

CANTON OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



CANTON CONNECTION

Send memories

The holiday season is upon us and, through the hustle and bustle, we're asking our readers to let us be a part of their celebration. We're asking readers to send us their favorite holiday memories and photos to the *Observer* for the special holiday edition we're planning for Thursday, Dec. 24. Did you get a favorite gift for Christmas, or do you have a special memory of Hanukkah? Is there a special tradition your family has that makes the season merry and bright? Share those memories with your neighbors through us. Send your items - be sure to include a photo, if you can - to *Observer* editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com. It is our intention to make that issue a "keeper," something our readers will savor - and save.

Santa letters

Santa Claus has started to make his list, although sources tell the *Observer* that, while he's far from check it twice, he is waiting by his mailbox for youngsters' gift lists and letters. The *Observer* wants to make sure Santa Claus knows what children would like this Christmas and is asking youngsters to send us letters to him. We will publish the letters in the newspaper during December before sending them on to the North Pole. The letters should be sent by e-mail and include a snapshot of the child writing the letter. They can be a list of toys, a holiday greeting for the Jolly Ol' Elf or whatever information youngsters want Santa to have. Send Santa correspondence to bkadrich@hometownlife.com and be sure to put "Letter to Santa" in the subject line. Letters can also be sent the old-fashioned way, via postal service, to Letter to Santa, c/o Brad Kadrich, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Adopt a child

The Canton Goodfellows are still looking for donors to adopt more than 400 children in their "No Child Without a Christmas" campaign. Deadline for adoption is the end of November. "It doesn't have to be a huge financial commitment," said Goodfellows president Nancy Spencer. "A toy or the child's wish and something warm to wear ... the Goodfellows will add to the donation if needed. The Goodfellows want to share with you the wonderful feeling of giving that we experience with Christmas." Anyone considering bringing joy to a Canton child can contact Spencer at johnnancysp@aol.com as soon as possible.

Fowl play

Chicken donation helps feed area's needy

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

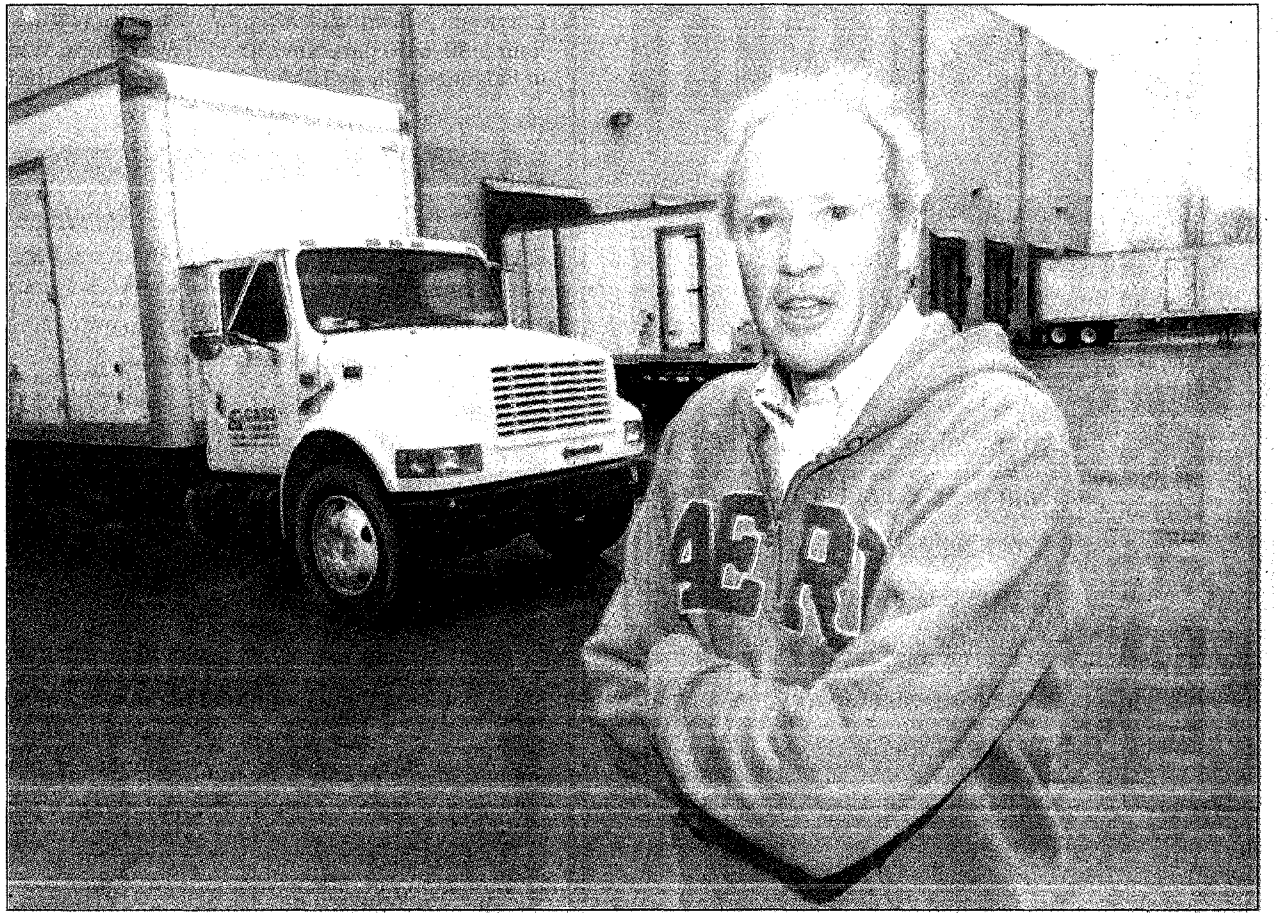
Area agencies scrambling to feed a growing number of hungry, recession-ravaged families received a much-needed boost Thursday morning when a truck hauling 40,000 pounds of frozen chicken rolled up to a Canton distribution center. In all, 21 agencies shared the gift from a nonprofit foundation called HEAR (Health, Education And Relief), a Chicago-based volunteer group also helping families in the Detroit area.

"We timed it for the holidays," said local HEAR director Mark McManus Sr., a Novi resident and chairman of Livonia-based New Horizons Computer Learning Centers.

HEAR bought the frozen chicken for a reduced cost from Tyson Foods and had it trucked in from the company's Springdale, Ark., headquarters to Norquick, a cold-storage, warehouse and distribution center in Canton.

"We're amazed by the generosity," said Ann Kalass, CEO for Inkster-based Starfish Family Services, which offers a wide array of family services in Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Redford, Westland and other metro Detroit communities.

Starfish, alone, received 2,800 pounds of boxed, frozen chicken. "It couldn't come at a better time than the holidays," Kalass said. "So many families are in crisis and struggling to find resources." Kalass came to Norquick with Westland single mom Chelsea Cloutier, a Starfish client and Starfish Head Start executive board member whose 3-year-old son attends a full-day preschool program while she works and studies for a bachelor's degree she expects to receive in August.



Mark McManus Sr., owner of Livonia-based New Horizons Computer Learning Centers, is director for a nonprofit group that donated 40,000 pounds of frozen chicken for distribution to local social service agencies.

"The holidays can be so stressful," said Cloutier, 25, studying business administration and finance. Ed Hingelberg, a Plymouth City Commission member and operations director of Detroit-based Cass Community Social Services, said the 3,200 pounds of frozen chicken CCSS received will be stretched to feed as many needy families as possible by using it in soup, chicken salad and other meals. "I can't tell you how much this helps us," Hingelberg said, standing

with McManus outside Norquick on a gray, drizzly Thursday morning that somehow seemed a little less bleak after HEAR's food shipment arrived on Canton's north side. "When the economy is down," Hingelberg said, "the need goes through the roof." Cass Community Social Services provides help ranging from meals for the homeless to emergency shelter to vocational opportunities. McManus said HEAR worked with another nonprofit organization,

Northville Civic Concern, to seek out agencies needing food to help their clients. McManus helped oversee the frozen chicken distribution mere hours after he returned from a relief effort in Guatemala. He said 100 percent of HEAR's donations are used to help people in need. Much more about the organization can be learned — and donations can be made — online at www.hearfoundation.org.

Please see **CHICKEN, A3**

Canton woman waives exam in embezzlement



Delaney

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A former civilian employee in the Livonia Police Department charged with embezzlement waived her preliminary examination Tuesday in 16th District Court.

Jane Anne Delaney, 62, of Canton was arraigned Nov. 12 on charges of embezzlement by a public official of over \$50, a 10-year felony. A plea of not-guilty was entered for her before Magistrate James

Jolly in 16th District Court in Livonia. Delaney's arrest followed a police investigation in which more than \$20,000 was recovered from her residence, according to investigators. On Tuesday, she returned to district court to waive her exam, according to Lt. Greg Winn of the Livonia Police Department. A hearing in Wayne County Circuit Court was scheduled for Dec. 1. Police investigators believe she took small amounts of cash, just a few dollars at a time. The transactions were not always

recorded on the register and receipts were not always printed. Some of the amounts were so small that members of the public may not have requested a receipt. Delaney's job as clerk involved processing requests from the public for accident reports, copies of police reports, gun permits and notary duties, as she was a public notary. Delaney, who worked for the city for 21 years and for the police department for at least 10, was terminated after her arrest Oct. 2.

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

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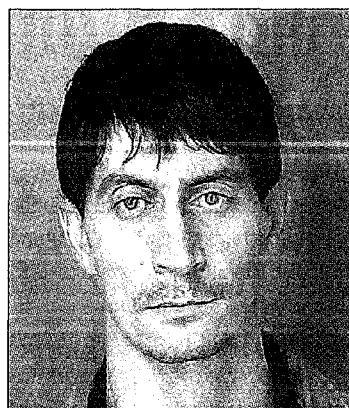
Assault suspect ordered to trial

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A 36-year-old man was ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges he assaulted a woman he was dating after the pair drove to Canton.

Rustam Umidilloevich Ahmedov, a Uzbekistan native who police say tried to flee the country after the incident, is facing trial after he voluntarily waived his preliminary hearing Friday morning in front of 35th District Judge Michael Gerou, a court clerk said.

Ahmedov, jailed with a \$100,000 cash bond, could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison if he is convicted on charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm. He also faces trial for aggravated



Ahmedov

domestic violence, a one-year misdemeanor. Ahmedov's decision to waive his court hearing averted testimony Friday and resulted in his case automatically being sent to Wayne County Circuit Court.

The defendant has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Ahmedov, believed to have been living in the Dearborn area, is accused of assaulting a 38-year-old woman around 3 a.m. Oct. 10 after he brought her to a workplace near Ronda and Joy roads on the township's north side, Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said.

The severely beaten woman was found wandering in the area and appeared confused after she was assaulted, Schreiner said. Authorities have said Ahmedov fled to Florida and then to Houston, where he was captured at the airport by U.S. immigration officials. An extradition team brought him back to Canton, where he was arraigned on criminal charges Nov. 9.

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"Around Canton" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Canton Goodfellows

Canton Goodfellow's "No child without a Christmas" Collection continues through Dec. 9 at Showroom of Elegance, 6018 Canton Center Road.

Bring in canned goods, nonperishable items or cash donation for the Canton Goodfellows and receive a gift from our Santa Bag. All gifts are with a retail value of \$20 or more.

"This is our way to help those children in the Plymouth/Canton school district that are in need and wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas or food while out of school on the holiday break," said Linda Robin, Showroom of Elegance owner. "Our need is great this year with over 700 children to provide for. We need so much help. Please join us in this mission."

For more information, call (734) 207-1906.

Corriveau coffee

State Representative Marc Corriveau is hosting a coffee hour 5:30-6:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at Parthenon Coney Island,

39910 Ford Road, in Canton. For more information, call (734) 981-0200.

Passion for Fashion

Indigo Salon and Day Spa and the Village Theater present the first "Jingle Bell Benefit, Passion for Fashion" 7:30-9 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Cherry Hill Village Theater.

Passion for Fashion is dedicated to raising funds for the Canton Goodfellows Gifts for Kids program. With your help Indigo will be able to provide over 600 children in need with the Christmas of a lifetime. Half of all proceeds received from the 2009 Jingle Bell Benefit, Passion for Fashion will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for those in need.

Businesses interested in making a donation can contact Meghan Giersdorf, Indigo Salon and Day Spa, 50545 Cherry Hill in Canton by e-mail at marketing@indigosalonanddayspa.com or by calling (734) 961-3245.

Art workshops

D & M Art Studio is now taking registration for the day after Thanksgiving Workshop, Christmas Kids Only Workshops, Winter Break Workshops, the Special 2 or

1½ hour Workshops and more.

The workshops will start with an All Day Paint - Sea Creatures and more - Friday, Nov. 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for ages 6 and up. The total cost is \$32. Come in and check out the many discounted gift sets we have pre-made or make one of your own and receive a 25-percent discount on that set.

Stop in and check out the Three Cities Art Club's Art Show with many beautiful art pieces for sale. Call or check out the studio's Web site at www.dmartstudio.com for the full schedule of workshops and classes. Call (734) 453-3710 for additional information.

Craft show

St. Thomas a'Becket Church, located at 555 S. Lilley in Canton, is accepting applications for its annual Christmas Craft Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

All interested crafters should e-mail stabcraftshow@yahoo.com or call (734) 981-1333.

Holiday Cabaret

For one night only, Spotlight Players in partnership with Canton Leisure Services and the Village Theater is taking The Biltmore Studio at The Village Theater and transforming it into an intimate nightclub/winter wonderland featuring guest vocalists from the prestigious Michigan Opera Theater.

"Come and join the Michigan Opera Theater sponsored by Spotlight Players with special guests - Spotlight on Youth singing your favorite holiday songs in a delightful evening of cabaret - a wonderful way to celebrate the

holidays and fun for the whole family," said Barbara Bloom, Spotlight Players board president.

"Come to the Holiday Cabaret" takes place 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. Cabaret-style seats are limited so purchase tickets now! Come hum along to holiday tunes while enjoying a beverage from the cash bar and finger food from the concession stand.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. The Village Theater has free parking is handicap accessible. Tickets are available by phone at the Village Theater Box Office at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or on-line at www.canton-mi.org/village-theater or in person at The Summit on the Park or at the door. Box office opens 1 hour prior to show-time. Tickets are \$15.

Historical display

A new display for the Canton Historical Society honors local past and present troops. "Canton answers the call on the battle front and home front" featuring objects and photographs helps visitors examine the lives of Canton residents as they faced difficult and immense challenges.

The exhibit honors the commitment and sacrifice made in the past and continuing through the present.

The exhibit will run through Dec. 12 during museum hours Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

For addition information, or for anyone who would like to loan items for the display, contact the museum at (734) 397-0088.

