaron Smith John Glenn



Steven Murphy John Glenn



Austin Root Salem



DJ Cook Harrison



Troy Bell Jr. Thurston



Bob Snell Thurston coach



Jordan El-Sabeh, Sr. DE, Liv. Stevenson:

The 6-4, 206-pound senior earned All-KLAA honors for his efforts, and chipped in on the offensive side of the ball.

"He was a very physical blocker and very quick for a bigger kid," Baechler said. "And he was just a great blocking tight end, one of the best we've had."

**Leonard Welch, Sr. DE, Farmington:** Though he's not big (6-0, 178) for a defensive lineman, Welch used his quickness and athletic ability to be an effective end and pass rusher. He made 83 tackles (53-30), intercepted a pass, caused two fumbles and scored a defensive touchdown. He also started at tight end.

"Leonard is just a relentless player," Bechtel said. "He never came off the field; he was on every special team. He's another great athlete with great quickness off the edge, and he caused a lot of chaos in opponents' back-

fields. We tried to free him up on the edge; we didn't give him any tackle reads. He was an up-the-field player."

**Darrell Cohn, Sr. DL, Plymouth:** The senior and All-KLAA selection was a defensive dynamo for the Wildcats, with 47 tackles, 10 assists, eight quarterback sacks and many other times where his pressure altered plays.

"The best word to describe Darrell is relentless," Sawchuk said. "He has great speed and explosiveness off the ball. On some nights, Darrell disrupted the whole offense by himself."

Sawchuk said it wouldn't be surprising if Cohn went on to become a "great player at the next level."

**Dakota Dark-Bird, Sr. DE, Canton:** The 6-2, 225-pound senior co-captain and third-year starter sparked the Chiefs' tough, menacing defense, contributing 28 tackles and a fumble recovery. Dark-Bird was one of the big reasons Canton gave up just 160 points and went 10-2, coming within an eyelash of defeating eventual Division 1 state champion Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

Dark-Bird, who for the second year earned All-KLAA honors for his efforts, also chipped in on the offensive side of the ball.

"He was a very physical blocker and very quick for a bigger kid," Baechler said. "And he was just a great blocking tight end, one of the best we've had."

Another two-way stud for Division 1 district champion Canton, the 6-0, 215-pound senior co-captain and third-year starter did everything well for the Chiefs.

Not only did he punt, kick field goals and provide a short-range receiving target for quarterback Kevin Delapaz, he racked up 79 tackles and two fumble recoveries while playing as a high-octane linebacker.

Dixon again was an All-KLAA selection. "He's probably one of my best all-around football players," Baechler said, citing the many jobs Dixon did well for his team. "He can punt, he can placekick, he also played tight end, middle linebacker. He's just a great kid and a heckuva football player."

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other characteristics that Root displayed with regularity as he was one of the bright spots on a team that finished 2-7. Root earned selection to the All-KLAA team.

**Arron Boudreaux, Sr. DB, Canton:** The senior two-year starter made the All-KLAA team and with good reason. He registered 50 tackles out of the defensive backfield, also picking off three passes (returning one for a TD) and recovering a fumble.

For good measure, Boudreaux chipped in with two receiving touchdowns and a kick return TD.

"He's probably the best athlete on the team," Baechler said. "He has height, speed, just tremendous ability at defensive back and wide receiver. And he's an excellent tackler."

**DJ Cook, Sr. DB, Harrison:** Cook, who won the Harrison MVP award, was considered his team's best football player by coach John Herrington. As a cornerback, he not only covered opposing receivers, but made 33 tackles and had 14 assists. Cook (5-9, 165) had four pass deflections, blocked two kicks and caused a fumble.

"He usually played on the best receiver from the other team, and he was one of our best hitters," Herrington said. "He also played on all special teams, and he was our Special Teams Player of the Year. He really surprised us because he hadn't played that much as a junior. He really came on."

**Troy Bell, Sr. CB, Red. Thurston:** Bell, a 6-1, 175-pound cornerback, gave new meaning to lockdown corner as he didn't allow a single pass to be completed in his vicinity the entire season. Playing through a host of injuries, Bell spearheaded the Eagles secondary by collecting five interceptions, breaking up nine passes and recording 43 tackles. He also saw action at split end, where he caught 36 passes for 546 yards and scored four touchdowns.

"You can't get a better stat than not allowing a single pass to be caught," Snell said. "He played hurt most of the year and was still outstanding on both sides of the ball. As a receiver, he made some unbelievable catches and was a highlight reel all by himself."

**COACH OF THE YEAR**  
**Bob Snell, Red. Thurston:** The list of accomplishments achieved by Redford Thurston and head coach Bob Snell this season was something very special. The Eagles soared past all six league opponents en route to capturing the WWAC Red Division championship and gaining a berth in the Division 2 state playoffs. Once there, they managed to record their first-ever postseason victory with a hard-fought triumph over Detroit King. And included in the team's eight wins on the season was Snell's 100th coaching victory.

"Anytime a coach gets an award, it's a team award," said Snell, selected as 2009 All-Observer Coach of the Year. "We just had a great bunch of kids to coach this year and the closeness between players and coaches was amazing. They were together right from the beginning, working hard and not wanting to let each other down. It's always fun when your team reaches its goals."

"Austin was our true leader on and off the field," Salem coach Kurt Britnell said. "He played much bigger than his 5-11, 185-pound frame. He has a great attitude and made others better."

Heart and determination were

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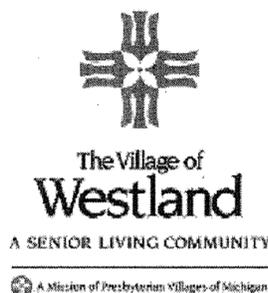
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MILESTONES

**CANTON COUPLE MARKS 30 YEARS**

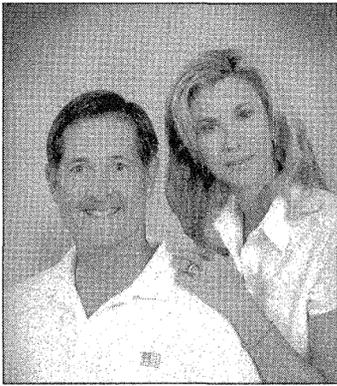
Blaine and Rebecca (Young) McKinney of Canton will celebrate their 30-year wedding anniversary on Dec. 22.

They were married in 1979 in Bossier City, La.

The couple has three children, Austin, Connor and Lucas.

Blaine is a B-767 captain for Delta Airlines. Rebecca teaches in Wayne-Westland schools. Their interests include Michigan Air Force Academy Parent's Club, Plymouth Wildcat Football, Air Force Football and Louisiana home cooking. They attend St. Thomas a' Becket Catholic Church.

The McKinneys plan a 30th anniversary dinner with their parents and children.



Blaine and Becky McKinney of Canton

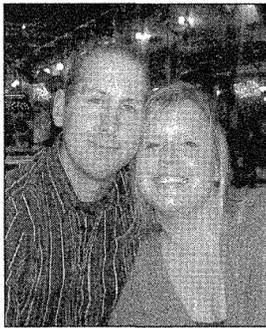
**SEPTEMBER WEDDING PLANNED**

Courtney Akers and Greg Bintz announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Tonja and Dennis Akers of Canton, is a 2002 graduate of Canton High School and a 2008 graduate of Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in human resources. She is employed as an assistant general manager for Marriott Hotels in Syracuse, N.Y.

Her fiancé, son of Janice and James Bintz of East Syracuse, N.Y., is a 1996 graduate of East Syracuse-Minoa High School and a 2000 graduate of Clarkson University with a bachelor of science degree in computer engineering. He's employed as a software engineer for Sensis Corporation in Easy Syracuse, N.Y.

A September 2010 wedding is planned at Fox Hills in Plymouth.



Akers-Bintz

**JULY WEDDING PLANNED**

Mr. and Mrs. James Herrick of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Heather Dianne, to Kenneth James Tell, son of James Tell of Aurelia, Iowa and the late Carol Tell.

The bride-to-be is a 1994 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, and a 1998 graduate of Michigan State University with a B.A. in hospitality business. She is employed by Preferred Meal Systems, Inc. as an account executive.

The groom-elect is employed by Apple as a regional manager.

A July 2010 wedding is planned in Plymouth.



Herrick-Tell

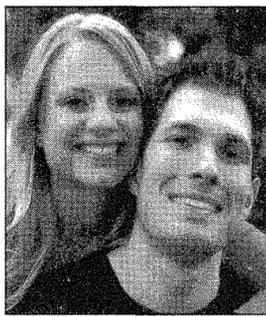
**JUNE 2010 WEDDING PLANNED**

Richard and Katherine Brown of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Erica Maureen, to Jason Duane Sowders, son of Karen Devito of Tampa, Fla., and Duane Sowders of Melvindale.

The bride-to-be is a 1999 graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia and a 2004 graduate of Madonna University in Livonia. She is working on a master's degree at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and teaches seventh grade math at Clarenceville Middle School.

The groom-to-be graduated in 1999 from Franklin Road Christian High School in Novi and after switching careers, is finishing a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at Wayne State University.

The couple plans to wed in June 2010 at Northville Hills Golf Club in Northville.



Brown-Sowders

**OCTOBER WEDDING PLANNED**

Brian Grant proposed to Katie Fones at a recent Backbeats concert at the Majestic Theater in Detroit. The bride-to-be's parents, Jean and Craig Fones of Livonia and her fiancé's mother, Colleen Mills, and stepfather, George T. Mills, also of Livonia, were there to witness the proposal. Brian's father is Ronald Grant of Royal Oak.

Brian and Katie are both graduates of Churchill High School and Schoolcraft College.

An October 2010 wedding is planned.



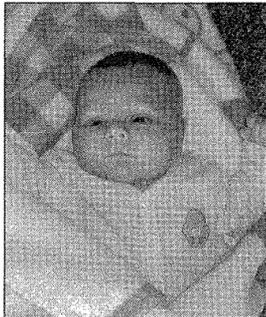
Fones-Grant

**ROMAN MICHAEL SWELSTAD**

Roman Michael Swelstad was born Nov. 14, 2009 in Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco, Calif.

Proud parents are Mike and Kate Swelstad of San Francisco.

Grandparents are Ron and Billie Swelstad and Joe and Bogi Kwapisz, all of Farmington Hills.



Roman Michael Swelstad

**Weight-control group has tips to keep pounds off**

The holiday season doesn't have to create havoc on your weight-loss goals, says Take Off Pounds Sensibly, (TOPS) Club, Inc., the nonprofit weight-loss support group.

