

**KERRY BENTIVOLIO HEADS TO WASHINGTON**

LOCAL NEWS, A4

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**Special edition**

Your Observer newspaper today contains news from your hometown, plus news of the surrounding area. This is one of three special holiday editions published just this time of year. Special editions will continue through Thursday, Jan. 3. Happy holidays!

**Homeless help**

A snowstorm didn't stop the Geneva Presbyterian Church senior high youth from spending the night outside Wednesday with their adult advisers to raise awareness of homelessness. They had a fire inside a barrel and a few umbrellas.

Through Jan. 3, the group is now collecting winter clothing and outerwear, blankets, sleeping bags and toiletries for the Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit for its Open Door program. The items may be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the church, 5835 N. Sheldon north of Ford, or placed in drop boxes outside the church entrance.

**Recreation Center party**

Friends and family can gather for swimming, inflatables, rock climbing, holiday crafts, face painting for kids, food, music and more beginning at 4 p.m. Dec. 31 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center. The cost is: \$7.50 per pass holder, \$8.75 per resident or \$10 per non-resident.

Preregister at the center, 15100 Hubbard Road, Livonia. Call (734) 466-2900 for more information.



*'We've seen a lot of stories of judges behaving badly, especially in Wayne County.'*

KURT HEISE



*'Some of the gun owners say put more guns in the hands of people and we're going to be safe. I just don't buy that argument.'*

GLENN ANDERSON

## Legislative agenda

**GOP expects to address regulatory reform, higher ed and corrections**

By Ken Abramczyk  
Staff Writer

Michigan Republican lawmakers believe their work isn't finished yet.

Last week's legislative sessions were tumultuous as lawmakers passed controversial right-to-work laws and took aim at personal property taxes. Lawmakers also passed legislation to create a regional transit authority, a replacement emergency manager bill and prohibit young drivers from talking on cell phones while driving.

"It was a very historic, contentious and profound week in Michigan history," said state Rep. Kurt Heise of Plymouth. House and Senate Republicans expect in 2013 to continue to work with Gov. Rick Snyder to

tackle issues and policies they believe are hindering business and job creation.

House Republicans lost five seats in the Nov. 6



general election, down to 59 lawmakers, but they still carry a majority in the state Senate. The Observer contacted several area lawmakers from Oakland and Wayne counties to discuss what they believe will be on the agenda in 2013.

**John Walsh**  
John Walsh of Livonia, who serves as House

Please see **GOP, A13**

**Battered in lame-duck session, state Dems have big 2013 agenda**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Democrats in the Michigan Legislature will have their work cut out for them in 2013.

Between issues they say need to be addressed to improve the state's economy and the well-being of local communities, and the desire to push back on some of the measures the Republican-controlled Legislature hurried through a lame-duck session earlier this month, they have a long to-do list for the coming year.

Many goals several area Democrats have set for themselves highlight philosophical differences that often separate the parties — on taxes and spending, on the economy, on the way public schools should be run. That will like-

ly mean a tough road for Democrats: In the state House of Representatives, they will be outnumbered 59-51 despite picking up a net five seats in the

November election, while in the Senate, Republicans hold a commanding 26-12 majority. Still, Democrats say they're ready to fight.

"The last two years under Republican leadership have been the years of corporate present-giving," said Rep. Vicki Barnett of Farmington Hills, who is beginning a third term in the 37th District. "We really should've been

Please see **DEM, A12**

## State-Wayne offers vintage theater experience

By Kurt Kuban  
Staff Writer

The marquee at the State-Wayne Theater has been a landmark in the city of Wayne and a beacon to those driving by on Michigan Avenue for decades. Like the theater itself, the marquis radiates a little brighter these days.

The theater, built in 1945, is now being managed by the Farmington-based Phoenix Theatres group, which also operates theaters at Laurel Park Place in Livonia and The Mall of Monroe in Monroe. Since the company took over back in August, more than \$60,000 has been spent to renovate the vintage four-screen theater in downtown Wayne. They've given the State-Wayne a noticeable face lift, adding new carpet, paint, re-doing the candy bar, and updating the unique marquis. According to Phoenix



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From left, Phoenix Theatres President Cory Jacobson, of Southfield, and Vice President of Operations John Scanlan, of Northville, discuss the changes they've made since taking over management of the historic State-Wayne Theater in downtown Wayne, including cleaning up the murals in the lobby.