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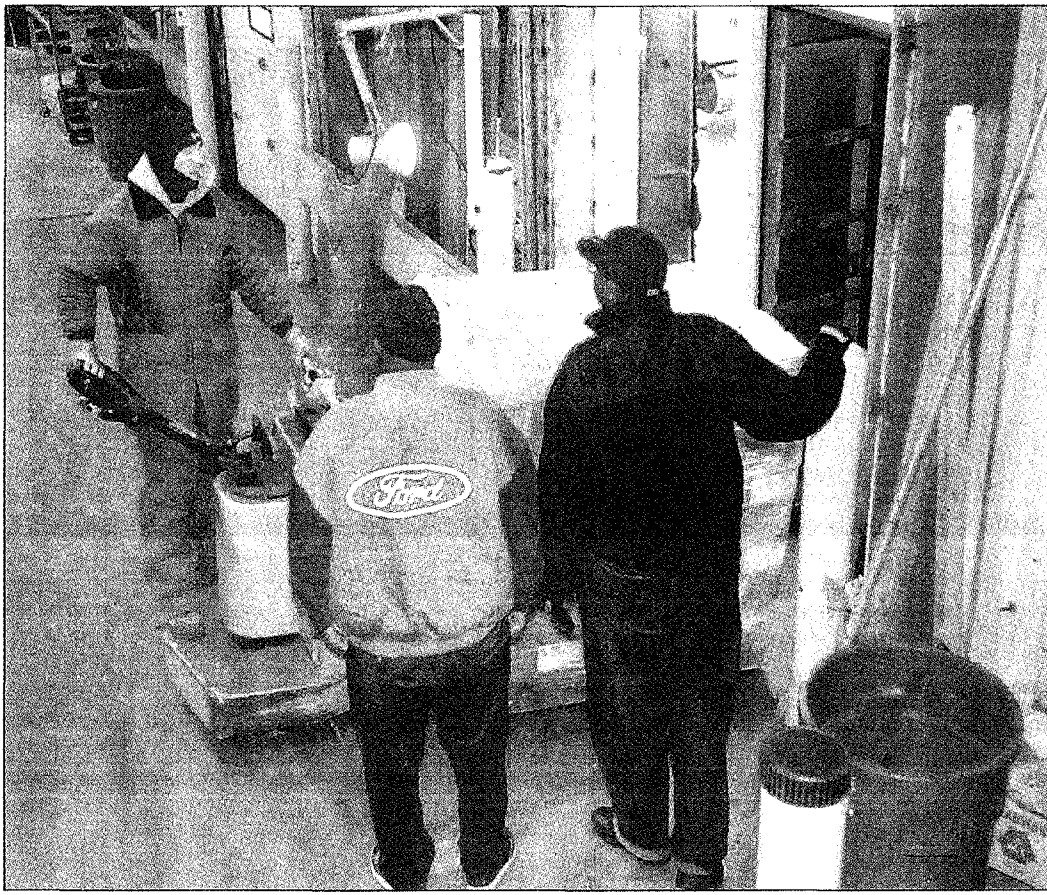
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Robert Dixon and Michael Mason of Cass Community Social Services wait as 3,200 pounds of frozen chicken is loaded onto their truck.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CHICKEN

FROM PAGE A1

HEAR's shipment of frozen chicken came in 10-pound bags. Agencies received as little as 200 pounds and as much as 3,200 pounds.

McManus released a list of 21 recipients that included Active Faith food pantry of South Lyon; Blessed Hope Mission of Lincoln Park; Cass Community Social Services; Central Detroit CDC; Faith Community Presbyterian Church of Novi; Forgotten Harvest of Oak Park; Fort Street Presbyterian of Detroit; Friendship House of Hamtramck; Grace Centers of Hope of Pontiac; Help's On The Way of Dearborn; Military Avenue Presbyterian Church of Detroit; Northville Civic Center; The Salvation Army in Farmington, Plymouth, Westland and Macomb; St. Christine's Soup Kitchen & Outreach of Detroit; St. James Catholic Church of Novi; Starfish; the Wayne County Family Center of Westland; and Western Oakland Meals on Wheels.

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Ed Hingelberg of Cass Community Social Services says the 3,200 pounds of chicken CCSS received will feed lots of hungry people. CCSS' truck, driven by Michael Mason and Robert Dixon, is loaded and ready to go.



Canton Police are seeking these men in connection with a counterfeit check ring that has defrauded area banks out of large sums of money.

Police seek suspects in bank frauds

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton authorities still are trying to locate two suspects wanted for questioning in connection with a counterfeit check ring that is defrauding area banks of large sums of money.

Police declined to name the banks, including two in Canton, but said several scams have been pulled off by swindlers.

"The people are going into the banks and opening

accounts, depositing fraudulent checks and withdrawing money before the banks catch on to it," police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said.

Canton police have released photos of two suspects captured on bank surveillance cameras. Anyone who has information about the men is urged to call the Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400.

Anonymous tips for a possible cash reward up to \$1,000 also may be made to Crime Stoppers of Michigan by call-

ing (800) SPEAK-UP or logging on to www.1800speakup.org.

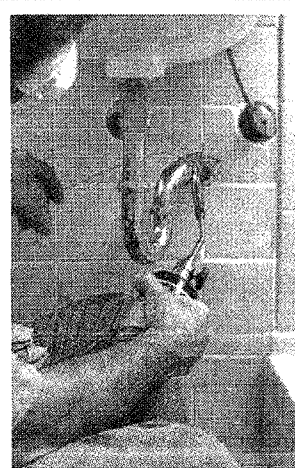
Photos of the suspects also may be viewed on the police department's Web site at www.cantonpublicsafety.org.

Police said the men haven't aroused any suspicions when they go into the banks because they appear calm as they carry out their scam.

"They're good actors," Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said.

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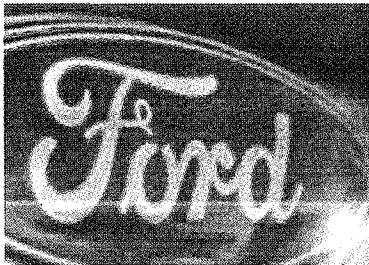


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Allison Doroshewitz reacts to the lights being turned on.

Annual Hines Park holiday display opens with a bang

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amy Slauter likes the poinsettias, her 4-year-old daughter Emily likes the flying reindeer school and her husband Jason likes the car with the presents falling off.

It seems everyone has a favorite spot along the 4 1/2-mile long Wayne County Lightfest which opened for the holiday season Thursday evening.

"This is our first time coming to the opening ceremony, but we always go through it, it's how we start our holiday season," said Slauter, a Dearborn Heights resident. "I love Christmas and this is something different to do. It's fun to see how the displays change each year."

Another newbie was Annette Feuerstein of Ann Arbor, who was at the event with Joy Barr of Westland.

"I work with Joy in Plymouth, she brought me to show me what it's all about," she said.

Barr has been coming every year since it opened. Her husband works for Wayne County Parks and helps set up the display.

"It's kind of a hidden treasure

in Wayne County," she said. "Nobody seems to know about it, but it's a nice tradition."

The 2009 Lightfest opened with a throwing of the switch by Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and children and the bang and boom of fireworks that lit up the nighttime sky.

Also joining Ficano on stage were several Wayne County commissioners, including Joan Gebhardt of Livonia, and Dianne Webb of Garden City.

"There's one million lights in the display and over 35 displays," Ficano told the crowd gathered for the opening ceremony, carried live on Fox-2 TV. Weatherman Rich Luterman helped with the countdown.

"Everybody ready for snow?" he asked as he waited to do a live weather report. "Everyone ready for Christmas? Everyone ready for Thanksgiving?"

His first question was answered with a resounding "No!" while the other two earned shouts of "yes!"

The Lightfest is open 7-10 p.m. nightly, except Christmas Day, through Jan. 1. It starts at Merriman Hollow on Hines Drive at Merriman in Westland and ends at the Warrendale area east

of Telegraph in Dearborn Heights. A walk-through display area, Santa's Workshop, refreshments and gift shopping has been set up at the end of the drive. Santa will be there from Thanksgiving until Dec. 23.

In between, guests will see the sledding hill transformed into a ski run complete with a chalet and skiers, a Nativity scene and Hannukah display. There's also a tunnel of lighted red, white and green arches and snowflakes and an eye-popping white one sponsored by DTE Energy.

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16, will be Toy Nights. Wayne County will be lending a hand to make sure all children have a bright holiday by inviting the community to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the suggested \$5 donation fee. Visitors also can contribute the recommended donation.

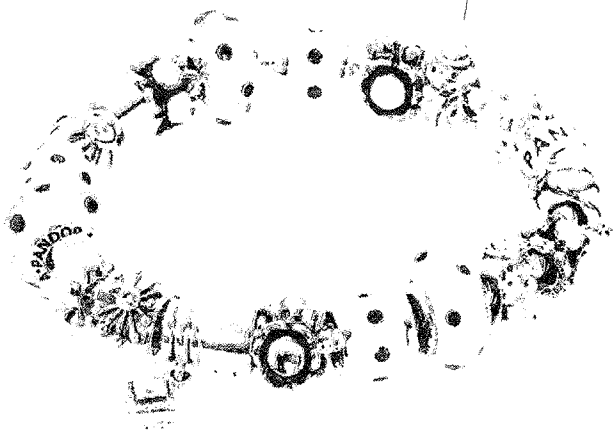
For more information on the Wayne County Lightfest, please call (734) 261-1990 or visit the parks' Web site at www.waynecountyparks.org.

Although Lightfest begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive will be closed to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly.

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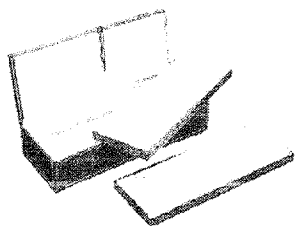
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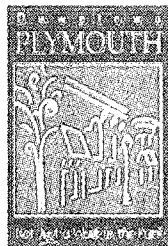
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November 27th - December 20th

Fri., Nov. 27, 2009

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- Every Fri. 5pm - 8pm
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Over 50 trees each decorated by a local family, club or business. "A Red Ryder Christmas Story" at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

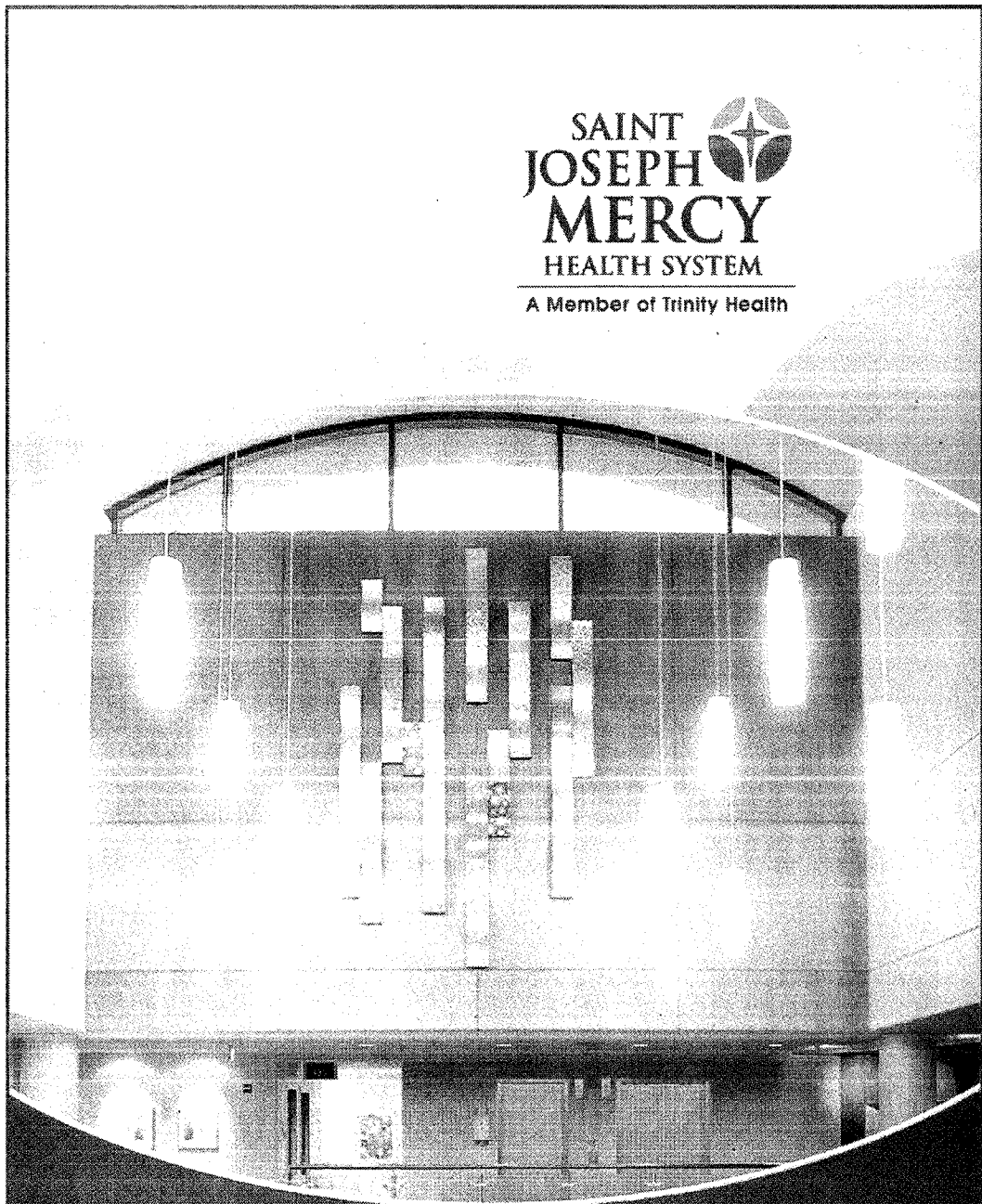


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Bond bears fruit

Savings spurred extra work around district

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As the bids for project after project included in the \$109 million bond issue approved by voters in 2004 went out, then came in on time and under budget, Plymouth-Canton school officials saw they were saving millions of dollars.

Faced with a quandary - a shrinking revenue stream tightening the budget vs. significant infrastructure needs around the district - administrators and school board members made the decision to pour the savings back into the schools, making renovations on every district building constructed before 2000.

As a result, district officials believe they've positioned the district for a solid foundation for the next 15-20 years.

"We've been fortunate ... we've been able to take advantage of some favorable bidding," said assistant superintendent Ken Jacobs, who estimated the bond work was done some 18 months early and some \$8 or \$9 million under budget. "We commit very few dollars from the general fund budget to infrastructure ... we wanted to address all our infrastructure needs."

Jacobs believes the district has done that. Every building in the district built before 2000 had some sort of work done. Not all of it - mechanical work, doors, roofs, windows, boilers, paving, plumbing - was sexy, but all of it was necessary, he said.

Workman Elementary School was the only new building constructed with the bond proceeds. And enrollment at the school, located at Cherry Hill and Denton in Canton, has proven that was a need more than a want.

"We put the building where the enrollment was coming,"



BILL DRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Among projects completed under the 2004 bond was a new bus turnaround at Gallimore Elementary, which was done in time for the first day of school in September.

Jacobs said. "It's worked out that way in that there are 700 students in that building."

While Jacobs has shepherded the projects from the district's end, he spreads the credit for the success of the bond projects around. The credit goes largely, according to Jacobs, to the district's construction manager, McCarthy & Smith, and its architect, TMP.

McCarthy & Smith was brought on board in September 1998 to build Discovery Middle School. As the district began to assess its needs, TMP was brought in in 2000. Both firms do substantial work with school districts, an expertise Plymouth-Canton officials have found valuable.

"They have a unique way of developing a following of construction crews," Jacobs said of McCarthy & Smith. "The contractors who have bid on the work have been very good."

The team has run into a few problems. There were problems with concrete being used at West Middle School, and with the materials used to resurface

the administration building on Harvey.

The weather hasn't always cooperated, either. As crews were building the new bus turnaround at Gallimore Elementary, heavy rains turned the site into what officials not-so-lovingly called "Lake Gallimore."

"We've been able to report primarily good news," McCarthy & Smith president Bill McCarthy said. "Many of the projects had some site related issues. Throw in a wet August, and it got a little exciting."

The team's relationship with the district's Board of Education also helped facilitate a lot of the effort. McCarthy, senior project manager Doug Underwood and TMP's John Reibe made frequent presentations to the board throughout the process, which has seen some 25 bid packages that included as many as 100 separate projects.

"We've kept all the good and not-so-good news out in front of the board was important," McCarthy said. "We need to be accountable for the work."

In addition to getting the work

done on time and under budget, the 2004 bond projects have had an effect on the economy. According to numbers put together by McCarthy & Smith, 2004 bond projects generated more than 70,000 mand-days and more than 563,000 hours of work between April 2005 and October 2009. The work kept nearly 60 people per day working.

While it's tough to say how much money such work generated, McCarthy & Smith officials say it was a lot.

"It's kind of hard to put a number on it," McCarthy & Smith's Underwood said. "But you'd come up with a significant dollar figure."

As the projects continued to get done under budget, administrators began struggling with the question of whether to put the savings toward alleviating the budget problems or fixing things they felt needed fixing.

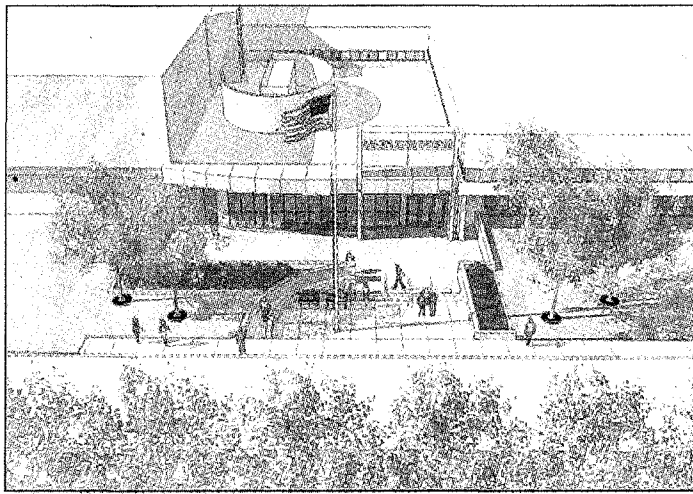
Jacobs said ultimately the decision came down to balancing the two.