TOPS offers these strategies to navigate the holiday season and keep extra pounds off:

- Don't go hungry. Arriving at a party on an empty stomach is a recipe for disaster that can lead you to overeat and make poor choices. Have a light snack of a low-fat, high-fiber food a half-hour before you go, such as yogurt, an apple with a teaspoon of peanut butter, a piece of string cheese, or vegetables with low-calorie dip. This will help curb your appetite and make it easier to control your intake.

- Treat yourself. There's no need to ban your favorites; decide what you want to try and then set a limit. Cakes, cookies, and pies are available year-round, so indulge in small portions of only the best seasonal, holiday foods. Just a taste of something special can be enough to quell a craving without going overboard.

- Take control. Offer to bring a low-calorie dish or platter to holiday gatherings. By preparing something that you know fits into your meal plan, you'll have at least one healthy item on hand and other guests will likely appreciate it. Your hostess may also be grateful for the lessened stress of preparing multiple dishes.

- Slow your pace. Eat slowly until you are satisfied, not stuffed. It takes about 20 minutes for your body to signal that you're feeling full, so enjoy each bite and give yourself time to know when you've had enough. You'll likely consume less than usual.

- Mind your beverages. Drink plenty of water to help feel full and hydrated. Adding a twist of lemon or lime to sparkling water is a lively alternative to alcohol and coffee drinks, which can actually make you feel sluggish. Alcohol can also impair your judgment and make it difficult to stick to healthy eating resolutions. If you do choose to imbibe, select light beers and wines, and limit your intake to one or two drinks per occasion. Drink high-calorie seasonal favorites, like egg nog, punch, and full-fat hot chocolate, in moderation — or steer

clear of them altogether.

- Pair up with a friend. Make a pact that you will support and help keep each other on track. Don't hesitate to lean on each other if you need encouragement to resist tempting treats or power through a workout. Remember, you're not the only one refraining from holiday overindulgence.

- Keep moving. It's easy to let workouts fall by the wayside. If you aren't able to set aside time each day for exercise, commit to at least 30 minutes three days per week. Many people continue their regular walking or jogging schedules year-round, but also consider walking in malls or the building where you work.

- Indoor pools, weight-workout rooms, tracks, and basketball courts are commonly available in community facilities and schools. Municipal ice skating rinks, both indoors and out, offer a change of pace from the usual routine, while cross-country skiing and hiking let you build up your strength while enjoying nature's beauty. Maintaining a workout routine also can help you manage holiday stress.

- Rest up. Make adequate sleep — seven to eight hours

— a priority, especially during this busy season. Getting enough rest can help repair your body, keep you mentally sharp, and enable you to be more productive.

- Make friends and family a priority. Although food and drinks can be a big part of the holiday season, they don't have to be the focus. Set aside time to spend with good friends and family, making memories that make the holidays worthwhile.

- Keep your perspective. Be realistic and maintain a long-term view of your weight-loss goals. Overeating one day won't make or break your plans; just aim to eat healthy and in moderation the next day. Dieting can be especially difficult during the holidays. Focus on maintaining your present weight and look toward the new year as a fresh start.

To find a local TOPS chapter, visit [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org) or call (800) 932-8677.

Here's a sampling of local TOPS groups:

Canton — St. Thomas A'Becket, 555 S. Lilley; meetings at 7 p.m., Thursday

Farmington Hills — Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile; meetings at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday; and Tapiola Village, 35150 W. Eight Mile, in the clubhouse, meetings at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Garden City — The Harrison Center, 6701 Harrison, room 7; meetings at 10 a.m., Thursday

Livonia — Newburgh United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, meetings at 6 p.m., Tuesday; Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh, meetings at 9:30 a.m., Thursday; Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, meetings at 7:15 p.m., Monday

Redford — South Redford Christian Church, 26505 W. Chicago Road, meetings at 7:30 p.m., Thursday; Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, meetings at noon, Wednesday; Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, meetings at 7 p.m., Tuesday

Westland — Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, meetings at 7 p.m., Monday; St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday; Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley, meetings at 6:45 p.m. Monday

Visitors may attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge.

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**ELIZABETH C. BANKS**

Age 77 of Carleton formerly of Westland passed away on December 18, 2009. She had been employed for sixteen years by the Wayne Westland Community Schools as a Bus Driver. [www.merklefuneralservice.com](http://www.merklefuneralservice.com)

**JUDY C. BARTLEY**

Age 66, December 20, 2009. Beloved wife of Goebel for 50 years. Loving mother of Joey and Cindy. Dearest grandmother of Danny. Sister of Donna, Proud member of First Baptist of Livonia. Visitation was Tuesday, 5-9pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd., Livonia. Funeral Service was Wednesday, in state at 10am until the time of service at 11am at First Baptist Church of Livonia, 17725 Inkster Rd., Livonia, MI 48152. Interment Parkview Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the church.

**DOROTHY EMMA BAUMAN**

Of Detroit. October 6, 2009 at 98 years of age. Wife of the late Stanley A. (died October 6, 1949). Loving mother of Keith (Suzanne) Bauman of Bloomfield Twp. Beloved grandmother of Sheryl (David) Laidlaw and Kevin (Shelby) Bauman. Great grandmother of Jack and Connor Laidlaw. Preceded in death by 3 brothers and 2 sisters. Dorothy worked for Ameritech as an executive secretary from 1950-1974. She stayed active in the AT & T Pioneers long after her retirement. Dorothy volunteered for the Michigan Cancer Society, and enjoyed playing golf. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, December 30, 2009 11:00a.m. in the Chapel at Lourdes Nursing Home, 2300 Watkins Lake Rd., Waterford. Arrangements entrusted to Coats Funeral Home, Waterford. Memorials donations may be made to Lourdes Campus, envelopes available at the memorial service. To send a private condolence to the family go to: [www.coatsfuneralhome.com](http://www.coatsfuneralhome.com) and select Guestbook.

**ROBERT O. DIX**

Age 84, of Farmington, December 23rd, 2009, following a lengthy struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Survived by his devoted wife Jacqueline "Jackie" (nee Tatham); loving children, Dawn (Jerry) Grady, Duane (Gail) Dix and Cindy Walton; grandchildren, Justin (Mary) Walton, Kristen (Michael) O'Dea, Nathan Page, Amy (David) Hockenull, Rose Walton, Emily (Kristen) Mullins, Amanda Page and Nicole Page; great-grandchildren, Caylee and Riley Kaitner, Delayna and Andrew Hockenull, Isaac Walton, and Ethan Mullins; 6 step-grandchildren, 14 step-great-grandchildren and 1 step-great-great-grandson; siblings, Harley (Beatrice) Dix, Willis "Bill" (Sally) Dix and Bernice (Ray) Myers-Smith; and numerous nieces and nephews and their extended families. He was preceded in death by parents, Harley and Ada. Memorial Service, concluded with Naval Honors, Monday, Dec. 28, 11:00 AM at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 23615 Power Rd., Farmington. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes suggested to Society of St. Vincent DePaul at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Farmington. Arrangements entrusted to the Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). [heeneys-sundquist.com](http://heeneys-sundquist.com)

**DAVID R. HUBBS**

Age 87, of Farmington Hills, passed away December 21, 2009. David was born November 12, 1922 in Knoxville, Tennessee to W.R. and Ferol Hubbs. He received a bachelor's degree in engineering from Univ. of Tenn. and earned subsequent masters' degrees from Chrysler Inst. and Wayne State University. David worked as an engineer for Chrysler Corp. and taught at Lawrence Tech., retiring in 1980 and 1995 respectively. He is survived by his wife Nancy, his children, David Jr., Roger, Kay, and Diane, daughters-in-law, Kate and Julie, grandchildren, Valerie and Eric and his sister Virginia Kinlaw. David enjoyed volunteering and was named Goodfellow of the Year in 2002. Visitation and funeral services will be held at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills. Visitation Monday 5-8 pm; Funeral service Tuesday 1pm. Donations may be made to Farmington Area Goodfellows, 31455 West Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills or Orchard United Methodist Church.

**JOHN J. HACKER**

Age 81, December 11, 2009. Loving husband of Shirley and beloved father of Sherry (Fred) McCrory and Ronald Hacker. Grandfather of Kristi (Matt) Daeda, Brad (Marissa) McCrory and Jesse Hacker. Great-grandfather of Aislinn Daeda. John is also survived by his sister Louise Steirman and brother Elmer Hacker, as well as many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home and interment made at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia.

**KENNETH A. MOODY**

Saline, MI. Age 50, died Tuesday, December 22, 2009, at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital located in Ann Arbor, MI. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, December 26, 2009, at 2:00 P.M. at the New Life Bible Baptist Church located at 1175 Grove Road, Ypsilanti, MI, with Rev. Robert W. Mack Officiating. Burial will take place on Monday, December 28, 2009, at 11:00 A.M. at the Oakwood Cemetery located in Saline, MI, with Rev. Darrin Lee Officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to The Thin Blue Line of Michigan, P.O. Box 415, Howell, MI 48844-0415. Envelopes will be available at the Church where friends may begin calling on Saturday, December 26, 2009 from the hours of 11:00 A.M. until time of Service at 2:00 P.M. Arrangements were made by the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home of Saline, MI. To sign Ken's guestbook or to leave a memory please visit: [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com) or [www.mlive.com](http://www.mlive.com)

**CARMELENA "CARMIE" STAUP**

Age 86, and a former resident of Livonia passed away on Dec. 21, 2009. She is survived by her daughter, Linda (Mike) Mauck of Brighton; sons, Bob (Sarah) Staup of Royal Oak, Randy (Sandy) Staup of TN; grandchildren, Crystal (Christopher) Blair, Scott (Kerri) Staup, Kelly (Mike) Cannon, Jeff (Laura) Mauck, Eric (Krista) Mauck; ten great grandchildren, two great great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and dear friends. She was preceded in death by a brother, Russell Guarniere. A Funeral Service will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty, Milford, on Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 10:30AM, with Deacon Jim Gendron officiating. Burial will follow at Milford Memorial Cemetery. Friends may visit Tuesday 3-9PM. Rosary Tuesday 7PM. Memorials may be made in her name to the Alzheimer's Association. For further information please phone 248-684-6645 or visit [www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com)

**ELIZABETH A. HAFLEY**

Age 86 of Plymouth, December 21, 2009. Loving wife of 54 years to the late Glen. Beloved mother of Duane (Susan), David (Janet), Daniel (Jennifer), and Dennis (Cindy). Dear sister of William (Roberta) Gates and Richard (Rose) Gates. Proud grandmother of 6. Elizabeth was a long time active member of St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton. She loved animals, playing bridge with her friends, gardening, and attending community events. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends. The family will gather with friends Tuesday 10 AM until the 11:30 AM Memorial Service to be held at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton. Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Humane Society, 30300 Telegraph Road, Ste. 220, Bingham Farms MI 48025-4507. To share memories, please visit: [vermeulenfuneralhome.com](http://vermeulenfuneralhome.com)

**DAVID R. HUBBS**

Age 87, of Farmington Hills, passed away December 21, 2009. David was born November 12, 1922 in Knoxville, Tennessee to W.R. and Ferol Hubbs. He received a bachelor's degree in engineering from Univ. of Tenn. and earned subsequent masters' degrees from Chrysler Inst. and Wayne State University. David worked as an engineer for Chrysler Corp. and taught at Lawrence Tech., retiring in 1980 and 1995 respectively. He is survived by his wife Nancy, his children, David Jr., Roger, Kay, and Diane, daughters-in-law, Kate and Julie, grandchildren, Valerie and Eric and his sister Virginia Kinlaw. David enjoyed volunteering and was named Goodfellow of the Year in 2002. Visitation and funeral services will be held at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills. Visitation Monday 5-8 pm; Funeral service Tuesday 1pm. Donations may be made to Farmington Area Goodfellows, 31455 West Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills or Orchard United Methodist Church.