Theatres President Cory Jacobson, more than 500 of the marquis's 1,600-plus light bulbs were not working when they took over.

Getting it fixed up was a priority. "The marquis is so cool. It's kind of the identity of the theater," he said. "You can't help but

notice it when you drive by." Probably the most important change to the theater, however, has been the installation of modern digital projection and Dolby sound equipment, which now gives the theater the ability to show first-run films the way they are intended, including in 3-D when warranted.

At the same time, the theater maintains its unique art-deco design and many features patrons have come to expect from the classic theater, including the locally-famous mural of a neon dragon, who is affectionately known as "Puff".

"The older theater we first stepped into had mono sound and 35mm film. It was the same equipment they had in the late '60s and early '70s," said Jacobson, a Southfield resident. "When someone comes in here now,

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**THEATER**

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they have the best of both worlds — this wonderful old theater experience along with high-quality digital movies and the latest Dolby 7.1 sound system. We've gone from being behind the times to being the most up to date theater in the community."

Phoenix has also brought in a new culture to the theater, which has been owned by the city of Wayne since the early 1990s. And that is exactly what Wayne City Manager Robert English was hoping when cementing a multi-year management contract with the company earlier this year. The company took over operations Aug. 1.

**Whole nine yards**  
English said the city was facing the prospect of either having to update the theater or close it down because the major film studios were no longer going to be issuing films in 35mm, meaning the State-Wayne's old film projectors would soon be obsolete. So English approached the Phoenix group about a year and a half ago to get their advice on converting to digital and the relationship kind took off from there.

"We knew something had to be done if we were going to make a go of it," English said. "The city leaders decided this theater is too important to the community. We didn't want that building to be dark. If we were going to make a commitment to the theater, we realized we needed to go the whole nine yards. We've updated everything. The only thing we couldn't do was add stadium seating."

Before Phoenix agreed to the deal, however, management spent a



The State-Wayne Theater in Wayne features a historic marquee that has 1,600 light bulbs and dates back to 1946.

STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

good deal of time looking over the theater, and even bought tickets to some movies so they could get an idea of how it operated. It didn't take long for them to figure out there was a lot of work to do, but also tremendous potential.

"I fell in love with it. It reminds me of the theaters I used to manage in Milwaukee, and the theaters I grew up with," said Jacobson. "It's a unique theater. You don't find theaters like this anymore in our state, and frankly in the country."

Jacobson has managed theaters big and small, and has been in the industry for decades. He left Milwaukee for Detroit back in the 1990s while working for United Artists Theaters. He decided to start his own company back in 2001 because he felt the industry could be improved. Some of the changes he has implemented include moving the ticket purchasing inside where patrons also purchase popcorn, soft drinks and candy. He said it saves custom-

ers time. Another change was moving the candy out from under the traditional glass counters and into racks located in the lobby, which also speeds up the process.

"We've treated candy bars like Rolex watches for years. It's not that kind of product," Jacobson said.

Customers also fill their own soft drinks, like in most stores and fast food restaurants. He says they were the first theaters in the state to do this.

**Thumbs up**

John Scanlan, who is vice president of operations for Phoenix, said people have definitely noticed the difference.

"Customers have given us the thumbs up. A lot of them have commented on the sound system, and the changes," said the Northville resident. "Now we just have to get more bodies in here."

Scanlan said the hope is that they will have the same kind of success they've had at Laurel Park, where revenue is up more than 60 percent

since they took that theater over in 2009.

That is music to the ears of Wayne leaders like English, who realize a well-run theater could be a catalyst for bringing people into the city and a big part of a downtown revitalization. They point to the recent opening of the latest *Twilight* film, which was the most successful opening weekend the theater has had since the city took ownership nearly two decades ago.

"I am overly pleased — I am with Cory and John have been able to do. They've done an outstanding job," he said.

"If we can get people back in there, I'm confident they'll keep coming back."