"The intent of the bond was to do infrastructure work ... we took care of needs that should take us 15-20 years out," Jacobs said. "We know, given the economy, we're not going to go out for (another) bond for quite awhile. It was important to carve out some funds."

To a board that has cut some \$20 million from its budget over the last eight years, it was important to get that work done under the bond, saving general fund balances for actual education.

"It's everything to us as a struggling district," said Board of Education President Steven Sneiderman. "Anything we could save under the bond leaves that much more we can put into the classroom."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899



An artist's rendering of what the entrance to Salem High School may look like when construction is complete.

Salem High School remodel will add new classrooms

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

By this time next year, the 2004 bond should be but a memory.

A renovation of the entrance to Salem High School, the final major project under the \$109 million bond passed by voters five years ago, is underway and should be completed shortly after school starts in 2010.

The \$4.1 million project - which wasn't on the original list - will renovate Salem High School to add 10 classrooms by moving upstairs office space to a rebuilt courtyard near the existing entrance.

"We need the classrooms to accommodate growth," said Ken Jacobs, Plymouth-Canton assistant superintendent. "The high schools have been what's carrying us for enrollment the last few years."

The project, which officials say is not an addition to the building but rather a remodeling of the existing courtyard, moves the upper-floor admin-

istrative area downstairs, and adds the extra classrooms upstairs.

It also creates a distinctive main entrance to the school, something the building had lacked before.

"This project creates a legitimate front door for the school, which it's never had," said John Reibe of TMP, the district's architect.

The front of the building has been closed off, forcing people to find other entries and parking spaces. Getting the work done while school is in session presents the biggest challenge, according to construction officials.

"The biggest challenge is working at the main entrance," said Doug Underwood of McCarthy & Smith. "Student drop-off and visitor parking had to be moved. We've made accommodations for that."

Construction is expected to be complete by September 2010.

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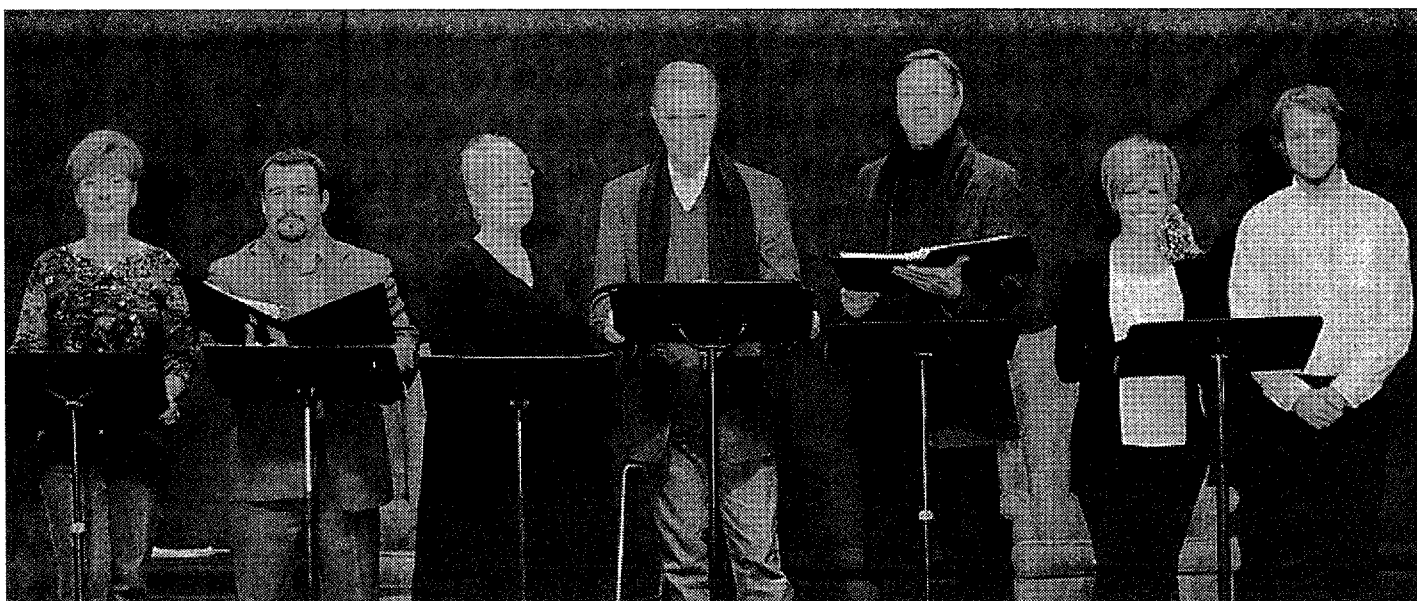
Barefoot does Dickens to raise cash, toys

Barefoot Productions announces a very merry holiday celebration fund-raiser, showcasing a narrative reading of Charles Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol.

In partnership with area merchants Sweets 21, Tranquileta and Vintner's Cellar Winery, Barefoot's 7:30 p.m., Dec. 11 event seeks to raise the necessary funds to support Barefoot's two remaining season shows, Rope (February 2010) and Steel Magnolias (May 2010).

The event will harken back to a warm, nostalgic holiday ambience, replete with mulled wines, Victorian-styled pastries and fragrant teas, provided by Vintner's Cellar Winery (Canton), Sweets 21 and Tranquileta (both of Plymouth). The fund-raiser is \$50 in advance and \$65 at the door, culminating in the presentation of Dickens' A Christmas Carol in an intimate setting.

"Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol, was first and foremost, a novella," explained Craig A. Hane, Barefoot Productions' founder and artistic director. "We are returning to the roots of the



Barefoot Productions of Plymouth presents a reading of 'A Christmas Carol' at the Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 N. Main, at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11.

story - the way it was meant to be presented - as a narrative reading. A Christmas Carol was never intended by Dickens to be a musical, a stage production or an opera. In fact, part of the reason there is no singular stage adaptation of this story is because Dickens never wrote one."

Led by a cast of seven, Barefoot's narrative reading features the talents of Linda Stanko (Grosse Ile), lead narrator; Dave Alexander

(Dearborn), Nathan Corliss (Livonia), Christine Steves (Woodhaven), Jonathon Wennstrom (Livonia), Elizabeth Whitcomb (Livonia) and Steve White (Plymouth). In a fresh 'twist' on Dickens, Barefoot Productions has chosen to cast the lead voice as a woman, despite the fact Dickens' story is predominantly male.

Advanced reservations are encouraged and may be made by visiting www.just-

gobarefoot.com or by calling (734) 560-1493. Barefoot Productions' fund-raiser, A Holiday Celebration, will be held in the Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 N. Main in Plymouth. Donations are tax-deductible.

Barefoot Productions also asks patrons attending A Christmas Carol to consider bringing an unwrapped toy to donate toward Plymouth's First Step, a nonprofit organization whose aim is to reduce

and prevent domestic and sexual violence while providing services to individuals affected by these crimes. First Step maintains an ongoing toy wish list to supplement recreational activities as well as to enhance the shelter offered to those in need. For more information about First Step, visit www.firststep-mi.org.

Christmas in Action

Elderly or disabled homeowners may apply this month to receive free home repairs from Christmas in Action of Wayne County, Inc.

Volunteers for this non-profit agency work to preserve and revitalize houses in an effort to assure that low-income elderly and disabled homeowners live in warmth, safety and independence.

Eligible applicants must live in Canton and own a single family home or condominium. They must also be over the age 55 or disabled, need repairs to the home, and be unable to afford or perform the repairs themselves.

The event date for repairs to be made is April 25. For more information, contact Paula at (734) 394-5191 or e-mail pksobe@canton-mi.org for an application. Applications are also available at the Senior Center at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, as well as the Township Administration Building, located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Application deadline is Thursday, Dec. 31.

HOBBY LOBBY advertisement featuring various holiday-themed products like Christmas ornaments, trees, lights, and gift supplies with 50% off discounts.

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THE ROEPER SCHOOL advertisement with a photo of a child and the text: "I stand corrected by my first grader. It was a Tarbosaurus, not a T-rex."

Flagstar advertisement for a 2.25% APY 18-MONTH CD* WITH LOYALTY CHECKING ACCOUNT.

Crystal Creek Assisted Living advertisement for active/alert, frail/recovering, memory impaired and Alzheimer's residents.

HOBBY LOBBY Canton advertisement for a 40% OFF sale on any one regular priced item.



Chiefette champs

The Canton Varsity Chiefettes took second place statewide in the large group Varsity division competition at the Mid-American Pom Pon High Kick Competition at Eastern Michigan University, using the theme 'Bollywood.' The Junior Varsity Chiefettes finished fifth statewide in the Junior Varsity division with their theme of 'The Grinch.'



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Salem grad hosts fund-raiser for village

BY BRAD KADRICH
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Salem High School graduate James Leddy has spent the last couple of years serving in the Peace Corps in El Salvador.

He was looking forward to a visit home recently when his village, Santiago De Chile, which has become his "home away from home," was ravaged

by mudslides and devastation.

So instead of spending his break at home vacationing, Leddy, who also attended Michigan State University, decided he'd rather do something to help his village. He enlisted the help of longtime friend Erin Williams, a fellow member of Salem's Class of 2003, to host a fund-raiser to benefit the village.

The fund-raiser to benefit Santiago De Chile takes place Tuesday, Nov. 24, at the Crow's Nest in Canton. The fund-raiser starts at 6:30 p.m. and features appetizers and a cash bar.

Cash donations will be collected, with a \$10 donation suggested at the door. The Salem High School Class of 2003 council is donating the appetizers.

"That's his home, and he has become very close and connected to this village," said

Williams, who was vice president of the student council at Salem. "They need help, so we're going to help."

Leddy will be on hand to talk about his work with the Peace Corps, as well as the recent tragedy and what needs to be done for the villagers.

The Crow's nest is located at 6166 Canton Center Road in Canton. For more information on the fund-raiser, call Williams at (734) 775-0795.

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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE
 CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
 (734) 453-1234

A special meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

Z 09-07 676 Penniman Request for Exception Temporary Use
 Zoned: B-2, Central Business
 Applicant: Dana Rybicki

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
 201 S. Main Street
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Publish: November 22, 2009

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 11:00, 12:00, 1:40, 2:50, 4:20, 5:45, 7:00, 8:45, 9:40 FRI/SAT LS 11:30

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13)
 11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45

3D DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG)
 1:45, 2:15, 4:40, 6:50, 9:15
 FRI/SAT LS 11:30

THE BOX (PG-13)
 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50

THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R)
 MON/TUE 12:50, 3:05, 6:15, 7:25, 9:35

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R)
 FRI/SAT LS 11:50

COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13)
 11:15, 1:50, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20

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Getting competitive bids for insurance can pay dividends

Q: Dear Rick: I have seen lots of commercials and ads about buying auto insurance online. I have always used a local agent and I thought I was getting a good deal. When I contacted an online company and received a bid, I was surprised at how much money I can save. I am leery about using an online insurance company. Are they safe?

A: I love that you received a competitive bid on your auto insurance. I think more people should receive competitive bids. I'm not aware of any problems — at this time — with buying any kind of insurance online. As long as you're dealing with a reputable insurance company, I see no problem with buying online.

For all its faults, the Internet has become a great tool for consumers. Whether or not you buy insurance online, the Internet is a great tool to use to receive competitive bids. You can take the bid to your current insurance company and ask them to match it. Even if they cannot, it definitely makes a statement to your agent that you are cost-conscious.

I think people would be surprised how much money they can save on a year-by-year basis by competitively shopping their insurance around. One criticism of buying insurance online is, if you do

have a claim, you don't have a personal relationship with an agent who will go to bat for you. My thought is you shouldn't need anyone to go to bat for you because, if you are dealing with a reputable insurance company, they should not make it difficult to receive a claim. However, reality is somewhat different. I recognize that insurance compa-

nies are subject to fraudulent claims and, therefore, cannot just pay any claim. That being said, the unfortunate truth is that some insurance agents don't assist you with claims. They want to sell the policy and let you deal with the company when it comes to claims. A good agent, however, will make sure the policy fits your individual situation and

assist you when claims arise. Therefore, in making a decision whether to use an online company, take into consideration your relationship with your agent.

Lastly, when you buy auto or homeowners insurance, one question to ask your agent (if you deal with one) or to consider when you deal with an online company is, what type

of discounts are available? You'd be surprised to know the different discounts that are offered. For example, if one of your children is on your automobile insurance, many companies offer discounts if they have good grades. There are also a variety of discounts if you belong to certain organizations. Insurance discount programs change at a rapid

pace. Therefore, every time you get a renewal, make sure you ask what discounts are available.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money-matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

For all its faults, the Internet has become a great tool for consumers. Whether or not you buy insurance online, the Internet is a great tool to use to receive competitive bids. You can take the bid to your current insurance company and ask them to match it. Even if they cannot, it definitely makes a statement to your agent that you are cost-conscious.

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SECTION B
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Alumni to gather for tribute to choir director - Neighbors, B5

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

HOMETOWN LIFE

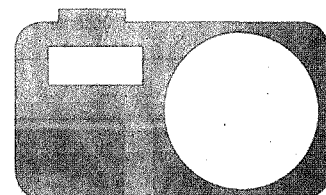


Photo galleries

Online at hometownlife.com

2009-10 BOYS HOCKEY PREVIEW



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Battling to maintain position against DeWitt-St. Johns defenseman Connor Peterson is Canton senior defenseman Rohn Gaudi (No. 21) during Friday's season opener at Canton's Arctic Edge.

Chiefs could jell into contender

5-4 overtime win gets season off to good start

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Before Friday's season opener, Canton's new varsity boys hockey coach, Jeremy Majszak, talked about "systems" and playing ultimate team hockey — the kind Majszak himself did as a Chiefs forward and captain in the late 1990s.

"Our main motto is '22 guys, one direction,' no one putting themselves in front of the team," Majszak said. "And

having a very, very strong work ethic."

Once the non-league tilt against DeWitt-St. Johns got under way at Canton's Arctic Edge, the talented duo of returning junior forward AJ Rosales and junior forward Riley Hoernschmeyer got to work putting the puck behind DeWitt junior goalkeeper Alex Zuker.

Rosales roofed a feed from Hoernschmeyer at 3:28 to put the Chiefs up 1-0. By the

time the game was seven minutes old, it was 4-0 following another goal from Rosales and two from Hoernschmeyer.

To the dismay of Majszak, however, the early lead perhaps resulted in Canton players not sticking to the game plan. All of a sudden, they couldn't get another puck past Zuker (who played very well after the early onslaught with 36 saves).

And DeWitt-St. Johns' forechecking caused plenty

of turnovers, leading to four consecutive goals. The last by Lance Rademacher at 11:38 of the third made it 4-4.

In overtime, however, the "Rosales-Hoernschmeyer Show" returned. Following a giveaway, Hoernschmeyer (two goals, two assists) pounced on a puck in the slot and sent a backhand that Zuker sticked aside.

But Rosales (three goals, one

Please see **CHIEFS, B3**

Wildcats on the prowl

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Under the watch of third-year head coach Paul Fassbender, Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team is becoming well-schooled in learning the game and what it takes to become an elite team.

Fassbender, in his third year at the Plymouth helm after a dozen seasons coaching at Eastern Michigan University, likes the work ethic, skill and physicality the players are bringing to practices at Compuware Arena.

Will that translate into wins against the Catholic Centrals of the world and postseason glory? Who knows, but Fassbender is prepared to see where the chips land.