**OBITUARY POLICY**

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

**Deadlines:**

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday  
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to [oeobits@hometownlife.com](mailto:oeobits@hometownlife.com) or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968  
For more information call: Char Wilson 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538 or toll free 800-579-7355  
ask for Char or Liz  
OE08658429

# NEIGHBORS

## Friends for life

**Psychologist touts benefits of friendship**

Lisa Schirmer, a psychologist at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, knows friends matter.

"Absolutely," she said. "Friendship develops a sense of belonging with others." It can boost self-worth and feelings of security.

"It can just improve your overall mental outlook."

Schirmer said a good friend's a good listener, nonjudgmental and listening with full attention. A good friend shares his or her own thoughts and feelings, and asks questions to clarify.

"I think there's something to be said for having a social support network," Schirmer said. Family, friends and co-workers can all fill those roles in different ways, with friends being especially helpful with the nonjudgmental part. Schirmer doesn't have that problem in her family, but some families do.

"I think men do have close friends," she said. Some men share a common interest but also would do anything for each other. "But if one person needed help the other would pitch right in," Schirmer said.

We look to different friends for different roles, she said, with one friend often the truth teller. Another will distract and offer a hug no matter what.

"I think all of those friends serve important roles for us," she said. Schirmer relies on her friends: "Every day."

-By Julie Brown

**The gift of friendship comes first in their lives**

BY JULIE BROWN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Like many busy "fifty-somethings," Pam Young of Redford gets by with a little help from her friends.

"Oh, my God, I couldn't have done anything without my friends," said Young, who lost her husband, Phil Setla, a physician, to multiple sclerosis in December 1998. Her brother, Chris, died in January 2008.

Chris had been serving with the military as a civilian in Iraq, and was shipped to Germany for medical treatment when he became ill. His sister recalls getting help with tasks for his funeral Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Detroit, much as friends had rallied around in 1998 for her husband's funeral.

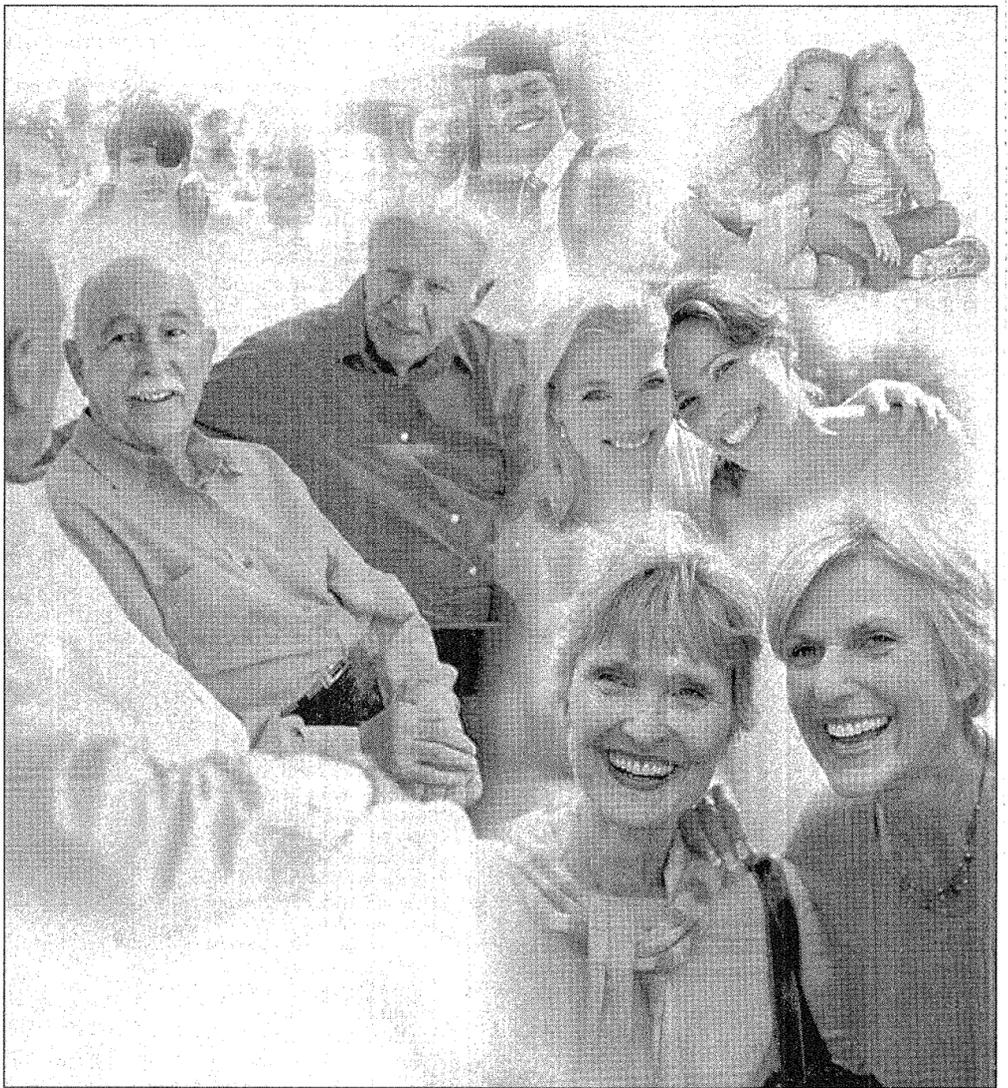
Young, director of communications at Eastern Michigan University, isn't alone in getting help from friends. She has basic advice on how to be a good friend: "Always being there when they need your help and also celebrating their achievements."

Jokingly, she adds remembering to check your phone messages to see who has called. "You have to make the effort in friendships," Young said. You need to understand what's going on in friends' lives.

"It's like a give and take with them," she said. "Most of my family lives out of town. My friends have become like my family. I'm very lucky."

**LIFELONG FRIENDS**

Don Bain of Plymouth Township said of a good friend, "You're always there to advise, assist, consult, commiserate." That's true of all life brings, he said, "even if they hit a bad



golf shot. A true friend is a friend for life."

He and wife Elaine have three grown children. She's been fighting a bone marrow disorder that causes problems with red blood cells, along with colon cancer.

"The help they've given has just been tremendous," he said, referring to friends of Elaine, a retired Plymouth-Canton middle school teacher. That helps to brighten her spirits, said Don Bain, 66, a Ford Motor Co. retiree.

"A little variety's kind of nice," he said of when Elaine tires of looking at him. One of her former colleagues and the colleague's husband stop by for card playing or visits.

The Bains have friends from their days at Penn State. He recalled a fraternity brother who helped daughter Elizabeth, an attorney, when she went to Las Vegas for a deposition.

"I haven't seen this guy in 40 years," he said of the fraternity brother. The man and his wife took Elizabeth to dinner and he told her

college stories of her dad, with the wife saying, "Should you be telling her all these things?"

Elaine has lifelong friends from Girl Scout camp in Pennsylvania where they were campers and later counselors. "They actually got together and had a couple reunions" in the last five to 10 years, he said.

He appreciates friends like the couple from Ford they hadn't seen for years now living in Arizona. The

Please see **FRIENDS, B7**

## Unique glasses help vision impaired see better

**Low vision doctors Sheldon Smith and Donald Haiderer prescribe spectacle aids for the visually impaired.**

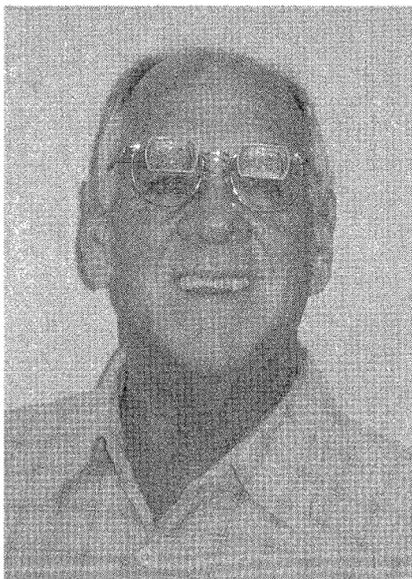
Vision loss is devastating, stealing independence and quality of life. The good news is many determined people have begun to fight back.

Desmond Roberts lost his license to drive. He saw Dr. Sheldon Smith of Low Vision of Michigan desperate to maintain independent driving. With telescopic driving glasses prescribed by Dr. Smith his license was reinstated.

"My life ended at my front door, but this gave my life back," said Roberts. "You saved my life."

David Welch sought to read without hand magnifiers and drive with confidence. The doctor prescribed one pair for driving and another for reading. "No other specialists helped me like Dr. Smith," said Welch, moved to tears by seeing better.

"Today we make glasses that noticeably improve sight," said Dr. Smith. "They can be taken



David Welch with driving glasses

anywhere, unlike electronic tabletop magnifiers. And unlike magnifiers, spectacles are hands free."

"We prescribe surgical quality

telescopes for sight loss," said Dr. Don Haiderer of Low Vision of Michigan. "They are custom focused for simplicity of use so your eyes see the best they can. Details look bigger, closer and easier to make out."

Urgency is critical to success. Prompt treatment gives better outcomes. There is no advantage in waiting to get worse. Whether reading or driving, the best time to start is early, with milder devices. If necessary, using stronger devices comes easier after mastering mild ones.