The State-Wayne Theater is located at 35310 Michigan Avenue in Wayne. For the movie line, call (734) 384-1200. The customer service line is (734) 326-4602. Visit [www.phoenixmovies.net/index.asp](http://www.phoenixmovies.net/index.asp) for showtimes. Tickets can also be purchased in advance via the website.

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(248) 473-2011 ext. 245

**Other area theaters offer nostalgia, too**

By Kurt Kuban  
Staff Writer

(248) 474-1951  
[www.thefct.com](http://www.thefct.com)  
[www.facebook.com/FarmingtonCivicTheater](http://www.facebook.com/FarmingtonCivicTheater)

Traditionally the week between Christmas and New Year's Day is one of the busiest of the year for the movie industry. Theatergoers all over the area will be busy, especially with so many new movies opening.

The newly renovated State-Wayne Theater in downtown Wayne is just one of many classic neighborhood-type theaters in the area that are still open and showing films. While these theaters might not have all the amenities of the more modern multiplexes, they make up for it with an ambience of days gone by. In most cases they are located in traditional downtowns, and are treasures to the residents of those communities.

Here is a list of just a few in the area:

- **Birmingham 8**  
126 E. Old Woodward Avenue, Birmingham (248) 723-6230  
[www.uptownentertainment.com/Birmingham8.aspx](http://www.uptownentertainment.com/Birmingham8.aspx)

The Birmingham 8 is a historical landmark located in the heart of downtown Birmingham. Originally built in 1927 as a single screen movie house, the theater was rebuilt and restored in 1996 as an eight-screen multiplex theater that plays host to a mix of first run films and smaller independent productions. In addition to its classic elegance and historical charm, the Birmingham 8 now features Sony Digital Cinema 4K projection, 3D technology, and comfortable, modernized upholstered seating.

- **Farmington Civic Theater**  
33332 Grand River Avenue, Farmington

The Farmington Civic Theater, a landmark in downtown Farmington, was designed by the late C. Howard Crane in the Art Modern style. It originally opened in 1940, and has been owned by the city of Farmington since 1999. The interior of the theater was fully rebuilt and a new sound system was installed, as well as cushioned love seats equipped with arm rests and drink holders.

The theater shows popular movies at bargain prices.

- **The Lyon Theatre**  
126 East Lake Street, South Lyon (248) 446-9090  
[www.thelyon.com](http://www.thelyon.com)

New ownership took over the Lyon Theatre in December of 2008, when the lobby has been completely renovated, and new Dolby Digital Surround Sound and theatre projection systems were added. The theater, which was just one screen, is known for showing new films at affordable prices. Management only selects films that have been positively reviewed, well-received by audiences, and/or recognized with significant awards.

Matinee prices are \$4, while evening tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for seniors, students and children. The Lyon also maintains low prices on its concessions.

- **Main Art Theatre**  
118 North Main Street, Royal Oak (248) 542-5198  
[www.landmarktheatres.com/Market/Detroit/MainArtTheatre.htm](http://www.landmarktheatres.com/Market/Detroit/MainArtTheatre.htm)

Please see THEATERS, A5

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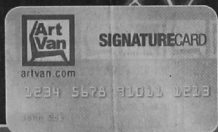
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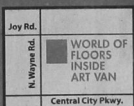
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# D.C.-bound

## Bentivolio's congressional term starts on Jan. 3

By Aileen Wingblad  
Staff Writer

Life has changed in the past couple of months for Kerry Bentivolio.

Just a bit. The Tea Party favorite, former school teacher and builder known for raising reindeer, honeybees and chickens at his Milford Township home is seemingly giddy as he talks about face time with Speaker of the House John Boehner and Congressman Fred Upton and Eric Cantor — fellow Republicans he has met with in recent weeks as he prepares for his own two-year term in the U.S. House of Representatives, beginning Jan. 3.

"It's surreal," Bentivolio said — the same word he used earlier this year as he was thrust into the front-runner status for the 11th District, when former Rep. Thad McCotter resigned amid a petition scandal.

A self-described "regular guy," Bentivolio is still getting accustomed to Washington, D.C., of having Capitol Police who he's never met address him by name, of setting up an office in the Cannon Building and a second home in an apartment complex blocks away.