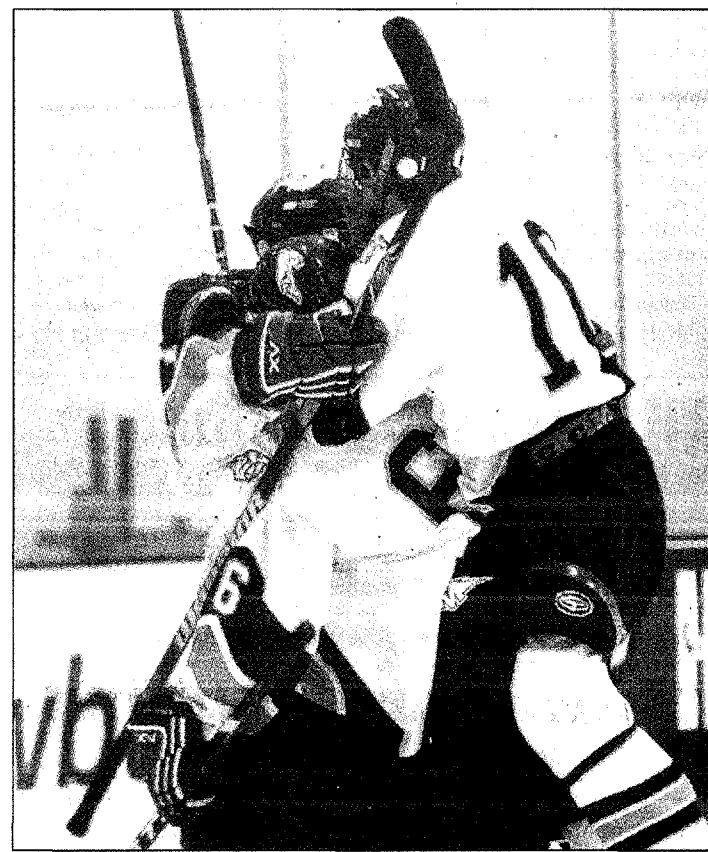
"We should be able to put

the puck in the net," said Fassbender following a practice last week at Compuware. "(But) we're going to be a little different defensively, we lost a couple big bodies on defense. We're replacing them with very young guys."

Plymouth (12-10-3 last year in the KLAA South) opened the 2009-10 season with a Saturday contest at East Kentwood. The home opener is 6:40 p.m. Tuesday against Monroe at Compuware. The nonconference schedule is packed with big challenges, too.

"We had a really good tryout. We had to make very difficult decisions," Fassbender said. "We had a lot of kids come out for the team based on our success the last couple years."

Please see **WILDCATS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Plymouth varsity boys hockey team hopes to again have these kinds of on-ice celebrations during 2009-10.

Rocks won't be easy to play against

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With time running down during Thursday's practice at Plymouth Cultural Center, Salem varsity hockey players battled it out in the corner.

Against each other.

But that's by design as Rocks head coach Ryan Ossenmacher is keen on amping up the team's intensity level and ability to take the heat in traffic at both ends of the ice during the 2009-10 season.

That's bad news for KLAA South rivals, because Salem was no slouch last year. The Rocks went 14-9-2 overall and won the division with a 5-1-1 mark. Twelve players from that team — led by senior captain and defenseman Ryan Blakey — are returning.

"We do a lot of intensity-type drills," said Ossenmacher, whose third season with the team begins Wednesday at Southgate Anderson. "With a 24-game high school season, each game is pretty important, so these guys really know that every shift they have to be 100 percent. So we do a lot of things to raise the intensity in practice."

In one drill, the goal was turned



toward the boards in the corner, guarded by a goalie. The defenseman and forward then battled hard for possession in front, resulting in either a

goal or a save.

"Most of the time, any goals that you score are going to come within five feet of the net," Ossenmacher said. "So guys who are going to win those battles with the defensemen are probably going to have the greatest opportunity to score goals." Defensemen also learn how to fight off pressure down low and clear the zone. "So it works both parts of the game for us," he said.

BUILDING A WINNING CULTURE

The fast-skating Rocks also go into the new season with confidence they can hang with always-tough Livonia Churchill. Last year, Salem defeated Churchill (and then Livonia Franklin) in the final two games to clinch the South.

"It was probably one of the biggest games the program's had," Ossenmacher said.

Salem's worst-to-first renaissance last

season shouldn't be a one-timer, with 12 guys back from that positive experience.

"It should (carry over) because winning is part of an attitude," he said. "The first year and a half that was something we had to break, the condition that maybe you can compete and if you lost it wasn't a big deal. It just happened."

"Now we go into every game expecting to win as opposed to just expecting to compete."

Filling the schedule with non-leaguers against top-notch teams such as Grosse Pointe South, Bloomfield Hills United and Detroit Country Day also should make Salem tougher to play against come districts.

"Everybody makes it to the playoffs," Ossenmacher said. "So you're used to playing those tough games on a daily basis and when you get to the state tournament, it's not a shock."


It wouldn't be a shock to see Salem's top two lines buzzing around the ice and piling up goals, either.

Intact from '08-'09 is the top line, which includes senior center and assistant captain Mario Macari, senior forward Josh Jarvela and fourth-year player Kurt Driscoll.

Please see **ROCKS, B3**

Captain's CORNER

LAUREN SEROKA



Who: Lauren Seroka, Salem sophomore, girls swimming co-captain.


Miscellany: Seroka, 15, carries a 4.0 grade-point average. Her parents are Todd and Lisa Seroka. As a freshman, she took All-State honors in two swim events and capped off the year by being named to the 2008 All-KLAA and All-Observerland first teams. She competed this weekend in her second Division 1 state meet.

Captain's job: "The role of a captain includes many things, such as setting team expectations, promoting team spirit, settling any team disputes, being a positive role model and leading by example. We also lead team meetings, and work with the coach to make sure everyone is doing what

they are supposed to."

Leadership style: "I would say my style of leadership to lead by example. I have a strong work ethic and try to be a positive leader."

Why her?: "Actually our coach selects the team captains. I feel honored that he chose me to be a captain as a sophomore."




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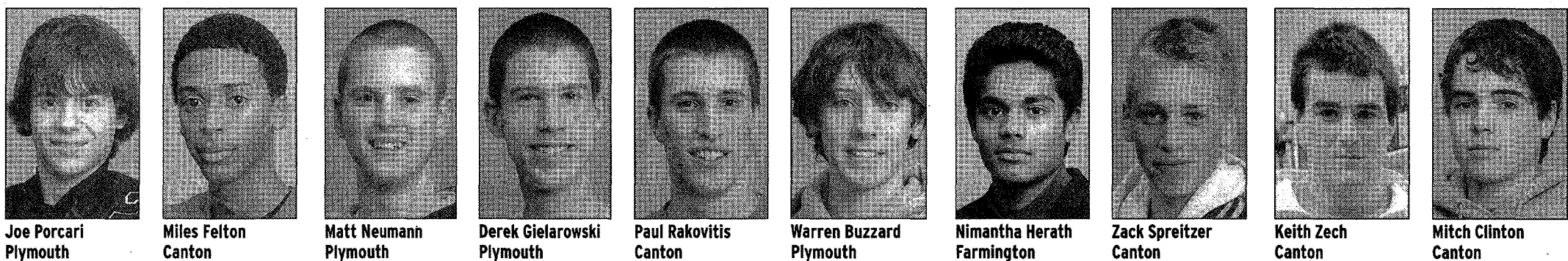
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All-Observer team features plenty of Wildcats, Chiefs

FIRST TEAM

JOE PORCARI, JR., PLYMOUTH: In just his third season, Porcari is already on the path to school greatness — he is the fourth best runner in Plymouth history.

His personal record for the season was 16-minutes, 15-seconds. The 4.0 student also placed third at the Division 1 regional and 26th at the state meet, earning him all-state honors.

"Joe was the number one runner on the team this year from the first race to the last race," said Plymouth head coach Jon Mikosz. "He will be one of the top returnees next year and has the potential to be the best runner in school history."

MILES FELTON, SOPH., CANTON: The Chiefs' 2008 Rookie of the Year had quite an encore season, earning him Co-MVP honors as well as All-Region, All-League (second Team) and All-Observerland honors for the second year in a row.

Felton's best time of the season was an impressive 16:23.

"Miles holds the records for fastest sophomore and fastest freshman in school history," said Canton head coach Bill Boyd. "After only two years, he is already one of the best runners the school has ever seen."

MATT NEUMANN, SR., PLYMOUTH: The senior co-captain is the eighth-best runner in school history, and he added to his legacy in 2009 with a fourth-place finish at the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet (with a PR of 16:36).

During his four years with the Wildcats varsity, Neumann helped

2009 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

FIRST TEAM
 Joe Porcari, Jr., Plymouth
 Miles Felton, Soph., Canton
 Matt Neumann, Sr., Plymouth
 Derek Gielarowski, Soph., Plymouth
 Paul Rakovitis, Sr., Canton
 Warren Buzzard, Sr., Plymouth
 Nimantha Herath, Soph., Farmington
 Zack Spreitzer, Sr., Canton
 Keith Zech, Sr., Canton
 Mitch Clinton, Soph., Canton

COACH OF THE YEAR
 Jon Mikosz, Plymouth

HONORABLE MENTION
Canton: Josh Osinski, Andrew Stephens, Steve Watts; **Churchill:** Ryan Wise, Cody Rossler; **Garden City:** Alex Boyd; **Farmington:** Kevin Pitt, Drew Lindman; **Franklin:** Bobby Wilson, Joe Steckel, Mike Witt, Ryan Derry; **Harrison:** Dan Leeb, Jalen Graves; **John Glenn:** Ruben Maya, Jason Suarez; **Lutheran Westland:** Daniel Bunge; **North Farmington:** Michael Lett, Anthony Williams; **Plymouth:** Jimmy Eiben; Justin Heck; **Redford Union:** Justin Faur, Zack VandenToorn; **Salem:** Jimmy Daniels; **Stevenson:** John Lynch; **Wayne:** Tyler Gendron.

the team win three division titles, two conference championships and be part of a team that finished 12th, 12th and 11th at the Division 1 state meet.

"Matt is not only a great runner but also a team leader," Mikosz said. "He capped off a great four years of cross country and will be hard to replace."

DEREK GIELAROWSKI, SOPH., PLYM. At the D1 state meet, Gielarowski was the seventh-fastest sophomore, another example of how quickly he has become a cog for the Wildcats.

In just two years, he has become the 10th-best runner in Plymouth history (PR of 16:44) and has been

part of two division titles, one conference title and teams that finished 12th and 11th at the state meet.

"Derek had a great season and showed that he can run with the top runners in the area," Mikosz said. "... He has a lot of potential and I hope he can reach all of it."

PAUL RAKOVITIS, SR., CANTON: Rakovitis had another solid season in his third year with the varsity, with selection to the All-KLAAs (second team), All Region and All-Observerland squads.

Teammates honored him with the Hardest Worker Award and his season's best time was 16:45. "Paul was the team's most consis-

tent runner," Boyd said. **WARREN BUZZARD, SR., PLYMOUTH:** Co-captain Buzzard is tied for sixth place all-time at the school and has a career PR of 16:34.

A top student (4.0 GPA), he also is a big reason the Wildcats have won three KLAAs South divisions, two conference titles and finished 12th, 12th and 11th at the D1 state meet during his four years with the varsity.

NIMANTHA HERATH, SOPH., FARMINGTON: The sophomore led the Falcons to the OAA White Division championship with a fourth-place finish and 17:09 time in the division meet at Royal Oak High School. Herath saved his best race for last, running 16:50 and earning 28th place in the Division 1 regional at Brighton. He is a two-time individual co-champion in the Farmington city meet, too. "Nimantha is a competitive, consistent runner with good race instincts," coach Charlie Stambouljan said. "He steadily improved as the season progressed and had his best races at the conference and regional meets. The future is bright for him."

ZACK SPREITZER, SR., CANTON: Canton's Co-MVP ran his PR 16:33 at the Monroe Jefferson Invitational, which coach Boyd said was "one of the best runs in school history."

The fourth-year varsity runner and 500 Mile Club member added to his long list of honors this fall. Besides being selected to the All-Observerland, and All-KLAAs teams for the third time, he was named a 2009 KLAAs Scholar Athlete. Spreitzer started his Canton

career with top rookie honors in 2006 and he never stopped excelling.

According to Boyd, the senior simply has been "one of the best runners in school history."

KEITH ZECH, SR., CANTON: The senior only ran cross country as a senior, switching over from football. But his only year as a harrier was such a success that Boyd praised him as "one of the toughest runners Canton has seen."

Zech, whose personal best was 16:43, made the All-KLAAs third team and was 18th at the D1 regional despite being sick for the final two weeks of the season.

MITCH CLINTON, SOPH., CANTON: With two outstanding seasons under his belt, Clinton already is the 24th-fastest runner in school history and the fifth-fastest Canton sophomore ever.

The KLAAs Scholar Athlete ran 16:48 for his personal best, and earned Unsung Hero honors from his teammates.

Besides again making the All-Observerland team, Clinton was a third-team selection to the All-KLAAs squad.

"He runs through injuries and works hard every day," Boyd said.

COACH OF THE YEAR

JON MIKOSZ, PLYMOUTH: Under the watchful eye of sixth-year coach Mikosz, the Wildcats enjoyed a stellar 2009 season — including a second-place finish at the D1 regional for the highest finish the team has ever had.

Plymouth took first overall in

October at the Wayne County Meet at Willow Metropark (where the regional took place), and went 5-0 in regular season dual meets to win the KLAAs South for a second straight year — going 10-0 over that two-year span.

For Mikosz, a 2001 Canton High School graduate, leading the Wildcats has continued the success he enjoyed as a runner (at Canton he was a two-time captain and state qualifier).

And a big reason for the continuing success is Mikosz,

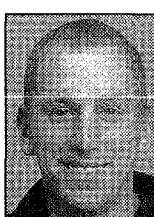
who expects a lot out of his runners while being very supportive as well.

"I think our program is so successful because the guys truly love running," said Mikosz, who lives in Canton. "They are not just running to stay in shape or to make friends but they are truly competitive and want to win."

"I expect a lot out of my athletes and they know that. With all that being said we still probably have more fun than any other team around."

They also see how much Mikosz still loves the sport and want to emulate someone who not only excelled at the prep level but ran cross country and track at Eastern Michigan University.

"The key is to make sure that everyone is having a good time," he said. "If you an make that happen the improvements and winning will come."



Jon Mikosz Plymouth coach

WILDCATS

FROM PAGE B1

"We're much, much stronger than we were last year, faster, bigger and have more skill, especially on the forward side. We have a lot of skill up front."

Last year, the Wildcats started fast (8-3-0) and faded down the stretch as younger players wore down from the long, grueling grind.

With a year of experience and knowledge, and understanding what kind of physical and mental commitment it takes to excel in high school hockey, the Wildcats very well might avoid that kind of pitfall again.

"The thing about high school hockey that a lot of people don't realize is we're on the ice every day," he emphasized. "So from November until March, we have games every Saturday so we're on the ice six days a week."

Another plus is how willing the players are to soak up whatever knowledge they can get from their coach.

"I came from Eastern, I was there 12 years, not as much teaching, more talent, they

understand the game a little bit more," Fassbender said. "But here, a lot of kids really are under instruction for the first time."

PLENTY OF PLAYERS

The Wildcats also have a lot of kids who know opportunity when they see it.

"We have three or four lines, everyone can take almost everyone's job on any given night," Fassbender said. "So they have to work a little harder to keep their spot."

Friendly competition always helps, but so does being a program on the rise that is being noticed outside of prep circles.

"By competing against the better teams, and competing with them, we're starting to lure better player," the coach stressed. "We picked up a couple AAA players (centers Cody Hunt, Ryan Brown) which hasn't happened for a while ... We're starting to get some interest" from USHL and NAHL Jr. A teams.

The 6-5 Brown "has size and a great shot" while Hunt is "tenacious, he's all over the ice" making nifty plays to line-mates.

Teaming up with Hunt

probably will be last season's top scorers, senior wingers Ryan Renault (31 points in 2008-09) and Pat Smiatacz (30 points).

Renault (6-2) is a physical presence who can boom shots while Smiatacz is "similar to Cody, more of a playmaker. He's very gifted with the puck."

Teaming up with Ryan Brown will be sophomore Zach Gambrell (10 goals) and junior Tyler Sanders (14 points).

Gambrell and Sanders are best friends who have excellent rapport on and off the ice, which doesn't hurt.

"They are on the same line and we've kept them together," the coach said.

Two other intriguing newcomers up front include seniors Colin Wright and Ryan Bauer.

"Colin is just flat-out fast and he can shoot the puck extremely well," Fassbender said. "Ryan is an all-around team player and great positionally."