We help people with mild, moderate and severe vision loss. Every situation is unique. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes start from \$1800.

Patients and referring physicians are welcome to review their situation or schedule an appointment. We can help. Call Low Vision of Michigan to find out how.

**CALL TODAY 734-367-4615**

**Low Vision of Michigan**  
Located throughout Michigan:

Serving: Livonia, Warren, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Port Huron, Lansing, Fenton, Flint, Toledo

**Dr. Sheldon Smith and Dr. Don Haiderer**  
low vision optometrists

[www.LowVisionofMichigan.com](http://www.LowVisionofMichigan.com)

020808008



Cousins Ellery Long and Mya McEvilley of Farmington Hills show that friendship can start at a young age.

## FRIENDS

FROM PAGE B6

couple was coming to west Michigan to visit a dying friend, and had a good visit with the Bains, staying at their home and even using a family car. It's nice to be able to call and say, "Hey, I'm coming through," Don Bain said.

Younger but equally wise about the value of friendship is Sydney Bartell, 13, an eighth-grader at New Morning School in Plymouth Township. "I think they have to let the person be themselves and not try to change them," said Bartell, a Plymouth Township resident. She values her friends.

"They help me when I'm upset. They're always there to listen." She has friends from school as well as volleyball, soccer, "and Girl Scouts and volunteering."

She's looking forward to having more friends next year in high school, possibly Greenhills in Ann Arbor. "I try to be," Bartell said of being a good friend to her friends.

### GIVE AND TAKE

High school was a few years back for Ralph and Bevis Richardson of Canton, married 55 years. She's a retired registered nurse from Annapolis Hospital, park of the Oakwood system, and he retired in 1997 from a subsidiary of Ford in labor economics.

"You have to like people and you have to be willing to give and take," said Bevis, who with her husband has four grown children and five grandkids. Ralph cited common interests.

"Basically friendship is people you have common interests with and whose company you enjoy," she said. They agreed their retirement years mean more time for friends, including travel with another couple.

"Again it has a lot to do with having common interests," Ralph Richardson said. They have friends from their Colony Swim Club open in Canton in the summer.

She has friends from the Canton Public Library, where she volunteers, and he has volleyball and tennis friends. "The Lunch Bunch at church (Geneva Presbyterian) is really our circle at church," she said.

That senior group Dec. 9 had a Christmas lunch at Schoolcraft College's American Harvest Restaurant in Livonia, with Bevis noting, "Schoolcraft is always just a delight." The lunch draws seniors from the church.

Does plain old friendship get overshadowed by romantic love, so serenaded in song and verse? "Not at our age," Bevis said. "At our age, friendship matters."

"I consider Bevis my best friend," her husband added.

# Humane Society offers winter care tips

The Michigan Humane Society urges pet guardians to bring their animals indoors, especially during extreme weather.

"Each winter, we respond to hundreds of complaints from concerned citizens regarding pets left outdoors without appropriate food, water or shelter to help them weather the brutal winter months," said Mark Ramos, Senior Cruelty Investigator for the Michigan Humane Society. "Providing proper care and provisions for our pets is not a luxury, it is a necessity."

Michigan state law requires adequate food, water and shelter be available to dogs and cats left outdoors for any length of time. Adequate shelter for dogs, as defined by state law, means a well-built, insulated, slant-roofed dog house. The interior should be just large enough for the dog to stand and to lie down comfortably. And it should be slightly elevated from the ground for air circulation. The door should face away from prevailing winds and have a protective flap to eliminate drafts.

Clean, dry straw should be provided for bedding rather than towels, rugs or blankets which absorb moisture and freeze.

Several kinds of inadequate shelter frequently encountered by investigators include an unheated garage or shed, a dog house that is too large or lacks straw, or dogs simply tied out to a porch, fence or deck with no shelter at all. Failing to provide proper provisions for pets can result in misdemeanor animal cruelty violations carrying a sentence of up to 93 days in jail, up to a \$1,000 fine, community service, and loss of pet ownership for a specified amount of time.

The Michigan Humane Society offers these tips to care for their companion animals responsibly during cold weather:

- When temperatures plummet, companion animals should not be left outside for any length of time. Bring small or short-haired pets in when temperatures reach 15-20 degrees. Larger breeds and thick-coated dogs may remain outside, with adequate shelter, to about zero degrees.
- Precipitation and wind chill should also be taken into account.
- Cats should be kept indoors or at least brought into a warm, animal proofed garage during severe weather.
- Roaming cats often seek the warmth of car engines, so

be sure to knock on the car hood or honk the horn before starting your car to give them a chance to escape.

• Increase food by 10-20 percent for dogs left outside during the winter months. The extra calories are needed to help an animal to stay warm.

• Regular access to clean, unfrozen water is also critical. Check drinking water every few hours to ensure that it is unfrozen.

• If an animal is cold to the touch, or his paws and ears are

pale, he may be suffering from frostbite. Move the animal to a warmer area and contact your veterinarian immediately.

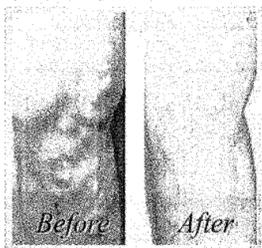
If you see pets left outside without proper shelter in the MHS service area of Detroit, Hamtramck or Highland Park, call the MHS Cruelty Hotline at (313) 872-3401. A confidential message can be left 24 hours a day. In other areas, animal cruelty should be reported to the local animal control or police.

## Healthy Legs, Healthy You!

"I thought it was normal for my legs to ache at the end of the day."

You may have a medical condition covered by insurance known as Venous Insufficiency if you experience any of these leg symptoms:

- Pain/aching/throbbing
- Heaviness or fatigue
- Swelling of feet/ankles
- Restless legs
- Night cramps
- Itchy veins
- Varicose veins
- Non-healing ulcers



Studies have demonstrated that there is a significant deterioration in the quality of life for persons with chronic venous insufficiency and this can be severe. Don't wait to get treated.

You're never too old or young to jumpstart your health and fitness program with healthy legs! Have your legs treated in under an hour with no-downtime, no scarring and NO STRIPPING using the latest technology.

New, safe & effective treatment for Rosacea & Facial veins with **Veinwave™**  
*Advanced Vein Therapies is the only location in Michigan with this technology*

Please visit our website and see how we have helped others at [www.AVtherapies.com](http://www.AVtherapies.com) or call now for consultation.

**ADVANCED VEIN THERAPIES**

Jeffrey H. Miller, MD is Metro Detroit's foremost board-certified authority on varicose and spider vein care, specializing in treating venous diseases for nearly fifteen years.

248-344-9110 [www.AVtherapies.com](http://www.AVtherapies.com)

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(313) 408-0620 • MON TO SAT 11:00AM TO 9:00PM

**LIVONIA FAMILY YMCA**

Find Yourself at the Livonia Family YMCA

# Seasons Greetings!

Please join us for our

## Winter Open House

Saturday, January 2nd • 10 am - 2 pm

*Featuring lots of fun for the whole family:*

- Gymnastics Clinics • Basketball Skill Clinics
- Free Swimming Assessments & Open Swim
- Free Tennis Classes • Sample Adult & Youth Zumba Classes
- Group Fitness Classes • Games & Much More!

It's time to register for Winter Programs

Programs have limited spaces available. Registration has begun and classes are currently filling up. Don't miss out on your favorite winter programs.

**SIGN UP NOW!**

Winter 1 Session:  
Jan. 3- Feb. 28 (8 weeks)

Winter 2 Session:  
March 1 - April 25 (7 weeks)

- Y Tennis • Y Gymnastics
- Y Aquatics • Y Holiday Camp
- Y Sports • Y Group Fitness

\*Offer valid at Livonia Family YMCA only. Savings depend on membership type. Offer valid with 12-month agreement only.

**14255 Stark Road • Livonia**  
**www.ymcadetroit.org 734-261-2161**

Come in on January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Winter Open House and join with a...

# \$0

## Joining Fee\*

for all 12 month memberships

**SAVE UP TO \$250\***

# Learn about genealogy research in Wayne County

Ruth McMahon, an accredited genealogist for 23 years who specializes in Michigan and Midwest research, will talk about locating and searching records in Wayne County for the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research. The organization will present the program in conjunction with the Oakland County Genealogical Society,

at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 9, at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church, at Lone Pine west of Woodward, in Bloomfield Hills. The church will be open at 1:30 p.m. for refreshments, browsing and networking. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, call Dick Fellrath at (248) 519-5064, or Catherine Phillips at (248) 541-0403.

# Walter's Home Appliance responds about warranties, emphasizes ethical practices

In my last column I replied to an e-mail from Phyllis who was having a problem getting extended warranty service on a refrigerator she purchased from Walter's Appliance which has since gone out of business.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

John Mistak who takes a stand on the ethics of a business his father started many years ago. His father was a good friend of mine for many years and I remember the sons John and Wally running around the store as young boys.

John writes: "I am John Mistak, former owner of Walter's Home Appliances. In regards to article in the Observer, we paid for all extended warranties to the National Electronics Warranty Company for all our customers for the last 20 years. When Warranties were sold we gave

The electronic problem with your range will probably take the replacement of an expensive part for proper operation of the range. I might suggest you unplug or kill the circuit breaker for an hour, wash off the touch board with a damp cloth dipped in warm vinegar. You should also consider the age of the product and whether or not it is a wise move to spend a few hundred dollars for repairs.

this info to our customers. So all our customers are covered. Customers can call (800) keep-new to get a hold of the warranty company. Please put this in your next article in the Observer as Walter's Home Appliance always did things above board."

Lesley writes: "Purchased in 2000, my Whirlpool super Capacity Gas Range has always had a quirk where when I use the oven to bake something, usually between 325 and 375 degrees, it will suffer a power failure and stops baking. It will register a PF in the message, but does not alert with an alarm that something has happened, so usually I am unaware until I check the status of my cookies or whatever. By then, it's hard to tell how long it has been out. Any idea why this would happen? Also my gas dryer catches the clothes on

the light cover inside the dryer and holds them there, giving the clothes a burn mark. It has ruined many pieces of clothing. Is this something that can be easily fixed?"

Well, Lesley, it seems you have been reluctant to call a service technician for many years nor do you have the extended service contract offered by your utility company so I am not going to push the suggestion of a service call. The electronic problem with your range will probably take the replacement of an expensive part for proper operation of the range. I might suggest you unplug or kill the circuit breaker for an hour, wash off the touch board with a damp cloth dipped in warm vinegar. You should also consider the age of the product and whether or not it is a wise move to spend a few hundred dollars for repairs. As

for your dryer, I would remove the light bulb and tape the light cover over with a good quality duct tape such as gorilla tape.