"With all those guys, that's a solid three lines. It's going to be hard (for opponents) to match up one line against another."

Freshman winger Nick Schultz will see plenty of ice time, even as he learns the prep style (after playing travel hockey).

"He just needs to work on the fundamentals of the game," Fassbender said. "He's one of those type of players that the puck seems to find a way to his stick and he can bury it."

LOOKING FOR DEPTH

Leading the blueliners — and the power play — will be 6-3 senior captain Evan Swieczkowski, a savvy player with good puck skills.

"He controls the puck upstairs (near the blue line)," the coach said. "He tries to move it down low, set guys up for one-timers or re-directs. He moves it quick."

Even taller is 6-7 junior Tyler Lazorka, who is getting stronger on his skates and with the puck. "He's able to knock guys off the puck and play in 1-on-1 battles and win them."

Junior defenseman Justin Bauer is another solid skater who can move the puck well. He also is a power-play candidate.

Senior Ryan Cigile (6-2) will

play in the top two pairings as he starts his third season with the varsity.

Meanwhile, Fassbender is looking for other defensemen (such as junior Kevin Matusiak) to emerge and help make up for the graduation of 6-5 Chris Merrill and Mitch Martin.

Back in goal will be last season's Plymouth MVP, 6-2 junior Mike Justus (2.70 goals against average), who is fresh off a stint playing in the Michigan Developmental Hockey League (an All-Star program for high school players).

"He's a solid goaltender, solid all the way around," Fassbender added. "... There's a few guys with good potential and Justus is one of them."

According to the coach, "This will be a big year for him as a junior for teams to look at him with a solid team in front of him to see how he can play."

The backup netminder will be senior newcomer Zach Vojcek, who played Bantam AA last winter. "He relies on his reflexes. If we need him, he'll be solid."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Coaches, please call

It's getting close to the winter season of high school sports, believe it or not.

Coaches or their assistants are asked to supply recaps of games, meets and matches (win or lose, home or away) to help spotlight the accomplishments of deserving student-athletes at Canton, Plymouth, Salem and Plymouth Christian Academy.

To do so, please e-mail Observer_sports@hometownlife.com or leave him detailed messages at (313) 222-2637. Deadlines are Tuesday nights for the Thursday paper and Friday nights for the Sunday edition.

YMCA leagues, classes

The Plymouth Family YMCA is offering plenty of leagues and instructional classes this winter:

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Salem forward Ryan Quigley (No. 7), shown battling against Livonia Churchill's Mike Woynick last season, is one of the players who could make a big impact in 2009-10.

ROCKS

FROM PAGE B1

"Offensively, we would put them against any other team's top line and we expect them to hold their own," Ossenmacher said. "All three of them were in the top four in points on our team."

BIG-TIME POTENTIAL

Both Macari and second-line center Ryan Quigley (junior assistant captain) spent two months "playing against some of the best kids in the state" in the Michigan Developmental Hockey League. The Quigley line won't be any slouch. He will team up with 6-3 right winger Steve Haburne (a third-year player who can hit and score) and first-year player Mark McGee, a "tremendously talented" sophomore left wing who has a hard, heavy shot. According to Ossenmacher, "the sky's the limit" for Quigley between now and the end of his senior season. Being considered for the all-state team might be in his future, too. "Ryan is probably one of the fastest kids around," the coach

said. "He's been with us for three years and each year he's developed another level. "We're hoping by the end of the season that he becomes the caliber player we really think he can be with his skills. And in his senior year ... we should be looking at a kid that's competing for an all-state level."

BLAKEY'S BACK THERE

Another key forward could be sophomore center Austin Sartorius, starting his first varsity season. "We feel the ceiling on him is as high as anybody," Ossenmacher said. "As a sophomore, he's already 6-3 and one of our better skaters." On defense, the Rocks return rock-solid Blakey and junior Mike Hochkins with 6-2 first-year senior Matt Hull coming over from a travel hockey team. "This is Ryan's second year on D and we really expect him to take charge back there," Ossenmacher said. "He's pretty well-rounded, he's probably one of the better skaters on our team and one of our most physical defensemen." Hochkins, in his third varsity season, probably has the most offensive ability, he said: "He's a pretty gifted kid."

Hull is expected to bring consistency to the Salem table. Other defensemen who might step up include junior Max Coral, sophomore Jake Leib and freshman Kyle Downey. Sharing netminding duties will be senior returnee Eric Fiorentino (a backup last year) and senior Steven Manser, who comes over from the Midget A Canton Crush. Both are competing for the No. 1 spot on the pecking order. "Whoever ends up performing better throughout the course of the season will be that guy," Ossenmacher said. With the combination of speed, heavy hitting and intensity, a style Ossenmacher said the players have bought into, it very well could be a fun, successful season for the Rocks.

Canned food drive

After the season opener, the Rocks will host Canton at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, at Plymouth Cultural Center. The game will also be a canned food drive, with fans asked to bring non-perishable canned or boxed food to the arena. There will be a raffle for two gas cards during the game. tsmith@hometownlife.com

CHIEFS

FROM PAGE B1

assist) swooped in and lifted the rebound high into the cage at 54 seconds to result in the 5-4 OT victory. Their winning goal probably took some players off the hook after a sloppy game. "There was a lot of individual play tonight, which caused turnovers," Majszak said. "Which caused (goals against), instead of playing like we did the past couple scrimmage games where we were playing a system and everyone was playing together."

READY TO WIN

The winning goal showed what Canton's top forwards might be able to bring this winter, particularly when they're needed to step it up. If they can, they will chip in plenty of goals for the Chiefs, 16-8-1 last season under former coach Dan Abraham. "AJ can score, he has a good shot, good vision," the coach said.

Hoernschmeyer, one of several new players making the jump from travel hockey, can skate, shoot and make things happen. On Friday, he scored on a breakaway and by banging away at a rebound. With the graduation of 14 players from that team, and with a new coaching staff (Majszak brought in his former Eastern Michigan teammate, PJ Pinkerton and 2007 Canton grad Brad Barath), it could be a season of transition. But Majszak won't have any of that. He thinks he has the horses to compete in the KLAA South and in Division 2 postseason play (the Chiefs moved down to D-2 this season). "We'll come out flying," he said. "We'll take the body." Canton will need others to score, however. A couple of forwards who might surprise offensively include junior Jordan Smith and sophomore Duggan Tear. Smith "brings a lot of speed and enthusiasm to the team and he has a great shot."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Watching from behind the bench during his first game as Canton varsity head boys hockey coach is Jeremy Majszak.

Tear, meanwhile, impressed the coaches during preseason play. "He's stepped it up and put the puck in the net." Canton will have size and strength at the blue line, led by senior returnee Rohn Gaudi. "He's just a fast, nitty-gritty defenseman who plays the body," the coach said. "Nothing special, he just gets the job done." Another big body is 6-3 junior blueliner Jimmy LaFontaine, who drew an assist on Friday's game winner. Senior defenseman Kyle Korte isn't as big as LaFontaine, but he plays just as tough. "He's bringing everything," Majszak said. "He's not huge, but he plays big. He's the com-

plete package." Goalkeepers include former travel players Bazner, Spencer Craig and Max Sexton. The trio of sophomores will likely divide playing time. "We know the can all play," Majszak said. "They're all capable goaltenders." With so many new players, Majszak knows it will take time for the team to mesh. "We have the potential to be a great team," he said. "It's going to come down to these guys becoming a team. With talent, desire, speed and size they have all the tools." Next up for Canton is a game at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Novi. tsmith@hometownlife.com

WESTERN SUBURBAN JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

Varsity recap

On Nov. 1, the Plymouth-Canton Steelers' varsity football team lost 34-19 to host Rochester in the first round of the Western Suburban Junior Football League playoffs to end the season on a disappointing note. Coaches were proud of the way the Steelers battled until the final whistle of the day.

JV teams

The cross-town rivalry between the Plymouth-Canton Steelers and Canton Lions culminated Nov. 1 in a first-round WSJFL playoff contest at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. The Lions prevailed 14-6 to advance to the semifinals. In a rematch of the previous week, the Lions controlled the line of scrimmage and jumped out 14-0 on TDs by Charlie Turfe and Daniel Kilgore. Quarterback Robert Guajardo and lineman Allante Wheeler also stood out. The defense made some big plays on the day — none bigger than DaMarcus Kaigler's crushing hit that made a Steeler receiver drop a sure touchdown. Kilgore added an interception while other contributors were Jacob Stropes, Jakob Wickens, Jackson Austin, Isaac Jackson, Everett Czarnota and "Big Ski." Despite the loss, it was a successful season for the 31-player Steelers, who played tough all year.

Freshman teams

Lions: The squad on Nov. 1 avenged an earlier loss to the Brighton Bulldogs with a 19-0 win in the WSJFL playoffs, advancing to the semifinals. Strong defense carried the day, with Noah Brown, Joey Glunt, Myles Beverly, Brad

Tyszkiewicz, Devin Farmer, Spencer Brown, Evan Voyles, Ruben Williams, and Cody Tapp all strong in the tackle department. Offensively, the Lions controlled the line of scrimmage and the game clock. Offensive line standouts were Ethan Balogh, David Mason, Julius Crouch, Trevor LaPere, and Alan Farmer, opening big holes all day for strong running of Victor Abraham and Jason Arnold. Abraham scored the two first half touchdown runs for the Lions on runs of 35 and 60 yards. Arnold

recorded the second half touchdown run of 30 yards, putting the game away for good. Steelers: A 40-12 playoff win on Nov. 1 against the Farmington Rockets improved the Plymouth-Canton Steelers' record to 9-0. Sparking the offense were Isaac Emminger (2 TDs behind the blocking of Scott Gregor and Ben Kandah), Rashawn Allen (TD) and quarterback Kyle Burnett. Linebacker Mason Phillips in particular had a hard-hitting game for the defense.

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Hear electronic music at Schoolcraft College Dec. 3

You know what an orchestra is. You know what a choir is. Find out what an electronic music ensemble is at the Electronic Music Summit, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3, at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Admission is \$5.

Michigan's three higher education electronic music groups will perform. Wayne State University's group has created a piece based on the seasons and associated colors. The University of Michigan's group is creating a performance artwork incorporating musical furniture. They also will perform a composition by Pauline Oliveras incorporating color wheels and Mylar.

Schoolcraft's group will perform original student compositions and holiday music with 3D animation. Everyone in the audience will receive commemorative 3D glasses.

Electronic music is barely a century old, and the technology that defines it is in constant flux. It has no core repertoire, no pedagogy, no traditions. Electronic music ensembles in higher education vary widely in style and substance, and are usually defined by the vision of their individual directors.

Thomas Court, who leads WSU's electronic music group, has been involved in electronic music since 1974 when his Electronic Music Laboratories

introduced modular synthesis to the world of music producers. An active composer and sound designer, Court has been at WSU since 1998.

Stephen Rush of the U-M is a versatile composer and jazz musician. His music has premiered on five continents, he has recorded more than 20 CDs, and he's written a book on jazz theology.

Barton Polot of Schoolcraft College is a pianist, composer and software developer. He has been director and a guiding force of the annual Michigan Music Technology Conference in Grand Rapids.

For more information call Schoolcraft College at (734) 462-4400.

A smart senior's guide to flu season

Those over 50 need to be immunized against seasonal flu. That's the most important step most older people can take to get safely through the flu season, says Karen Hall, M.D., Ph.D., a University of Michigan Geriatrics Center specialist.

And here's a lesser known fact: Older people who come down with flu-like symptoms should stay home, but promptly contact their primary care physician to carefully monitor their symptoms. They may be priority candidates for antiviral drugs, usually best started within 48 hours of the flu's onset, to make their flu less severe and complications less likely.

"If you have a high fever, cough, sore throat and muscle aches, don't wait. Call your health care provider and describe your symptoms," says Hall, a U-M associate professor of geriatric medicine.

"Anyone with shortness of breath or chest pain should go to an emergency room."

Hall says the first step in getting seasonal flu or H1N1 vaccinations is to contact your primary care doctor to arrange for the vaccinations recommended for you. If you

are a candidate for one or both types of flu vaccine but your doctor has none available, ask to be put on a waiting list.

Some stores, including Meijer, Kroger and Target, offer flu vaccinations, except when vaccines are in short supply as they have been recently. Check to be sure a store has vaccine available.

"It's important to get vaccinated against seasonal flu now, or as soon as possible," says Hall. Seasonal flu is already circulating in the community.

For those middle-aged and older, advice on who should be vaccinated for each type of flu depends on your health status and your age. Here's a breakdown about who should get which vaccinations:

■ Seasonal flu vaccine: All people 50 or older are more likely to be severely affected and should get vaccinated.

■ Pneumonia vaccine: if you are over 65, or are under age 65 and have a health condition that puts you at higher risk, ask your doctor about getting a pneumonia vaccination. This vaccine is widely available and protects against the most common form of pneumonia. Booster pneumonia vaccina-

tions are needed every five to seven years.

■ H1N1 vaccine: If you are age 49-64 and have certain health conditions that put you at greater risk, ask your doctor about an H1N1 flu shot. Conditions include chronic lung conditions such as emphysema and asthma, immune disorders, cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, lung and liver disorders, neurological disorders and kidney disorders.

People over 64 aren't eligible for H1N1 vaccine, because they are the most likely to already have some immunity due to earlier exposure to a similar flu strain.

Tips to avoid catching the flu:

■ Wash hands or use a hand sanitizer frequently.

■ Avoid touching your nose, eyes and mouth.

■ Practice good health habits: Get plenty of sleep, eat nutritiously, drink fluids and exercise.

■ Avoid crowds and contact with people who are sick. If grandchildren or other children in your life have a flu-like illness, avoid seeing them until about 72 hours after they've stopped having symptoms.

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NEIGHBORS

Alumni to gather for tribute to choir director

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

In less than an hour Jerry Smith was expecting the wonderful aura of excitement to return to the music room at First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth.

On Oct. 4, the Livonia resident had been amazed by the number of former students eager to attend the first rehearsal for the Homecoming Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Concert Choir at Bentley High School in Livonia. Smith never imagined that nearly 600 of his students would respond to an invitation to sing at the event when son-in-law Ron Moon put out the call on classmates.com nearly two years ago.

Close to 150 showed up for the second rehearsal Nov. 1, sending Smith's spirits soaring. His face beamed with pride that so many would pay tribute to him at the Nov. 28 event which not only celebrates the 50th anniversary but his 75th birthday, as well. The festivities will include a strolling dinner, performances and recording of an alumni CD and DVD at Burton Manor in Livonia.

Smith founded and directed the choirs from 1959 until the school closed in 1985. He incorporated several of the traditions from his days singing with the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club into the Bentley vocal music program including a series of concerts in Europe. At U-M he learned the best ensembles were highly disciplined and held to practices that built camaraderie. Smith incorporated the rehearsal parties,

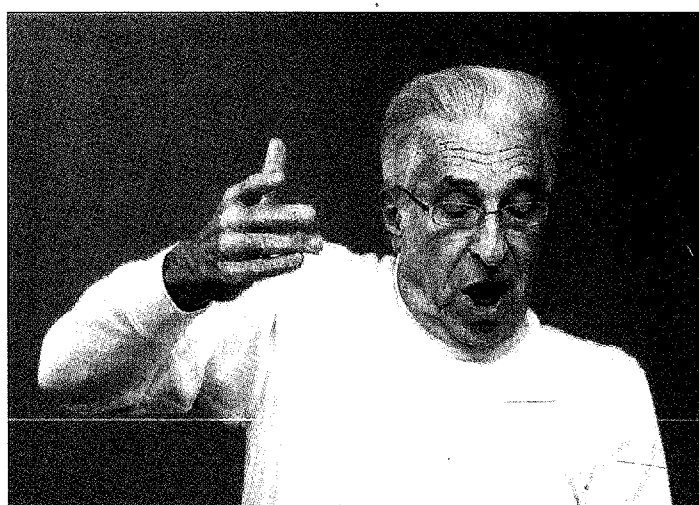


Sharon and Jerry Smith share a passion for music.

initiations, formal ceremonies, banquets and awards into the high school's choir experience along with a grading system that required voice and music reading tests for every marking period. He also envisioned an elite ensemble that students could aspire to: the Concert Choir.

COMMON INTEREST

Smith's wife Sharon observed the growth of the vocal music department nearly from the beginning. Shortly after moving to Livonia a fellow student encouraged her to try out on piano for the variety show. She did and the rest is history, says Jerry. He asked



Jerry Smith rehearses with his former Bentley choir students.



Jerry Smith rehearses with former students while his wife, Sharon, accompanies on piano.

her to accompany the choir. From January 1960 for the next 2 1/2 years she joined the choir on stage with the man who would become her husband.

"I played *Deep Purple*. I didn't know what an encore

was so I played the same song again," said Sharon (Hubbs) Smith laughing.

It's obvious that after 45 years of marriage the couple is still in love. The choir for many years was their common denominator. Even though she went away to Belmont College in Nashville, a fire continued to burn brightly between them. Sharon wrote to Jerry and to his surprise he wrote back. He'd received letters from former students before but never had time with his busy school schedule to answer them.

"We're both Christians and loved music, both of our families were from the south," said Sharon. "When I came home for Christmas we went on a hayride with the choir. During spring break he proposed."

HARMONIOUS MARRIAGE

The couple was married June 27, 1964 in Friendship Baptist Church in Lincoln Park, the only church large enough to hold the 800 guests.

A choir of his former students sang along with friends espousing the couple's love in the songs they wrote to each other. In 1973, they moved to Livonia where he founded the Creative and Performing Arts Program at Churchill High School and annually directs the music for the Livonia Prayer Breakfast.

"It was easy to fall in love with her because I respected her," said Jerry. "It has been wonderful. We're an unusual couple. I'm nine years older than Sharon and was driven. We had enough differences so we were never bored."

Before they married however Sharon wanted to know who would be number one — her or Bentley's vocal music department. Sharon had witnessed firsthand his overwhelming dedication to students resulting in countless hours spent away from home.

"He changed," said Sharon. "There were no surprises. He's a planner, organized. He's a good dad. Our son and him go to U of M games together. He does stuff with his daughters. He made time for family. The kids were part of everything we did."

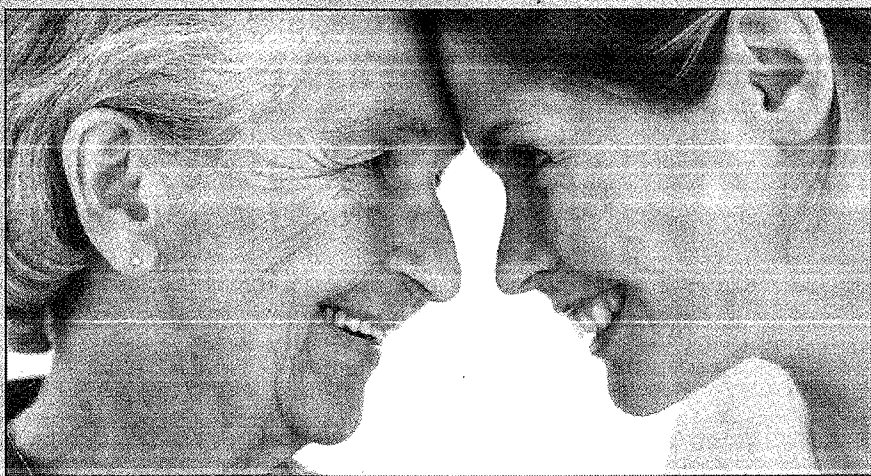
ACTIVE IN CHURCH

The three Smith children sang in choirs, at church and school, under the direction of their father. Jerry was choir director at Ward Presbyterian Church, first in Livonia then Northville for nearly three decades. Sharon was the accompanist.

"We were a team, toured with Ward Youth Choir," said Sharon. "He always tried to get

Please see **ELEMENTS, 87**

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Sleep Well This Holiday— And All Year Long:

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By Elena Diverno

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"The staff at Pure Sleep is specially trained and committed to finding the right sleep system to give you a great night's sleep and get you on your way to better health" said Glucksman.

But what about the cost? "Rest assured, we have the buying power of Michigan's #1 Mattress Retailer, Art Van — guaranteeing the lowest prices, best selection and complete satisfaction for every person we serve."

This holiday, the perfect gift just might be a new mattress, giving you a better night's sleep all year long.

Visit Art Van
Pure Sleep This Week

FREE SLEEP DIAGNOSTIC TEST

Save 20% off selected Sleep Accessories and Gifts
Save 50% off selected mattresses
See store for details.

Art Van PureSleep
Because you can't have a great day—without a great night



REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Got a photo of your graduating class? Maybe a prom photo or some other special moment? Send it along, too, as a jpg attachment.

Cody High School

Classes of 1955-58
Holiday lunch, 1 p.m. Dec. 21, at Monaghan K of C Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia. Contact: Vera at (734) 591-1305 or Irene at (248) 489-0415.

Detroit Pershing Class of 1960
50th reunion festivities in September 2010 will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Detroit St. Brigid Class of 1959
Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Farmington High School Class of 1970
Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at dblenn@aol.com.

Fordson High School Class of 1984
25-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Nov. 28, Burton Manor in Livonia. Cost is \$65 per person and includes dinner, dancing/DJ, and full bar. A photographer will be on-site taking and selling group and individual photos. Invitations will be mailed out in October. E-mail Michele (Tonna) Belczak at michelebel@sbcbglobal.net or Melanie (Monaghan) Scharboneau at mscharboneau@yahoo.com to provide current mailing address.

Garden City High School Class of 1960
Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Garden City West Class of 1970
40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ included for \$50 per person. Classmates from the

classes of 1968-1972 also cordially invited to attend. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

Dearborn Heights Haston High Class of 1965
45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24, 2010; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com

Ladywood Class of 1984
25th reunion, Dec. 26; for information e-mail to Sara Czarnecki Levitsky at saralevitsky@comcast.net

Livonia Bentley Classes of 1968-1970
Combined class reunion Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel Detroit-Livonia, I-275 and Six Mile. For details, visit www.bentley686970.org to e-mail, or call Connie (Scarlett) Flynn class of 1968 at (734) 812-7936, Bev (Valentine) Wilkie class of 1969 at (248) 366-6492 or Colleen Siembor class of 1970 at (734) 455-1395.

Classes of '78, '79, '80
Combo-Class Reunion Friday,

Nov. 27, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100, Livonia. Tickets are \$50 before Nov. 1 and \$60 after. Doors open at 6 p.m. The event includes food, live music and an open bar. Visit www.bentleyclassof1979.com. Contact bentleyclassof78@yahoo.com or call John at (734) 358-3272.

Livonia Franklin Class of 1979
30-year reunion, 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 28, at the Radisson Hotel, Livonia. For information call Sharon at (734) 261-3264 or e-mail to Mary Porretta Loveley at porremi@kellyservices.com

Livonia Stevenson Class of 1979
30th reunion, 6 p.m., Nov. 28, at Station 885, 995 Starkweather, Plymouth. Tickets cost \$35 per person before Nov. 14 and \$50 per person after the date and at the door. Contact Lisa Falk at lisannefalk@comcast.net

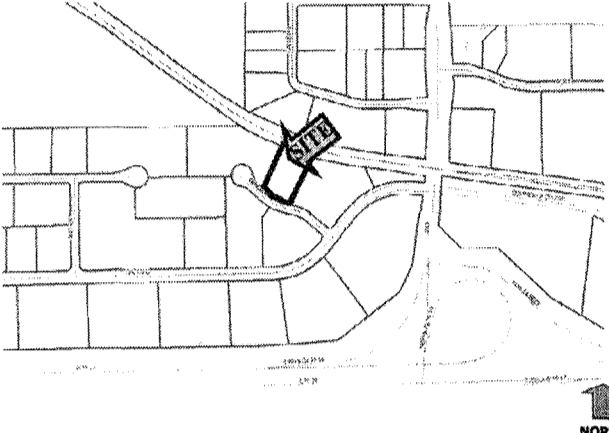
Oak Park High School Class of 1980
30th reunion, July 2-4, 2010; for information e-mail to ophighschool1980@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED ACTION: REQUEST APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL LAND USE
DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, December 9, 2009
TIME OF HEARING: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township has received a petition from Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers requesting Special Land Use Approval for a physical therapy center in a TAR, Technology and Research District, pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 99, Section 18.2.1, on Tax ID. R-78-008-01-0002-302. The property is located at 14328 Genoa Court.

Application 2019
Applicant, Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers



LEGAL DESCRIPTION: For parcel descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID No. R-78-008-01-0002-302. The property is located 14328 Genoa Court.

The application may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, ext. 6. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth Township, MI 48170.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service).

KENDRA BARBERENA, SECRETARY
PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: November 22, 2009

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Lose Inches, Burn Fat, Have FUN!!!

2 Weeks FREE*

6 Week Weight Loss Program that burns 9x more fat than regular aerobics!
Puts you in a fat-burning state for 24-48 hrs.

*Coupon expires 12-17-09. One coupon per person.


Visit www.healthandmotion.net

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For More Information Call 248-987-4107

Support Canton Goodfellows

The Canton Public Library will accept nonperishable food items noon to 6 p.m. today (Sunday) to help the Canton Goodfellows collect holiday food for local families in need. Items may be dropped off in the library's community room.

KNOW THE SCORE
check out the numbers in today's **SPORTS** section



Come see...

THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

2009

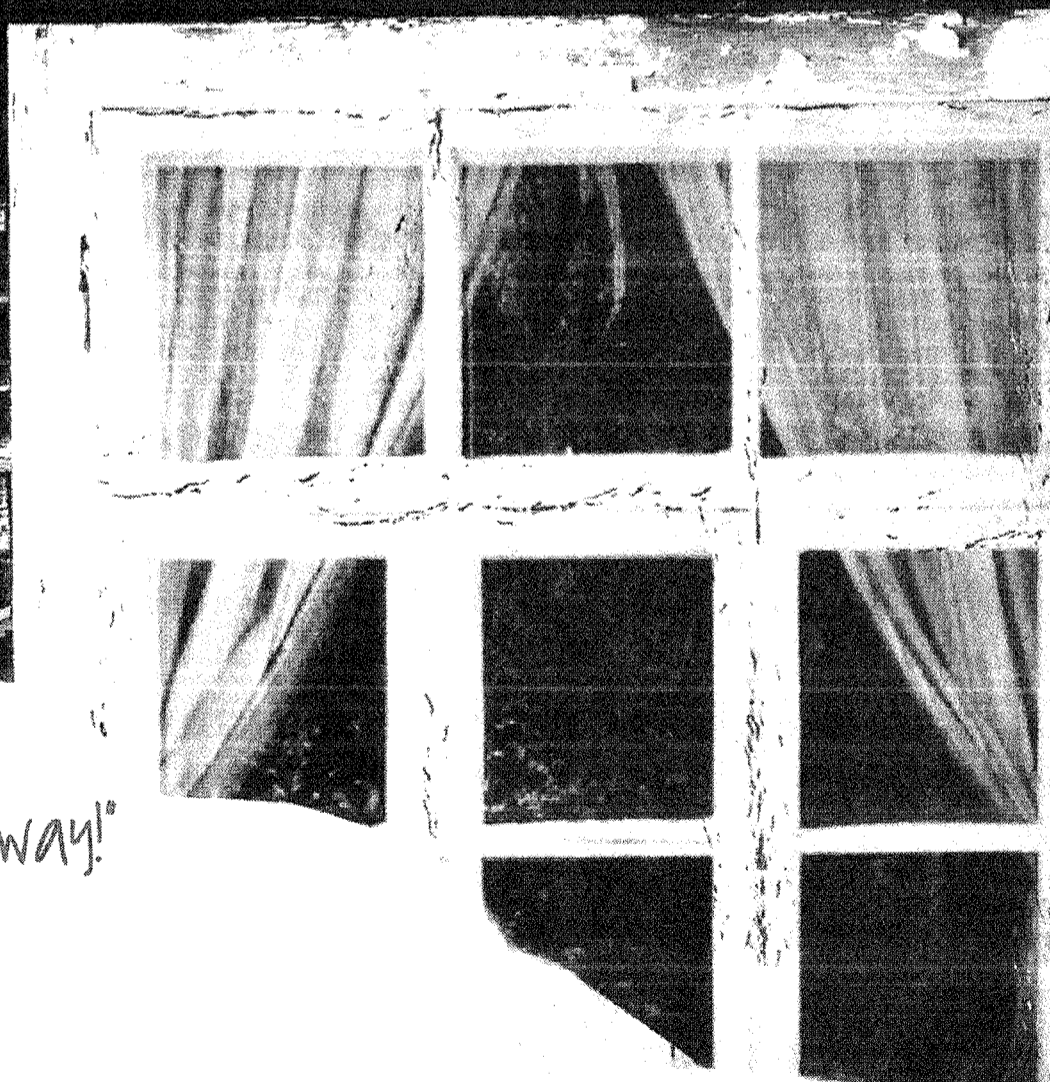
"...it's Better than Broadway!"

SHOW TIMES
DEC 3 & 10 - 7:30P
DEC 4 & 11 - 7:30P
DEC 5 & 12 - 1:00P
DEC 6 & 13 - 3:00P & 7:30P

TICKETS
\$16 & \$18 (INCLUDES SERVICE & HANDLING FEES)
NORTHRIDGECHURCH.COM/GOC OR CALL 888.4GOCTIX (888.446.2849)

PLEASE NOTE
DUE TO THE LENGTH OF THE SHOW (2 1/2 HRS), CHILDREN UNDER 4 YEARS WILL NOT BE ADMITTED!

49555 NORTH TERRITORIAL, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170 734.414.7777 NORTHRIDGECHURCH.COM



NorthRidge Church



PHOTOS BY ANN ESPINOZA

Members of the soprano section rehearse for the reunion concert on Nov. 28.

Homecoming sure to be grandest Bentley party

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

All around the room, all that could be heard was Dr. Smith this and Dr. Smith that. The chatter seemed naturally to focus on the man who shaped their lives.

For 26 years, except for one when he went on sabbatical to earn a doctorate, Jerry Smith instilled discipline in Bentley High School choir students. On Nov. 28, they'll reunite and pay tribute to Smith at the Homecoming Celebration at Burton Manor in Livonia.

In the meantime they were about to rehearse Christmas songs they'd come to know so well during their time with him in Concert Choir, the elite ensemble for vocal students at Bentley High School in Livonia from 1960 to 1985.

Dian Segal carried the lessons with her into the business world as human resources director for UPS for 20 years. The Livonia woman retired only when her kidneys started failing. She's worked on the committee for the Nov. 28 event for nearly two years and plans to be there as she awaits a transplant.

SEASONAL FAVORITES

Along with enjoying a strolling dinner and silent auction of memorabilia, nearly 600 former Concert Choir members will rehearse then record favorites such as the *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *Silver Bells*, *Do You Hear What I Hear?*, Johnny Mathis's "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" (*The Christmas Song*), *Mary Had a Baby*, Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, *O Holy Night*, and *The Prayer*, an original by Smith.

The 16-member committee has rented a 9-foot grand piano for special alumni guests, such as concert pianist and composer Clifford Smith. Several professional musicians will be performing including Heidi Hepler who's sung everything from opera to jazz and now lives in New York.

"It's a chance to reunite with old friends and do something we all believe in (the Bentley vocal music department)," said Segal. "Dr. Smith taught me structure and organization. I don't want to say he was strict but he had rules and we followed those rules. If you were late, you were docked, chewing gum, docked, not sitting up straight, docked, but rules

paid off and made us successful. Imagine 100 people trying to sing together without rules."

RECORDING THE MUSIC

Committee member Lawrence Zanes says he's on the phone almost daily with former students who want to come and pay tribute to Smith for the impact he made on their lives. On Nov. 28, they'll assemble to rehearse before recording a CD. They've hired a DVD editor and are using four cameras to capture the performance.

"We'll have memorable music with Christmas trees and collage posters of every choir on display, separate tables for years, videos of past years," said Smith.

Kurt Meyer, a 1982 graduate sang in the Concert Choir of 1981-82. His sister Kim Alderman sang with Smith as well.

"It's an opportunity to revisit with some old classmates, to sing with excellent voices," said Meyer, a Livonia resident. "My sister and I sing with the Livonia Civic Chorus that my dad started in 1969 and I sang with Dr. Smith in church choir also."

Alumni from as far away as Austria and the Virgin Islands are coming for the Nov. 28 Homecoming Celebration.



Soprano Rachele (Beaupre) Vick sings.