Jeanne writes: "Thank you for your column in the Observer newspaper. I need to purchase four new appliances: a stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer. It doesn't matter if the stove is gas or electric, but a slide in model would best fit the counter space. Are front load washing machines better than top loaders? Are freezers on the bottom of the refrigerator better for energy cost, and is it best not to get water and ice through the door for purity and maintenance concerns? I am interested in the brands and features you would recommend. Thank you for looking out for consumers, and all of your help."

Well, Jeanne, You are asking the toughest questions anyone can ask me. I will attempt to answer each one in my next column so I'll ask for your patience and also to stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to apldr@twm.rr.com.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to State Law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gully Rd., Dearborn Hts., MI, January 16, 2010 at 1:05 p.m.

#431: April C. Assemany, #709: Gergorio Martinez, Jr., #740: Britney A. McPherson, #939: Rosy M. Hutchison, #1025: Lechia Richberg, #1034: Zapata Zanitorial Inc., #1039: Zapata Zanitorial Inc., #1047: Dohn C. Davis Jr., #1111: Alicia M. Parker

Units contain misc. household items.

Publish: December 27, 2009 and January 3, 2010

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### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the approved minutes for Meetings of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Redford for the month of November, 2009 are posted at the following public places within the Township:

- Community Center, 12121 Hemingway
- Library, 25320 Six Mile Road
- Department of Public Services, 12200 Beech Daly
- Police Department, 25833 Elnore
- Town Hall, 15145 Beech Daly

Approved minutes may also be viewed on-line at [www.redfordtwp.com](http://www.redfordtwp.com)

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, Clerk  
Charter Township of Redford

Publish: December 27, 2009

OE08684894\_2x3

### Legal Notice Charter Township of Plymouth 2009 Winter Taxes

Winter Taxes are due **December 1, 2009** and payable through **February 16, 2010** without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office. After hours payments can be placed in the 24 hr **WHITE DROP BOX** located along the circular drive. The **Treasurer's Office will be open December 31, 2009 from 9:00am to Noon.**

RON EDWARDS  
Treasurer  
Charter Township of Plymouth  
9955 Haggerty Rd  
Plymouth, MI 481710

Publish: December 24, 27 and 31, 2009

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### FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING December 21, 2009 (Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held at 8:03 p.m., Monday, December 21, 2009, in Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

PRESENT: Buck, Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright.  
ABSENT: None.

CITY ADMINISTRATION: Director Gushman, City Clerk Halberstadt, Director Nebus, City Manager Pastue, Treasurer Weber.

Council approved the following items on the consent agenda: special meeting minutes of November 2, 2009; DDA joint meeting minutes of November 14, 2009; special meeting minutes of November 16, 2009; regular meeting minutes of November 16, 2009; special meeting minutes of November 30, 2009; special meeting minutes of December 7, 2009; Farmington monthly payments report for November 2009; and Farmington Public Safety report for November 2009.

The regular agenda was approved as amended.

Director Nebus, representing the Emergency Preparedness Commission, reminded everyone that one of the best gifts you can give your family is the gift of financial preparedness. He advised the Emergency Preparedness Committee preparedness handbook has an entire section and a checklist on this subject.

Council accepted an engagement letter with Plante & Moran to conduct a water and sewer rate study.

Council approved the purchase of two police patrol vehicles from Gorno Ford in Woodhaven in the amount of \$41,720.

Council approved payment of Construction Estimate No. 7 and Change Order #2 to Peter A. Basile Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$234,516.81 for work completed on the Grand River Streetscape and Water Main Improvement Project.

Council approved payment of Construction Estimate No. 4 to FDM Contracting in the amount of \$121,994.66 for work completed on the Slocum Street Reconstruction and Water Main Improvement Project.

Council adopted a resolution amending the Fiscal Year 2009-10 General Fund Budget.

Council accepted a proposal from Municipal Web Services for the redesign of the City website and authorized the City Manager to sign an agreement for the design services and subsequent system maintenance.

Council adopted a resolution to establish a Civic Theatre Ad Hoc Study committee that specifies the purpose of the committee, its structure and composition, and support they shall receive.

Council adopted a resolution establishing a Beautification Committee.

Council comments were heard.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

TOM BUCK, Mayor  
SUSAN K. HALBERSTADT, City Clerk

Publish: December 27, 2009

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### CATCH THE BUS TO



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### CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT Accepting Applications for Schools of Choice Second Semester beginning January 19, 2010

The Clarenceville School District will accept applications for a limited schools of choice option beginning with the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year. Applications for limited slots in grades kindergarten, first, second and fourth will be accepted beginning Friday, January 1, 2010, through Friday, January 15, 2010, at the Clarenceville Superintendent's Office, 20210 Middlebelt Road., Livonia, Michigan 48152. Applications and guidelines are available from the superintendent's office or on-line on the district's website - [www.clarenceville.k12.mi.us](http://www.clarenceville.k12.mi.us). Second semester begins on Tuesday, January 19, 2010. Questions may be directed to the superintendent's office at 248-919-0250.

Publish: December 27 and 31, 2009

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### THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD NOTIFICATION OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM ACQUISITION/REHABILITATION/RESALE DEVELOPER

The Charter Township of Redford is seeking proposals from qualified developers/vendors to provide professional services to acquire, rehabilitate and sell residential foreclosed/vacant properties in targeted neighborhoods. Services shall be performed for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). This program is Federally funded and all applicable federal and state laws apply.

Proposal documents shall be available as of December 28, 2009 at the Redford Township Community Development Office located at 12121 Hemingway, Redford Township Clerk's Office at 15145 Beech Daly Road between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or online at [www.redfordtwp.com](http://www.redfordtwp.com). Sealed proposals must be submitted to the Redford Township Clerk's Office, 15145 Beech Daly Road, Redford, MI 48239 on or before January 21, 2010 at 3:00 pm, after which proposals will be publicly opened.

Written questions regarding the substance of the RFP or scope of services must be submitted via e-mail to the Redford Township contact listed below no later than January 7, 2010. For additional information regarding the request for proposals, please contact Michael Dennis, Community Development Director, at 313-387-2785 or email at [mdennis@redfordtwp.com](mailto:mdennis@redfordtwp.com).

This is a federally funded project. The Contractor and Subcontractors on this project must comply with HUD contract provisions 24CFR Part 85.36(i), Davis-Bacon Act, Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Section 3 requirements, Anti-Kickback Act, Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act and Department of Labor Standards and Regulations as set forth in the Contract Bid Documents. This municipality is an equal opportunity employer; businesses owned by women or minorities are strongly encouraged to bid. The Contractor shall comply with all the provisions of the Charter Township of Redford.

The Charter Township of Redford reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive defects in proposals, to enter negotiations with any applicant, to resolicit for proposals and to conduct an application evaluation review meeting with any and all applicants. The Township will not be responsible for any costs or fees associated with the preparation of a response to this request for qualifications. No proposals may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days following the due date.

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, Clerk  
Charter Township of Redford

Publish: December 27, 2009

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### Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY  
18829 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone: (248) 478-7860

### FAR BETTER BUT WORSE

We are at the cusp of a new era in the health status of the elderly. More people are reaching the age of 80 or even age 90 without major lung or heart problems. This improved health status means that they are able to walk, travel and undertake a variety of activities to an extent not considered possible in the past. In former times, emphysema, congestive heart failure, advanced osteoarthritis of the hip or knees and the failure over time of past operations, put severe limits on the activities of individuals thereby limiting the strain possible to bones and joints.

The success of medicine has spared many elderly individuals these debilitating conditions. At the same time, doctors are seeing elderly patients experiencing arthritic pains that do not fit into categories such as osteoarthritis or gout.

This arthritic pain is somewhat like a car that has gone 80,000-100,000 miles. The engine may still be fine, but the stress of all those miles shows itself in the car's frame. The mechanic can go over the car, but won't find any worn part to explain the car's less than best behavior.

In cases of unexplained bone and joint pain, physicians turn to special studies such as imaging with MRI. In some instances imaging reveals bone edema, a swelling within the bone itself. However, in many instances, blood testing and imaging does not bring out the cause of the pain.

In these circumstances the physician treats the pain, leaving it to nature and time the task of resolving the underlying problem.

[www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com](http://www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com)

### SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on January 14, 2010 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are preferred **cash only but will except debit/credit.** Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184 (734)728-8204.

B126	Linda Cygan	3 Totes, 5 Boxes, Couch
C116	Annette Ward	BBQ Grill, Lawnmower, 20 Boxes

Publish: December 27, 2009 and January 3, 2010

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

A public sale is to be held to satisfy a landlord's lien under Act 148 of 1985 State of Michigan Code Law. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from the sale. Spaces/Units may contain household items, toys, auto parts, appliances, clothing, etc. unless otherwise noted.

Units: 095 Alan Raymond, 139 Terence Barnes, 141 Krystyn Washington, 161 Tiffney Weathersby, 163 Marthlene Knoll-Keith, 218 James Isbell, 243 Evelyn Hicks, 277 Bagaziniski & Associates, 315 Robert Brown, 330 William Piekarski, 333 William Piekarski.

This sale shall take place on Friday, January 8th, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Located at: Maximus Self Storage - Livonia, 13635 Merriman Rd., Livonia, MI 41850. This is a cash only auction.

Publish: December 27, 2009 and January 3, 2010

### FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING December 21, 2009 (Summary)

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, December 21, 2009 in Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Buck, Knol, McShane, Wiggins, Wright.  
COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

FARMINGTON CITY REPRESENTATIVES: City Clerk Halberstadt, City Manager Pastue, Treasurer Weber (arrived 7:25 p.m.).

Council approved the agenda as submitted.

Caren Collins, Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) Director, was present to review SWOCC's annual report and discuss its ongoing activities.

Pastue briefly discussed formation of a stakeholders group with Farmington Hills relative to the Corridor Improvement Authority; noted discussion regarding SMART will take place at the January 4th meeting; and advised the Water and Sewer Rate Study would be on the regular meeting agenda.

Council comments were heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

TOM BUCK, Mayor  
SUSAN K. HALBERSTADT, City Clerk

Publish: December 27, 2009

Get started with your New Year's resolution today!

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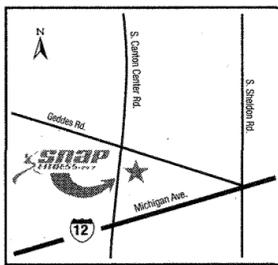
See results in 30 days or your money back!