CHOIR

FROM PAGE B5

an accompanist, but when he couldn't I would fill in. I would take whatever child was home with me and set them down next to the piano with a coloring book and crayons."

Jerry is now in music ministry at First Presbyterian in Plymouth where daughter Carole Moon directs the children's choir and Sharon is the assistant organist/accompanist. Daughter Kimberly Swan is a professional musician. Son Darrell is a builder who loves to sing.

The Smiths have five grandchildren. Together as a family they will sing the Concert

Choir theme song, *We Have This Moment Today*. A portion of the Nov. 28 program features former students who've gone on to sing professionally like Heidi Hepler, a vocalist/lyricist with the ability to perform everything from opera to jazz. Sharon's women's ensemble, The Fifth Season, with members from several area churches, also will take to the stage at Burton Manor in Livonia.

"It's going to be so nostalgic," said Sharon with tears in her eyes.

The Homecoming Celebration takes place 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Tickets are \$50. Call Tommi Mozier West at (734) 421-5795 or Lawrence Zane (734) 347-8810. www.bentleychoirs.com.

ADOPT A GREYHOUND

Dream and Jill are the featured adoptable greyhounds from Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption this week.

Here's what volunteers say about these graceful dogs:

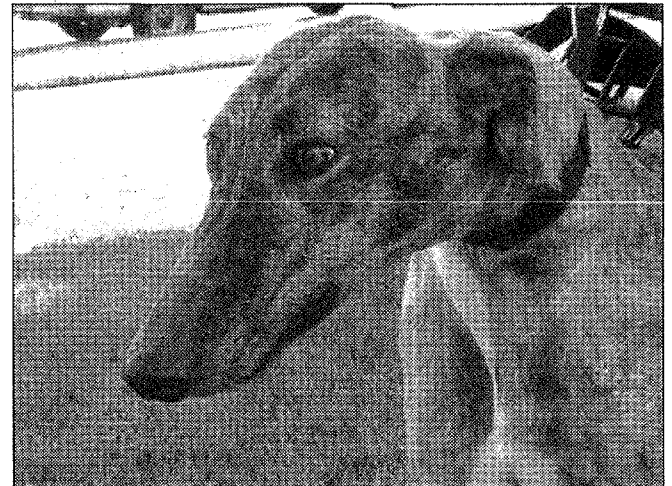
Dream is a 2 1/2-year-old brindle colored female greyhound. She is a little shy and would love to be adopted into a somewhat quiet home. She currently is living in a foster home with a couple of cats and two greyhounds. She loves playing with toys. She never owned a toy before and has discovered how much fun it is to toss them in the air and play. Take a look at the organization's Web site (www.greyheart.org) for another adorable picture of Dream.

Jill recently left the race-track for the good life and is looking for a family to call her own. She's stunningly beautiful, with a black shiny coat and the most soulful eyes that will just draw you in. She's 3 years old and is very curious about her new life in a real home. She's very energetic and learning the in's and out's of living with a family. She's also very affectionate and loves to give kisses.

"Greyhounds are an alluring breed with a gentle personality that tends to draw a crowd wherever they go," says Jackie Bowen,



Jill is a former racing dog.



Dream is a little shy.

Greyheart member. If you're interested in meeting Dream or Jill, call Greyheart Greyhound

Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 and check out the Web site at www.greyheart.org.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

WIDOWS, WIDOWERS

Widowed Friends invites widows and widowers to an Italian buffet dinner Wednesday, Dec. 9, at Corsi's Italian Restaurant, 27910 Seven Mile, three blocks west of Inkster, Livonia.

A social hour will start at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. Enjoy conversation, cards, games, and meet new friends until 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$12 cash only payable at the door. It includes the buffet, dessert, beverages, tax and tip. Cash bar. RSVP by Dec. 6 to Chet at (734) 459-4316 or Pat at (248) 545-8348.

PLAY BASKETBALL

The Livonia Recreation Department is registering teams now for a Men's Basketball League that will start play in early January 2010. Cost is \$400 per team plus nonresident and officials fees per game.

To sign up or for more information, call (734) 466-2410.

BENEFIT DINNER

Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen is teaming up with Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington to help raise money for its athletic committee.

The restaurant, 17107

Haggerty, Northville, will donate 10 percent of dining checks generated from 4-10 p.m., Monday, Nov. 23, to Our Lady of Sorrows. To be eligible, the check must be accompanied by a copy of the "Papa's Partners" event voucher. Reservations are recommended.

To find out more or to obtain a Papa's Partners event voucher, call Carolyn Malzone at (248) 408-7387.

Our Lady of Sorrows is at 24040 Raphael, Farmington. Our Lady of Sorrows school provides preschool, half-day and full-day kindergarten and grades one through eight.

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.

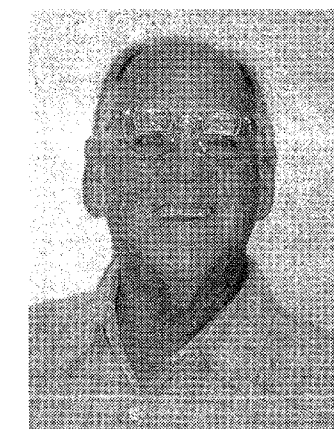
Desmond Roberts lost his license to drive. He saw Dr. Sheldon Smith of Low Vision of Michigan desperate to maintain independent driving. With telescopic driving glasses prescribed by Dr. Smith his license was reinstated.

"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 anywhere, unlike electronic table-top magnifiers. And unlike magnifiers, spectacles are hands free."



David Welch with driving glasses

"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.

TOLL FREE: 877-677-2020

Low Vision of Michigan

Located throughout Michigan:
Livonia, Warren, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Port Huron, Okemos, Fenton, Burton, Lambertville

Dr. Sheldon Smith and Dr. Don Haiderer
low vision optometrists
www.suburbaneyecare.com

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I help responsible homeowners, undergoing serious hardships in this recession, keep their homes, save on their property taxes and repair their credit.

Call Sam at 313- 378-0484 or feel free to email any questions to me at Sam@theassessorgroup.com

The Assessor Group-Livonia
www.theassessorgroup.com

ENGAGEMENT

Thompson-Koziol

Dennis and Sandy Thompson of Northville, Janet Whitson of Redford Township and Walter and Jeannie Koziol of Highland Township announce the engagement of Laura Thompson and Andrew Koziol.

The bride-to-be attended Northville High School and Eastern Michigan University.

The groom-elect attended Detroit Catholic Central High School and Michigan State University.

The couple plans a May 2010 wedding in Northville.



Laura Thompson and Andrew Koziol

MILESTONES



Five generations

Great-great-grandma Maryanne Galutira of Garden City holds Wednesday Yuchasz. Next to Maryanne is great-grandma Janet Yuchasz, followed by the baby's mother, Kayla Yuchasz, and grandma Diane Schnider.

Passages
Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968
email: oeoibits@hometownlife.com
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

RAE HAFNER BALLENTINE

There will be a memorial service celebrating the life of Rae Hafner Ballentine on Saturday Nov. 28 at 1:00PM at St. James Episcopal Church in Birmingham, MI. There will be a reception at the church immediately following the service.

DORIS HAMMOND FEDUS

Age 98 of Petoskey, MI and formerly of Livonia, died November 13, 2009 at the home. A memorial celebration was held on Friday November 20th from 1-4pm at the Stafford's Bay View Inn in Petoskey with the service being held at 2:30pm. Arrangements are in the care of the Stone Funeral Home of Petoskey.

EMIL MAKILA

Age 87, of Livonia, passed away November 17, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, Farmington, MI.



FRANCES GARRISON BRAMBLETT

Born November 25, 1916
Passed November 20, 2009

Frances Bramblett slipped gracefully into heaven with her loving children by her side at Hospice of Beaumont Hospital following a stroke, just five days shy of her 93rd birthday. Frances was born and raised in Marietta, Georgia, daughter of Eli Wesley and Margaret Giles Garrison. She attended Marietta High School and Georgia State college for Women, after which she taught school for two years. She was most happily married to Earl R. Bramblett on June 25, 1937, and they had a long and loving marriage and life after moving to Michigan, where Earl rose to become Vice President of Personnel for General Motors corporation. Frances was active in her children's Brownie, Cub and Girl Scouting activities for many years.

Both Frances and Earl were very active in the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Michigan, where they served on the Board of Deacons and The Board of Trustees. Earl also taught the Christian Forum adult Bible study class for twenty-five years before passing away in 1976. They spent their winters in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii for thirty years and were active in their local church.

Frances and Earl both loved to play bridge and golf. Earl was an extremely accomplished golfer, with seven holes-in-one to his credit, and a handicap of seven when he passed. They were proud members of the Augusta National Golf Club. Frances played golf into her 80's and continued to play bridge several times each week right up until her passing.

The bases of Frances' life were her love and relationship with Earl, and her deep and abiding Christian faith in God and her personal Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. She lived according to the ten commandments plus Jesus' two commandments that one love God with all their heart, mind and strength, and that one love one's neighbor as oneself.

After Earl's passing in 1976, Frances was very lonely and missed him tremendously, but kept her faith and was a shining example of it. She insisted on being addressed as "Mrs. Earl" and we soon discovered that the reason was; Mrs. Earl misses Earl. Frances kept in close, regular touch with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as well as her many friends and relatives across the county. Frances was greatly loved for her generous spirit and friendly manner, always ready to help her family, friends and neighbors in any way she could. She was always colorfully and stylishly dressed and brought a ray of sunshine into each room she entered. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Earl, her brothers E.W. Garrison and Robert T. Garrison, and her sister Willie Mae Bramblett, who was married to Earl's brother, Elder.

She is survived by her children Bonnie Swift (James Langbehn, dec.) of Fairfax, CA, Billy Bramblett (Alicia Keshishian) of Petaluma, CA; grandchildren Josh Swift (Lori) of Erie, CO, Melissa Ohara (Mike) of Petaluma, CA, Sarah Swift-Langbehn of San Anselmo, CA, and Simone Swift-Langbehn of San Francisco, CA; and great-grandchildren Cade and Donovan Swift, and Ryan, Kyle and Brady Ohara. Also surviving are her sisters-in law, Lorene Garrison, and Jenny Senning, along with dozens of cousins, nieces and nephews.

A service celebrating Frances' life will be held at the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, MI at 200 Bates (At Willets) on Tuesday, November 24, at 11 AM. A reception will follow in the church parlor. Frances will be buried next to Earl in the Garrison family plot at the Marietta City Cemetery in Marietta, GA. In Lieu of flowers, the family asks donations to the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Michigan.



JOE E. HALL JR.

Age 75 passed away November 10, 2009. Born June 27, 1934 in Detroit, MI. Preceded in death by his wife, Barbara C. (Williams) Hall, son Joe E. Hall III and survived by his sister Elva Hall of Homosassa, FL, son Tad Hall of Grass Lake, granddaughter Jacquelyn and grandson Joshua and caring family and friends throughout the country. Joe worked as a tool and die maker and retired from Detroit Diesel in 1999. He enjoyed mechanical work and could practically create a lawn mower for a friend from spare parts in his garage. Thanks to the Belle Oakes Living Center staff in Lake City for taking care of Joe and allowing our jokester to carry on with hiding vacuum cleaners and other such schemes. A memorial will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hartland Hospice, P.O. Box 667, West Branch, MI, 48661 in Remembrance of Joe Hall.



SUSAN L. WELLS

Age 57, November 19, 2009. Beloved wife of Bill. Loving mother of Dan & Brett (Amanda). Devoted grandmother of Isabella. Visitation at the R. G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday 2-9 pm and Monday from 1 pm until Funeral Service at 3 pm. Memorial contributions may be directed to American Cancer Society. Please share a memory of Susan at: www.rgrharris.com

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
oeoibits@hometownlife.com
or fax to:
Attn: Obit 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

65TH ANNIVERSARY

James "Jim" and Helen Willey of Livonia will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Dec. 1.

The couple met in Columbus, Ohio, in December 1942 while Jim was in the Navy and Helen was in training to become a registered nurse. Helen graduated in October 1944 from Toledo State Hospital and James was commissioned at the Coast Guard Academy in November that same year.

During their marriage they raised one son, while Jim worked for the U.S. government both stateside and internationally before and after World War II. Jim also finished his formal education through the Washington International College and received his bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. Later, Jim continued advanced studies at Wayne State University.

Over the years Jim worked for several design/build engineering firms as well as consulting engineering firms. He was the project manager on two of the largest local projects. The first was the Detroit Newsprint Plant in Sterling Heights and the second was the Detroit Free Press plant on the Detroit River. Jim retired in 1985.

Helen worked in nursing in Columbus, Ohio, until their son was born, when she became a stay-at-home mom. She occasionally traveled with her son and husband while Jim was



James and Helen Willey of Livonia

on various extended assignments. During their son's teen years, Helen returned to work in 1961 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit where she was the head nurse in the plastic surgery clinic. She retired because of medical reasons in 1982.

Their family continues on with four generations, with the majority living in the area. Michael, their son, lives with Delores, their daughter-in-law, in Garden City. Rachel, their granddaughter, is an emergency medical technician and lives in Westland with their two great-grandchildren, Zachery and Zoey. James M., their grandson, who has served in the military as a U.S. Army Ranger Medic, is now working for the U.S. government in Fairfax, Va., as a civilian instructor.



Jim and Helen Willey of Livonia on their wedding day 65 years ago.

WEDDING



Cpl. Jesse Stevens and Heather Ann Rudowski

Rudowski-Stevens

Cpl. Jesse Stevens, USMC, formerly of Livonia, and Heather Ann Rudowski, also of Livonia, were married Oct. 17, 2009, at Our Master Lutheran Church in Inkster.

The bride is the daughter of David Rudowski of Westland, and Deborah Rudowski of Livonia. She is pursuing a nursing degree in Alexandria, Va., where the couple resides.

The groom is the son of Anthony Stevens of Columbus, Ind., and Shereen Janisse of Livonia. He is a USMC corporal stationed at Ft. Belvoir in Alexandria, Va.

Heather graduated from Livonia Stevenson High School in 2006 and Jesse is a 2005 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School.

Zoo offers abundance of holiday gift ideas

When the shopping mall becomes a zoo this holiday season, shoppers can make the Detroit Zoo their "mall."

A Detroit Zoo gift card can be loaded with any amount \$5 and up and used for admission and parking as well as tickets for the new Wild Adventure 3-D/4-D Theater, Wild Adventure Ride, Tauber Family Railroad and Giraffe Encounter feeding station.

The reloadable gift cards are also good at gift shops and food concessions. The gift cards are available for purchase at the admission gates daily during regular zoo hours.

For more information, call (248) 541-5717, Ext. 3750.

The Detroit Zoological Society also offers many gift ideas that allow the giver to give twice. Proceeds will help support the animals at the Detroit Zoo and preserve the world's wildlife.

Opt to Adopt. "Adopt" an adorable aardvark or a ravishing red panda. Gift package includes a plush animal, fact sheet and personalized photo certificate. The cost is

\$90 for the aardvark (regular price \$100) and \$45 for the red panda (regular price \$50) when purchased before Jan. 1, 2010.

Membership Has Its Privileges. Members receive unlimited admission to the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo, free parking, discounts at gift shops and many other benefits. Prices range from \$45 to \$150. Residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties receive \$10 off all categories and can purchase up to four gift memberships at the

discounted rate.

- Pave the Way. Make a lasting impression with a 4-by-8-inch brick tribute paver engraved with a loved one's name or message. The brick will be installed in 2010. Cost is \$90 (regular price \$100) before Jan. 1, 2010.

- Close Encounters of the Animal Kind. Breakfast with the Butterflies (\$300 per group of four), Breakfast with the Giraffes (\$500 per group of four) and Mingle with the Macaronis (\$500 per group of four) allow visitors age 7 and older to get up close and personal with residents.

- Buy a Butterfly. A brass-finished laser-etched butterfly can be purchased for \$500.

- Best Seat in the House. Dedicate a seat in the Ford Education Center's Wild Adventure 3-D/4-D Theater in the name of an individual or family. Seats cost \$500 and \$750 and a brass plaque will be placed on the seat.

- Leave Your Mark in the Park. A zoo bench donated in a special someone's honor leaves a lasting legacy. The bench will be placed at the Detroit Zoo or Belle Isle Nature Zoo and includes a brass recognition plaque. New benches are \$5,000; existing benches are \$2,000.

- The Gift That Keeps On Growing. Have a tree planted at the zoo. Trees are \$5,000 and include a brass recognition plaque. To order holiday gifts, click on www.detroitzoo.org, call (248) 541-5717, Ext. 3750, or visit the Membership Office at the front of the zoo in Royal Oak.

In Loving Memory
...at the Holidays

Remember the loved ones you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at **\$15.00**
for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

Publication: Sunday, Dec. 20th
...in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Thursday, Dec. 24th
...in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers

Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 14th

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
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Call: **800-579-7355**
Fax: 313-496-4968

Email: oeads@hometownlife.com

Avoid high-calorie holidays with sensible eating

For many people, food is an important part of the holiday season. Family gatherings feature meals consisting of high-fat, high-calorie temptations that can sabotage even the most dedicated of otherwise healthy eaters. TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), the nonprofit weight-loss support organization, recommends strategies that will allow you to navigate common food-centered traps while still enjoying festive celebrations without regret. Consider the following "smart swapping" tips to ensure that the turkey is the only one stuffed this season:

- Choose two slices of skinless turkey breast over a drumstick to save calories and reduce fat and cholesterol.
- Avoid using boxed stuffing mix and, instead, make your own with whole grain bread and turkey or chicken sausage. Increase the nutritional value by incorporating fruits, such as apples, pears, and cranberries, or almonds and

TOPS promotes successful weight management with a philosophy that combines healthy eating, regular exercise, wellness education, and support from others at weekly chapter meetings. TOPS has about 170,000 members in nearly 10,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada, and several chapters in Europe.

walnuts.

- Canned cranberry sauce often contains excess amounts of high-fructose corn syrup. Make your own cranberry sauce by pureeing dried cranberries in orange juice and water, or substitute the sauce with fruit-flavored gelatin.
- Replace candied sweet potatoes with mashed or baked sweet potatoes. Replace heavy cream in the mashed potatoes with low-fat

butter milk and add a vegetable that can be easily mashed, such as turnips or green onion. Olive oil and dried or fresh herbs liven up roasted red potatoes with minimal calories.

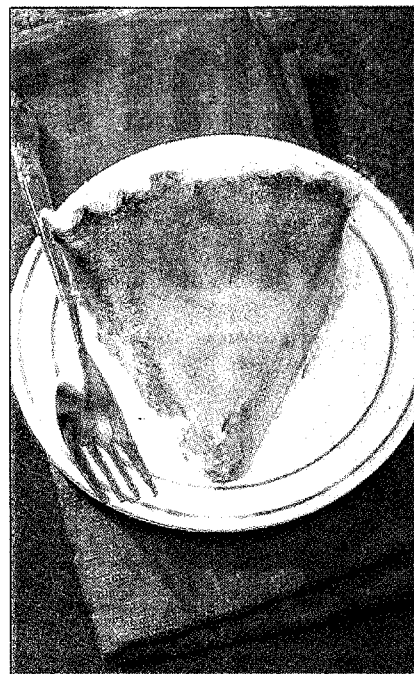
- Commonly known as "cocktail franks" or "pigs in a blanket," bite-sized hot dogs are always a popular appetizer but laden with sodium and fat. Instead, snack on mini quiches for a tasty dose of protein that keeps you full.
- Steer clear of crab cakes, which are typically breaded and deep-fried. Enjoy pieces of steamed or boiled shrimp dipped in cocktail sauce for a calorie-light alternative.
- Swap potato chips and dip for the equally satisfying crunch of veggies. Dip into hummus or salsa for a low-calorie, flavorful topping.
- For a sweet snack, enjoy an apple baked with cinnamon and nutmeg instead of an overly-indulgent caramel apple.
- Pecan pie contains high

amounts of sugar and fat – up to 800 calories per slice. Choose pumpkin pie for a rich, creamy dessert, and make it even healthier by using evaporated skim milk and egg substitute.

- Consisting of heavy cream, eggs, milk, and sugar, egg nog is a classic holiday beverage. But even without the addition of alcohol, this drink can still spell disaster for those who are watching their weight. Try homemade hot chocolate and leave off the whipped cream to partake sensibly.

With these simple trade-offs and a bit of discipline, you will be able to celebrate the season without feeling deprived – but just as satisfied.

TOPS Club Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), the original, nonprofit weight-loss education and support organization, was established more than 61 years ago to champion weight-loss support and success. Founded and headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., TOPS promotes successful



weight management with a philosophy that combines healthy eating, regular exercise, wellness education, and support from others at weekly chapter meetings. TOPS has about 170,000 members in nearly 10,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada, and several chapters in Europe.

Support groups help you keep weight off

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
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

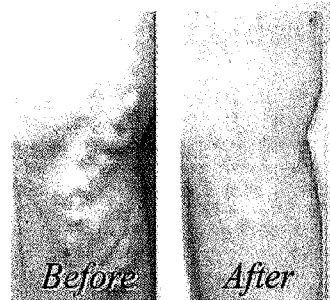
Westland
Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road; meetings at 7 p.m., Monday
St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road; 7:30 p.m., Wednesday
Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley; meetings at 6:45 p.m. Monday
Visitors may attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. To find a complete list of TOPS chapters in southeastern Michigan, visit www.tops.org or call (800) 932-8677.

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

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- Swelling of feet/ankles
- Restless legs
- Night cramps
- Itchy veins
- Varicose veins
- Non-healing ulcers



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Phone: (248) 478-7860

WHEN TO CALL

A doctor bases a patient's return visit on a combination of instinct and experience. No physician would argue over a patient returning earlier for an arthritis problem if the improvement anticipated did not occur.

The question arises of how long one should wait for that anticipated improvement. For example, the doctor takes fluid off a swollen and painful knee and injects a steroid preparation. The doctor usually will tell the patient that the knee should feel better that evening or certainly by the next day.

The doctor cannot say how much better or how long the improvement will last; that determination is the patient's to make. However, the patient can use several guidelines. One is that as long as the involved joint is improving, it is reasonable to wait. The improvement may be slower than anticipated, but the key point is that the improvement is ongoing. The second guide is function. If sleep is not disrupted by joint pain, and the ability to function during the day remains, then waiting is still in order.

What if the doctor schedules a return appointment for a joint problem, but the joint feels fine? Should the patient cancel the appointment? That question is not readily answered. My practice is that if the patient feels good there is no need to see me. However, other doctors may differ, feeling that they, by examination, will decide if the joint is good as is.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

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"Healthy Eating During the Holidays"

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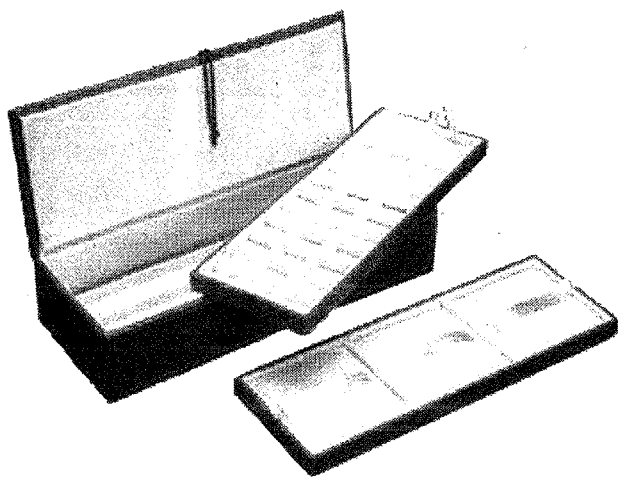
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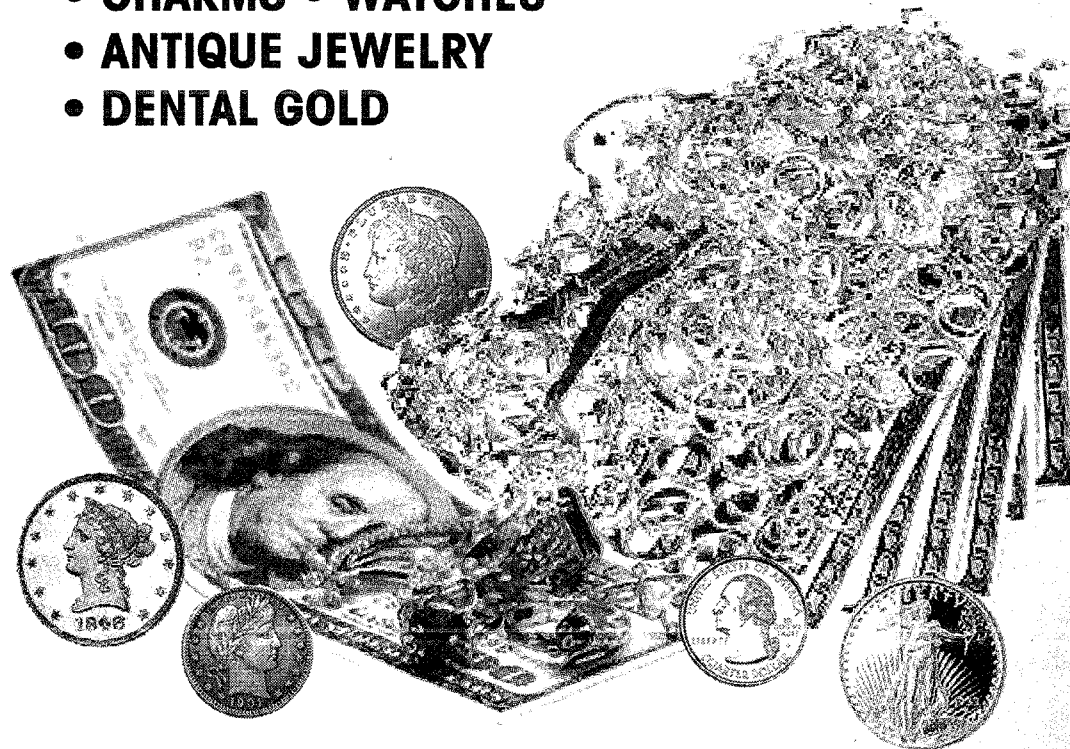
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Apply by 5:00 p.m. 12/11/2009 at:
 City of Southfield
 HR Dept.
 26000 Evergreen Road
 Southfield, MI 48076

Applications may also be downloaded from
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Apply by 5:00 p.m. 12/11/2009 at:

City of Southfield
 HR Dept.
 26000 Evergreen Rd.
 Southfield, MI 48076

Applications may also be downloaded from www.cityofsouthfield.com

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Publications of: Wayne County/South Oakland Eccentric/ Birmingham Eccentric

Deadline for Issue of Thursday, November 26th:
 Liners Monday, November 23rd at 2:30 pm
 Display Monday, November 23rd at noon
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Don't Drink & Drive Celebrate Safely!

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers along with these area businesses would like to wish everyone a SAFE Thanksgiving!
Remember to drink wisely and have a designated driver!

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REDFORD: Rent to Own. 3 bdrm, new carpet, updated, bsmt, 2 car. Down payment req. \$950/mo. (734) 678-6345

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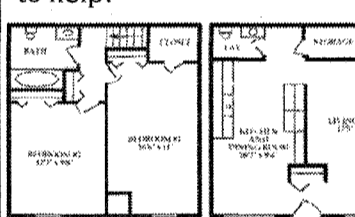
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Notice is hereby given that on Dec. 16, 2009 at 12:00pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at National Storage Center of Redford, 9125 Telegraph Rd., Redford, MI 48238. Unit(s) may or may not incl the following: Household Items, Recreational Items, and/or Misc. Goods. 217-Gloria Bates, 356-Ernest L. Chambers, 359-Tyler Mello, 476-Trevor Johnson

Notice is hereby given that on Dec. 16, 2009 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. # 0502a Jeffrey S Matteson, 0634 George Dinkins

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2010 Soul Sport Aims For A Young Crowd

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dave Menard
For Avanti NewsFeatures
and Allopinionsallthetime.com

When I first saw the 2010 Kia Soul Sport, I wasn't quite sure what to make of it. With boxy lines like a miniature SUV, about the size of an economy car, yet with a surprising amount of interior room, it doesn't seem to fit any traditional category.

Kia calls it an "urban passenger vehicle," and I guess that label fits as well as any. One thing is certain, though — this car isn't aimed at executives on their way to the country club. The Soul is squarely aimed at a younger crowd, and might just have enough soul (pun intended) to hit the mark.

Let's start with the way it looks; it's low and wide, and with a body shape that looks like a cross between a small SUV and a wagon. The window line is angled and it has large flared back headlamps.

Fog lamps are included, as black body side moldings, rear spoiler and side sills. There are plenty of black accents on the exterior, including on the front fender and the side mirrors. The Soul features some unique color choices, including several metallic shades, coffee-colored Java, and denim blue. Eighteen-inch, five-spoke alloy wheels are standard on the Soul Sport; the base Soul comes with 15-inch wheels.

Inside, it's surprising how much

interior room there is. The driver won't feel cramped and there's plenty of room for the front passenger, as well.

The rear seating area can actually accommodate passengers and the Soul will seat five with its 60/40 split rear seats. The cloth seats are comfortable and provide good support and everything in the cabin is within easy reach. The steering wheel and shift knob are leather-wrapped.

The interior is simple and well laid-out. Oversized air vents and speaker grilles give it an almost kid toy-like look.

The center stack features simple climate controls and the audio controls that seem to drive the design.

The interior door speaker grilles light up to the beat of the music; this feature can be turned off if it distracts you. While it doesn't bother me, it doesn't really add to my driving experience, either, but maybe that's just me.

The setup says "boom box on wheels" to me.

The audio system itself is an AM/FM/CD/mp3 system with a subwoofer, six speakers, Bluetooth and a trial subscription to satellite radio. USB and auxiliary input jacks are in the center console, while the Soul also comes with an integrated iPod control unit,



The 2010 Kia Soul Sport. Kia calls it an "urban passenger vehicle."

allowing you to use the audio controls to control the iPod, versus having to use the iPod itself (always a little less distracting to the driver).

The Soul Sport also comes with air conditioning, cruise control, remote keyless entry, power windows and locks, rear defroster and tilt steering column.

The Soul Sport is powered by a 2.0-liter 4-cylinder engine, rated at 142 horsepower and 137 lb.-ft. of torque. It's mated to a 5-speed manual transmission (automatic is optional), and it accelerates well. EPA gives this powertrain a rating of 24 miles per gallon in city driving and 30 mpg on the highway.

While the base Soul features a fully independent sub-frame mounted front suspension system with MacPherson struts, coil springs, gas shocks and stabilizer bar, the Sport version of the Soul has a sport-tuned system, with firmer springs, re-tuned shocks and a larger stabilizer bar.

Kia describes the ride as "lively." That's a nice way of saying you're going to get a lot of road feel. It's actually a decent ride for the kind of car it is; it,

after all, is not a Lexus or a Mercedes.

The Soul Sport is not a great handling car. It does come with stability control, but it feels kind of clunky and the steering is a little stiff.

Anti-lock brakes are standard on the Sport and they are excellent. The Soul Sport also comes with front-seat mounted side airbags, side curtain airbags and a tire pressure-monitoring system.

The Kia Soul Sport starts at a little under \$17,000. Add the optional power sunroof and you're at almost \$17,700. That's a good price point for all the features you get with the Sport.

And, unlike me, maybe you'll figure out what category to put it in.

Dave Menard can be reached at Avanti1054@aol.com

2010 Kia Soul Sport
Vehicle class: Small station wagon.
Power: 2.0-liter 4-cylinder/5-speed manual.
Mileage: 24 city / 30 highway.
Where built: Korea.
Base price: \$16,950.
Price as tested: \$18,349.

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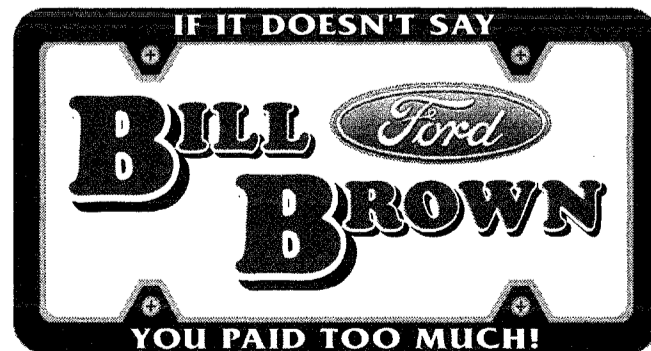
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