\*See Snap Fitness guarantee at [www.snapfitness.com/guarantee](http://www.snapfitness.com/guarantee)

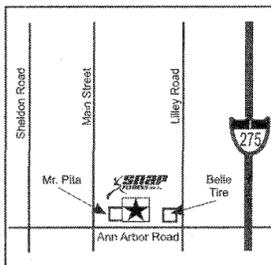


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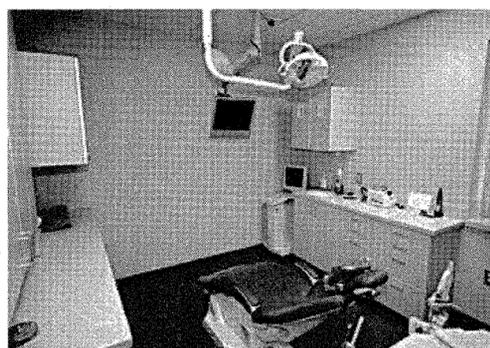
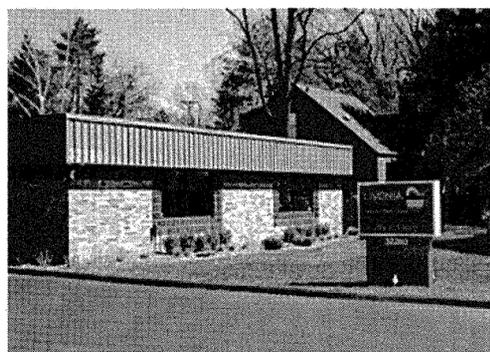
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OE0868602

# Annual blood drive critical for boosting supplies

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

It's called the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park blood drive, but Joann Lindquist, donor resources development representative for the American Red Cross, says Farmington residency isn't a must if you plan to donate Monday, Jan. 4, 2010.

"It's a long-standing drive," said Lindquist, adding that the blood collection primarily is aimed at employees in the area and residents who live nearby. But anyone is welcome to participate and help bolster supplies after the "holiday slump."

It runs 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 37529 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. It's located off the southbound M-5 service drive.

"We've been doing this drive for 20-some years. We'll take walk-ins, too," Lindquist said. "We can hardly get anyone to hold a blood drive right after the New Year."

Lindquist lines up schools, businesses and churches to hold blood drives throughout the year, but late December and early January is a challenging time because of the holidays.

"Supplies take a drastic dip. Our shelves will basically be out. We aren't open on Christmas and New Year's. Normally we have 16 (blood donor) trucks and we use them every day. But come Dec. 21 there isn't much because businesses are usually closed and churches are not up for having blood drives during that period."

## FEWER BUSINESS DRIVES

Lindquist said churches are the

most likely to respond to blood drive requests immediately after Christmas. She is appealing to churches, synagogues and especially to schools these days as businesses drop off her list of annual blood drives.

"It's a rough time for us in what has been a rough year with the economy and companies closing. A lot of our diehard good donors not working any more, but they're good enough to come to a donor center. They've not fallen off anywhere near as much as our business drives. I can't tell you how many companies I've lost."

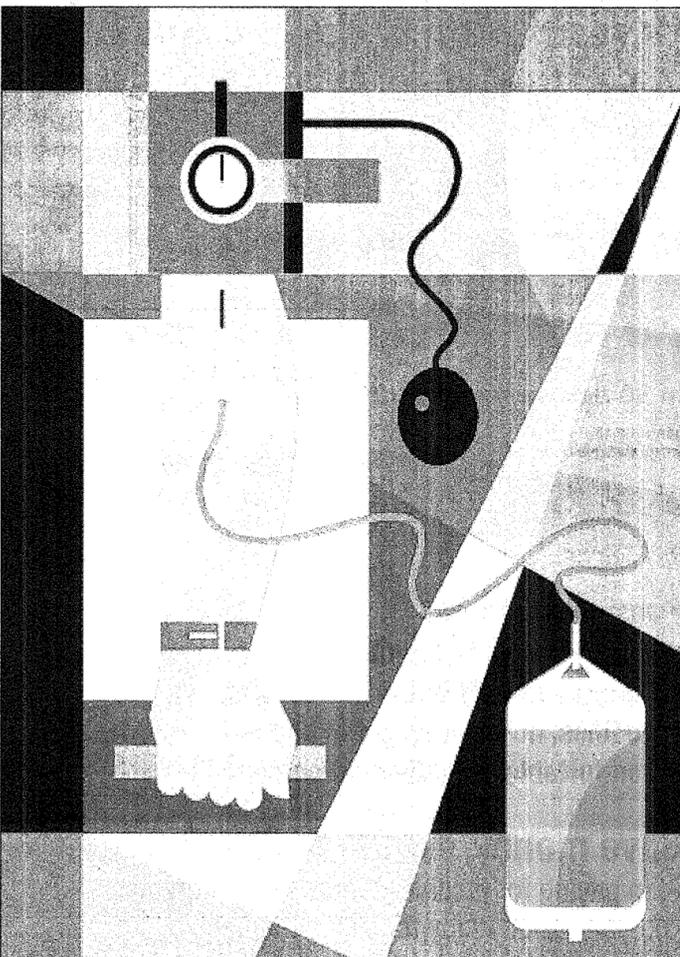
"It's just a scramble all the time to fill the 800 pints that hospitals need every day of the week. We have all of those large hospitals here."

She said the regional division of the American Red Cross that she represents supplies hospitals in five counties — Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, Washtenaw and St. Clair

The American Red Cross hopes to encourage blood donation through its "critical period," Dec. 11-Jan. 7, by giving away a raffle prize. Anyone who donates blood through Jan. 7 in the five-county area will be entered into a contest to win two round-trip plane tickets to their destination choice in the continental United States, along with a \$500 hotel voucher.

To schedule an appointment for the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park blood drive, call Lindquist at (517) 545-7712. Or sign up on line at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) and enter the sponsor code: farmfwyindpk.

For directions to Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, call (248) 477-7800.



## Annual list cites Beaumont as technology user

Beaumont Hospitals has been named to the 2009 InformationWeek 500, an annual listing of the nation's most innovative users of business technology.

InformationWeek has identified and honored the nation's most innovative users of information technology with its annual 500 listing for 21 years. It also tracks the technology, strategies, investments and administrative practices of America's best-known companies. Top winners have included: Conway, National Semiconductor, Kimberly-Clark, Hilton Hotels and Unum.

"Working with more than 20,000 physicians and employees demands that we stay at the forefront of information technology to allow us to provide the best possible care to our patients," stated Paul Peabody, Beaumont's vice president and chief information officer. "So, we are proud to be recognized by InformationWeek with this honor."

Beaumont Hospitals is a three-hospital regional health care provider with a total of 1,711 licensed beds, 18,000 employees and 3,000 physicians in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties. In addition to its hospitals, Beaumont operates numerous community-based medical centers in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne Counties, five nursing centers, a Research Institute, home care services and hospice. Visit Beaumont on the Web at [www.beaumont-hospitals.com](http://www.beaumont-hospitals.com).

## AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD FACTS

- Last year, about 8 million people volunteered to give about 15 million units of whole blood and red blood cells.

- Every day, more than 39,000 pints of blood are needed in the United States to help patients undergoing care and treatment for serious diseases, trauma or accidents.

- A single whole blood donation may help save the lives of up to three people.

- All blood types are needed, but type O negative and B negative are in high demand.

- Type O is the blood most

requested by hospitals, and can be transfused to patients with other blood types such as A, B and AB.

- Blood donors with type AB are ideal for platelet donation. Platelets are the component in blood that is responsible for clotting. When bleeding occurs, platelets stick together to form a clot. Platelets have a shelf life of only five days so the need is constant. Platelets are frequently prescribed to help patients undergoing treatment for cancer, leukemia and other serious diseases, as well

as for babies in neonatal intensive care and burn victims.

- Individuals, age 17 and over, who meet weight and height requirements and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

- Donors may give whole blood up to six times per year or every 56 days, double red cells every 112 days or up to three times per year, and platelets every seven days or up to 24 times a year.

- For more information about blood donation, call (800) GIVE-LIFE or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

## Free seminars focus on joint replacement

The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers free monthly educational seminars about joint replacement procedures.

Orthopedic surgeons are on hand at each meeting to answer questions, discuss joint pain and talk about implant options.

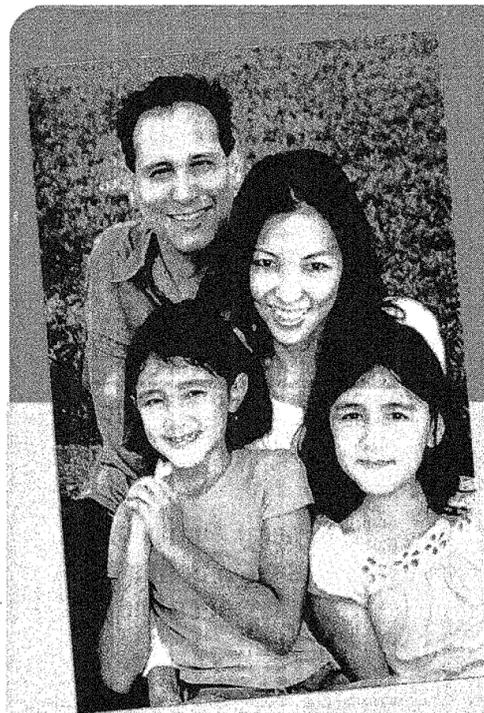
The Center offers a comprehensive group approach to its program, including pre-surgical classes and choosing a personal "coach"

to assist patients through the process.

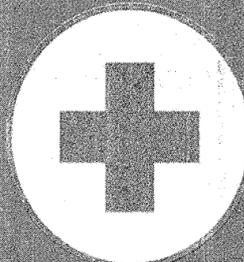
The seminars are offered from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010 and Thursday, Feb. 5, 2010 in classroom 10 and Tuesday, March 23, 2010 in the hospital auditorium.

To register call (734) 655-2400.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile Road, at Levan, in Livonia. For more information about physician and hospital services, visit [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org).



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## Battery Replacement Special

As low as \$79.95\* Retail

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Model #ACD34-60 \*Testing and installation extra.

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- Transmission not shifting right or slipping?
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**PREVENT PREMATURE TIRE WEAR AND GAIN SOME PEACE OF MIND!**

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- Inspect tire surface for abnormal wear
- Inspect front & rear brake system

**\$18<sup>95</sup>\*** Was \$24.95 with coupon

\*Visual inspection only. Vibration diagnosis is extra. Must present coupon when order is written. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Valid on most GM vehicles only. Plus tax and shop supplies. Expires 1/6/10. OSE

## Multi Point Winter Inspection

- Check coolant & anti-freeze levels
- Check & adjust tire pressure
- Check & top off washer fluid
- Check belts & hoses • Check wiper blades
- Check keyless entry/remote start signal

**\$29<sup>95</sup>\*** Was \$85 with coupon

\*System diagnosis extra, GMRKE only.

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## Front Brake Pads Installed

Retail Price \$175

**\$74<sup>95</sup>\*** After \$25 Mail-In Rebate on most GM vehicles with coupon

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\*Turning or replacing rotors, all other services, and tax extra. Excludes Corvette, Saturn, Saab, HUMMER, and other select vehicles. Not valid with other offers. See dealer for eligible vehicles, details, and rebate form, which must be mailed by 1/31/10. Offer ends 12/31/09.

Must present coupon when order is written. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Valid on most GM vehicles only. Plus tax and shop supplies. OSE

## Battery Service & Charging System Check

Goodwrench & Go car care package

- Service battery and fully charge
- Clean cables and connections
- Check alternator output

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\*Dead battery or draw concerns require added diagnoses.

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'09 Mitsubishi Eclipse \$16,900\*



'06 Nissan Altima \$11,100\*



'08 Mazda 3i \$12,900\*

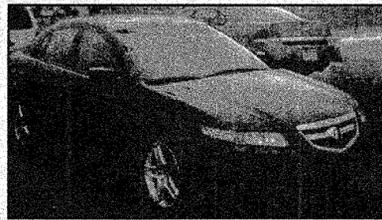


'08 Impala Starting at \$12,900\*



Loaded, 27K.

'06 BMW 325XiT \$28,500\*



'06 Acura TL \$22,500\*



'08 Toyota Avalon \$20,000\*



'06 Honda Accord \$16,500\*



Loaded, 27K.

'07 Lexus 350 \$33,900\*



'06 BMW X5 \$34,900\*



Loaded, 37K.

'06 Honda Odyssey EX \$21,900\*



Loaded, 39K.

'06 Honda Pilot EX 4x4 \$21,900\*



Moonroof New Tires

'07 Trailblazer \$18,900\*



'08 Chevy HHR \$11,900\*



'03 Chevy Avalanche \$10,900\*

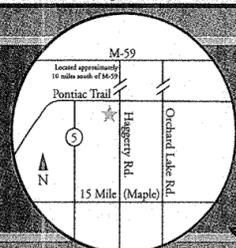


Loaded, 34K.

'06 BMW X3 \$27,900\*

Tax, title, license and doc. fee.

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(at Pontiac Trail across from Walmart) • www.dickmorrischevrolet.com  
**248-624-4500**



# PLAN NOW AS THE RECOVERY LOOMS



## WORKWISE

by  
Mildred L.  
Culp

Many people who still have their jobs have been trying to keep them. Planning for the recovery hasn't been a priority. Will you stay where you are?

If you won't stay, how can you mitigate risk? In either case, what are you currently doing with your earnings?

## WORKING

You might be absolutely certain that you want to leave your company. Take a step back. Career counselor Anne Headley of College Park, Md., recommends making the most of your job by looking at increased workload demands as an opportunity, even if you're not confident about your ability. "Of course, you're doing it, because it beats being unemployed," she observes. "This does two things for you: it marks you a team player, even when the team is smaller than it used to be, and you just may get pushed into acquiring a new skill or two." That will make you more employable internally and externally.

Adam Lawrence brings similar perspective. He's vice president of Service Delivery program implementation and management at the Atlanta office of Yoh, a global staffing firm with 23,000 employees. Lawrence cautions you to be rational to avoid a precipitous move.

"Take your time," he says. "No one knows what type of recession this is. U-shaped recessions have us coming up the other side of the 'U.' That's a good thing. But if it's W-shaped, there's no way to predict. We have to go back. If you're really serious about job hunting, he advises you to review a company's financials. "Read the income statement," he says, "which is on the company web site if the organization is publicly-traded. Analyze the cash position and expansion potential. If a company is privately-held or venture-funded, politely ask for some level of disclosure, such as cash reserves." He adds not to sound suspicious.

Lawrence mentions that candidates rarely ask about the next step, something you might not want to do if you're applying for a job for which you're overqualified. Otherwise, "you should be able to ask that question," he states. "Does the company have a formal program in place for career progression? How is that executed? If it

does, you'll know the company is thinking that your talent is a real asset."

## EARNING

Gerald Wernette, principal and director of Retirement Plan Services at Rehmann Financial L.L.C., in Farmington Hills, Mich., advocates rethinking how you distribute your salary. Although he works directly with employers in designing 401(k) plans all of the way through monitoring them, he brings insight to employees about investing.

If you haven't been investing, you may be "paralyzed by bad experiences and the continuing challenges," he says. "Too many people start where they are today, are afraid and feel that they don't have any money to save. Start with where you want to end up. It will show what you need to save and earn and what kind of risks you should be willing to take to generate that return."

Wernette, who claims to be a procrastinator, advises similar spirits to find a money-manager to alleviate the burden of managing your money. He points out that if all of it is in cash, you'll miss out on upturns in the market. It's not too late to invest and benefit from the emerging recovery.

"Everyone's finances are tight," he comments. "You have to start somewhere. You can't afford



Gerald Wernette offers helpful advice about how to allocate your salary. He's principal and director of Retirement Plan Services at Rehmann Financial L.L.C., in Farmington Hills, Mich.

not to. Take a first step and, every time you get a raise, carve out part of it." Wernette cautions, however, that you look closely at your company's fiscal soundness. Don't invest in a 401(k) if your company isn't likely to do well. The recovery might not save it.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp welcomes your questions at [culp@workwise.net](mailto:culp@workwise.net). Copyright 2009 Passage Media.)

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**Iimor Engineering**  
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West Bloomfield Nursing Ctr. a Beaumont Hospital affiliate has a full time position available for an experienced cook. Health Care food service experience desired. Duties include cooking large quantities for an upscale client, banquet style food presentation and food line supervision. Health Care and other benefits available after 90 days. Fax your resume to: Kim Kaas at 248-661-2276 or apply in person at 6445 W. Maple, West Bloomfield.

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1st Choice Mortgage Lending (734) 459-0782	4.625	0	4.125	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions (800) 593-1912	4.625	0	4.125	0	J/A
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Client Services by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	4.375	1.125	4	0.125	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-6113	5.125	0	4.5	0	J
Cornerstone Community Financial (800) 777-6728	5.125	0	4.5	0	J/A/F
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank (313) 565-3100	5	0	4.375	0	A
Fifth Third Bank (800) 792-8830	4.875	0	4.25	0	J/V/F
First State Bank (800) 372-2205	4.875	0	4.375	0	F
Gold Star Mortgage (800) 784-1074	4.5	0.375	4	0.25	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage (800) 991-9922	4.5	0.375	4	0.25	J/A/V/F
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0001-2450  
Home & Service Guide



Building Remodeling 0310

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25 yrs. exp. Start to Finish.  
Lic./Ins. (248) 478-8559  
[barryscarpentry.com](http://barryscarpentry.com)

Chimney Cleaning/Building & Repair 0480

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Clean-up/Hauling Service Cheapest! Prices! Garages, bsmts, attics, free estimates 248-489-5955, 248-521-8818  
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**CABINETRY, COUNTERTOPS, FINISHED CARPENTRY.**  
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Real Estate For Lease



Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

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1 Bdrm, 1/2 Month Free, \$300 sec. dep if qualified. Luxury 1 & 2 bdrms. Laundry in unit. Water incl. No Pets. \$590-\$695/mo. 586-254-9511

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**Plymouth**  
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**PLYMOUTH - OLD VILLAGE.**  
Small 1 bdrm, hardwood floors, ceiling fan, island style breakfast bar, cable ready, storage & laundry, very clean & cute. \$145/wk incl all util, 1 yr lease. 248-425-4853, broker

**PLYMOUTH - Prime location,**  
1 bdrm avail, \$580 plus security. Near downtown. Incl. heat. No dogs. 734-455-2635

**Plymouth Rent Starting at \$449 FREE HEAT**  
1 & 2 Bedroom Apt's. Plymouth Manor Plymouth House 734-455-3880 [www.yorkcommunities.com](http://www.yorkcommunities.com)

**PLYMOUTH SQUARE APTS.**  
\$300 security deposit. 50% OFF 1ST 3 MO. RENT with approved credit 1 & 2 bdrm, \$570 - \$705. 734-455-6570

**WALLED LAKE-ON THE LAKE**  
1-3 bdrms starting at \$500. 1st mo free with approved credit. C/A, Close to 12 Oaks, schools & x-ways. (248) 624-5999

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1 bdrm w/appliances, private entrance, off street parking. \$475/mo, 248-892-0262

Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

**WESTLAND Apts From \$499\***  
Deposit from \$0\* 1 & 2 Bdrms • Patio or Balcony • 24 Hr Emergency Maint. • Open 7 Days  
**WayneWood Apts**  
734-326-8270, EHO \*Conditions Apply [www.wayneWoodapts.com](http://www.wayneWoodapts.com)

**Westland Estates "WOW"**  
1 Bdrms, \$475  
2 Bdrms, \$615

No fine print in this ad! -Heat/Water included -\$10.00 Application Fee -\$200 Deposit w/ Credit  
**New Resident's Only 734-722-4700**  
Mon.-Fri. 9am-7pm Sat.-Sun. 10am-4pm

**Westland VENOY PINES APTS.**  
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• 1 & 2 bedroom apts. with fireplace. (734) 261-7394 [www.yorkcommunities.com](http://www.yorkcommunities.com)

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First Month Free! 1 bdrm - \$460/mo. walk-in closet, private entry. Near Ford Plant 734-721-6699 EHO [www.cormorantco.com](http://www.cormorantco.com)

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1st Month Rent Free (for qualified applicants)  
1 Bdrm-\$550  
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\*Short term leases avail.

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**LIVONIA:** Pristine/Spacious 2 bdrm, 2.5 bath, fireplace, 2 car. Walk to Laurel Park. \$1495/mo. (313) 657-8730

Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

**Westland Park Apts.**  
**LOOK FREE RENT**  
2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath, \$565, 936 Sq. Ft.  
1 Bdrm, \$490, 728 Sq. Ft.  
\$200 Security Deposit Heat and Water Incl (New residents only) with approved credit No Pets, C/A, Vertical Blinds, Intercom. Appliances include dishwasher. Very clean Apartments Excellent Maintenance (734) 729-6636

**Westland**  
VENOY PINES APTS. Rent Starting at \$549  
• 1 & 2 bedroom apts. with fireplace. (734) 261-7394 [www.yorkcommunities.com](http://www.yorkcommunities.com)

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Condos/Townhouses 4020

**WESTLAND MALL AREA**  
Sharp, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, pool, pond view, appliances, nice area. \$750. 734-261-5053

**Duplexes 4030**

**LIVONIA:** Special Winter Price \$650. Newly painted clean 2 bdrm. Leave message (248) 310-8657

**Westland:** 32213 Hillsdale Ct. W/Merriman, S/Palmer. 3 bdrm, 1 bath, 1st mo. Free. \$700, \$600 sec. 313-937-2930

**WESTLAND/NORWAYNE**  
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**WESTLAND - NORWAYNE**  
2 bdrm, clean, Remodeled, \$560/mo. Call: (734) 397-0069

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### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

- Ribs, slangily
- "Waterloo" group
- Crusty cheese
- Very snug
- Dairy sounds
- Per person
- Luigi's romance
- Tizzy
- "Iliad" deity
- Scoundrel
- Upscale wheels
- Almost grads
- Skip stones
- Greasy-spoon fare
- Corp. biggies
- Horse
- Malt brew
- Kind of dancer (hyph.)
- Vistas
- Motel amenities (2 wds.)
- "Becket" actor
- Advantage
- Banjo cousin
- Felt concern
- Noted groundhog's name
- Show of anger
- de cologne
- Wood ash product
- Hoedown musicians
- Maxim
- Jade
- Sink part
- Wave of applause
- Rose or Sampras
- Sundance Kid's girl
- Cringe at
- Soft metal
- Wander
- Briny
- Milky Way unit
- Airport vehicle
- Excited
- Sweet-singing bird
- Take the helm
- Kind of radio
- Trunk of a tree
- Lumber
- Humane org.
- Droplet
- Slightly cooked
- Finishes a cake
- Codgers' queries
- Historical periods
- Tea biscuit
- Utter chaos
- Prince Valiant's wife
- Hombre's title
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- Pep

**DOWN**

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**PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**

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33 Name in architecture hills  
34 Boredom 54 Tad  
35 Smells awful 55 Changed hair color  
36 Stock or bond 56 Pro (proportionally)  
38 Applied gold leaf 57 Junk mail  
39 Long ear 59 Novelist Jean  
41 Unknown Jane 60 Pesky bug  
42 "The Greatest" 61 Whirlpool  
47 - Rico 62 Plc.'s superior  
48 Snap-brim hat  
50 Make changes  
52 Feet containers

**SUDOKU**


Level: Beginner

**SUDOKU**

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**WESTLAND** - 2 bdrm, bsmt, blinds, all appliances, A/C, pets neg. \$725/mo. + sec. Section 8 OK. 734-397-8187

**Westland** - 2 bdrm, fenced yd, new carpet, fridge/stove incl, \$850 dep. 1st mo. free. Sec 8 & pets okay. 734-732-3120

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**FARMINGTON HILLS** - Looking for female roommate to share home. Free rent! Call: (248) 250-1931

**Rooms For Rent** 4140

**GARDEN CITY** - Small bdrm, \$400; large bdrm \$450. Laundry & utilities included. Call: (734) 389-3553

**Rooms For Rent** 4140

**LUXURY MOTELS** - Low Rates, Fairlane 248-347-9999, Royal 248-544-1575, Days 734-427-1300, Comfort 248-504-5080.

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3 Bdrm, 2 Bath Homes  
Over 1,000 sq. ft. & all appliances including washer/dryer!

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**REDFORD**

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Quiet, cozy, clean, appliances & extra storage available. new carpet & paint. No pets.

Mon-Sat 11-5pm.  
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**Call: 313-945-0524**

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**Auction Sales** 7060

Notice is hereby given that on January 20, 2010 at 12:00pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at National Storage Center of Redford, 9125 Telegraph Rd., Redford, MI 48229. Unit (s) may or may not include the following: Household Items, Recreational Items, and/or Misc. Goods.

# 0203A Cynthia D Pope-Meads, 0234A Lia & TJ'S Taster Donuts, 0303A William A. Aaron, 0402B Tiffany D Taylor, 0436 David Moore, 0853A Brandy Varoskovic, 0902B Steven J Kleitch, 0906A Tanya Abernethy, 1008B Wonna Johnson, 1014 Charity Mack

**Household Goods** 7160

**DESK & CREDENZA**  
Walnut with leather chair. \$700. Natuzzi Leather Couch. 734-709-7191

**Dining Set-Formal, Bernhardt,** seats 10. Best offer over \$4000. Bdrm Set, medium oak, \$200. 734-709-7191

**Auction Sales** 7060

Notice is hereby given that on January 20, 2010 at 3:00 pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Stor Room Self Storage, 40600 Michigan Ave., Canton, MI 48188. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: Household Items, Recreational Items, and/or Misc. Goods.

# 0203A Cynthia D Pope-Meads, 0234A Lia & TJ'S Taster Donuts, 0303A William A. Aaron, 0402B Tiffany D Taylor, 0436 David Moore, 0853A Brandy Varoskovic, 0902B Steven J Kleitch, 0906A Tanya Abernethy, 1008B Wonna Johnson, 1014 Charity Mack

**Household Goods** 7160

**DESK & CREDENZA**  
Walnut with leather chair. \$700. Natuzzi Leather Couch. 734-709-7191

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Pontiac 8680

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Salsa Red, Convertible, Leather & ABS! It Won't Be Winter Forever! Just \$18,695! 888-372-9836  
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Auto, air, 28K, \$14,495  
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- '04 MONTANA Leather, burgundy... \$7,995
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- '06 CHEV. CREW CAB PICK UP Z71... \$22,495
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- '08 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4X4 Silver... \$17,995
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- '03 FORD CROWN VICTORIA Dk Green... ONLY \$6,995
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**2010 CHEVROLET MALIBU**

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**\$219 PER MO. GMS**

Power windows, power locks, power lumbar, stereo CD, tilt steering, speed & cruise, keyless entry. Stock #10C3041D

**2009 CHEVROLET IMPALA LS**

**GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY**

**\$276 PER MO. GMS**

**\$18,847**

3.5 V6, floor mats, body side moldings, power windows, power locks, tilt steering, speed & cruise control. Stock #6531

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Total retail sales 2009 YTD, per Ford Division

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**NEW 2010 FORD F150 SUPER CAB STX 4X4**  
 MSRP \$34,655

**LEASE FOR**  
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE  
**\$322** <sup>36</sup>MO **\$362** <sup>36</sup>MO  
 \$1,447 due at signing\* \$0 DUE AT SIGNING

**Buy For \$22,790\***

Featuring SYNC, limited slip axle, sliding rear window, power equipment group, STX decor & plus pkg, trailer tow.  
 6 at this price - 120 available

**NEW 2010 FORD ESCAPE XLT**  
 MSRP \$25,195

**LEASE FOR**  
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE  
**\$307** <sup>36</sup>MO **\$357** <sup>36</sup>MO  
 \$1,694 due at signing\* \$0 DUE AT SIGNING

**Buy For \$19,184\***

Featuring moonroof, remote start, SYNC, power windows, locks, speed control and tilt wheel.  
 17 at this price - 219 available

**NEW 2010 FORD FOCUS SE**  
 MSRP \$18,600

**BUY FOR \$11,429\***

**LEASE FOR**  
 SIGN & DRIVE  
**\$192** <sup>36</sup>MO  
 \$0 due at signing\*

**WE MAKE YOUR FIRST 2 PAYMENTS!**

Featuring automatic, power windows, locks, speed control, Sirius satellite radio.  
 100 at this price - 264 available

**NEW 2010 FORD FUSION SE**  
 MSRP \$22,500

**LEASE FOR**  
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE  
**\$236** <sup>36</sup>MO **\$283** <sup>36</sup>MO  
 \$1,605 due at signing\* \$0 DUE AT SIGNING

**Buy For \$16,566\***

Featuring: remote start, power windows, locks, seat, speed control and tilt wheel.  
 55 at this price - 329 available

**NEW 2010 FORD EDGE SE**  
 MSRP \$27,695

**LEASE FOR**  
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE  
**\$299** <sup>27</sup>MO **\$357** <sup>27</sup>MO  
 \$1,578 due at signing\* \$0 due at signing

**Buy For \$20,830\***

Featuring remote start, power windows, locks, seat, tilt wheel, speed control.  
 3 at this price - 100 available

**NEW 2010 FORD TAURUS SEL**  
 MSRP \$23,165

**LEASE FOR**  
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE  
**\$369** <sup>36</sup>MO **\$419** <sup>36</sup>MO  
 \$1,700 due at signing\* \$0 DUE AT SIGNING

**Buy For \$23,114\***

Featuring: SYNC, remote start, power windows, locks, seat, speed control and tilt wheel.  
 7 at this price - 101 available

**NEW 2010 FORD FLEX SE**  
 MSRP \$29,795

**LEASE FOR**  
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE  
**\$317** <sup>36</sup>MO **\$369** <sup>36</sup>MO  
 \$1,795 due at delivery\* \$0 DUE AT SIGNING

**Buy For \$22,198\***

Featuring remote start, power windows, locks, seat, speed control and tilt wheel.  
 3 at this price - 114 available.

**NEW 2010 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT WAGON**

**LEASE FOR**  
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE  
**\$312** <sup>36</sup>MO **\$359** <sup>36</sup>MO  
 \$1,610 due at delivery\* \$0 due at delivery\*

**Buy For \$19,054\***

Featuring Nokia Bluetooth System, Reverse Sensing system, rear cargo 255-degree hinged opening, 3 passenger, Air, AM/FM w/CD, speed control, power windows, locks, remote keyless entry  
 5 at this price - 52 available

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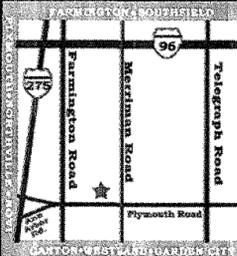
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\*All lease payments and buy prices are for qualifying A/Z planners. For qualifying non A/Z planners an additional \$500 to \$1500 would be required to keep the payments or price the same. F150 Edge, 10,500 miles per year. Taurus, Flex, Escape, Focus, Fusion 12,000 miles per year. "Buy for" price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. Subject to availability. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including owner loyalty or previous lease where applicable and may require Ford Credit financing. F150 includes F150 to F150 renewal. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. All offers expire 01/04/2010. EPA estimated 23 city 34/hwy 27 combined mpg. Total retail sales 2009 YTD, per Ford Division.