He's dined with Steve Forbes. And he's thrilled to be named to the Small Business Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

"The common analogy



U.S. Congressman Kerry Bentivolio, shown near the grapevine arbor at his Milford home, is gearing up for his two-year term in Washington, D.C. Congress reconvenes Jan. 3.

is "drinking water from a water hose," he said of the whirlwind weeks. "They keep it coming at you, they just keep piling it on."

**Two standing rules**  
Yet as different as his world has become of late, Bentivolio said his focus is intact.

"I have two standing rules: To be in the district as often as possible based on the congressional calendar, and to give my constituents a real congressman. They deserve that," he said.

For his first "rule," he has leased an office at 770

Welch Road in Commerce Township, near M-5 and Maple Road. The space is set to open in early February. He's also establishing a mobile office to take to various cities and townships in his district.

"We'll park it in Canton for a week or two, move it to Livonia, Troy, Auburn Hills, Birmingham, White Lake, Highland. I'm reaching out to folks about issues and concerns — and it will be bipartisan. If I can help and they are in my district, I'll listen," he said. Visits to his office in D.C. are welcome, too.

"I've instructed my

staff that they can interrupt what I'm doing if someone stops in to say 'hi,'" he said.

Bentivolio plans to "hit the ground running" when Congress reconvenes after the December break. One of his priorities, he said, is "getting to the bottom of Benghazi-gate" — referring to the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya, which killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

There are lingering questions regarding its misrepresentation by U.S. officials for weeks afterward, as well as mis-

takes the Obama administration may have made in handling the deadly assault, he said.

"I'm not letting this go away. I'm going to bring this to the carpet — I want to know what went on, why they were left in the lurch. And then I'm going to tell the public and let the public deal with it. If someone dropped the ball, we are going to find out," Bentivolio said.

**Open dialogue**  
Bentivolio also wants to "show people the light" when it comes to the barrage of new taxes that

will soon come into effect with the Affordable Health Care Act, commonly called Obamacare. "There are 23 new additional taxes, and people aren't talking about it. I want people to know what's happening," he said.

And as a member of the Small Business Committee, Bentivolio has already set the wheels in motion by putting together a plan to invite business owners and business leaders to have open dialogue about job creation and challenges they face. He hopes to have input from each city and township in his district.

As a politician who campaigned against big government as well as excessive federal spending and borrowing, Bentivolio's plan to invite business owners and business leaders to have open dialogue about job creation and challenges they face. He hopes to have input from each city and township in his district.

"I'll question everything and always give people the straight scoop — and I'm willing to work with anyone," he said. "But I'm just one voice, just one voice out of 435 (House members)." And he's determined not to lose his enthusiasm — or commitment to his district. "I'm having the time of my life. This is so exciting," Bentivolio said. "But this is all about service getting the job done. That's what this is all about."

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## AREA POLICE BRIEFS

## Canton

## Child death case moves forward

A former Canton mother and her ex-boyfriend are inching closer to a potential trial for the drug overdose death of her child, 19-month-old Silas Rodgers. Andrea Nicole Rodgers, 20, and Ryan Keith Moody, 25, are expected to appear Jan. 4 in Wayne County Circuit Court for a calendar conference, a routine development as a case is moving toward disposition.

The couple stood mute Dec. 13 and a not-guilty plea was entered for them in circuit court.

Rodgers and Moody are charged with involuntary manslaughter and second-degree child abuse for the June 9 death of the toddler inside the Mabon Road home where the couple formerly lived.

During a preliminary examination in late November in 35th District Court, Canton Detective Tim Wright testified that the toddler died after he ingested Suboxone — a drug used to treat addiction to other substances such as heroin. The officers have said the drug, prescribed to Moody, was improperly stored when Silas managed to get it and ingest it.

If convicted, the couple could face penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison.

## Livonia

## Christmas fire investigated

The Livonia Fire Department continued an investigation into a fire at a home on Riverchase in Chardon on Monday.

A Christmas party was taking place at the home when children who were downstairs in the basement ran upstairs to alert adults on the first floor of smoke, according to Fire Marshal Dan Lee. Smoke detectors also went off, which alerted them of the fire.

Two firefighters were contacted shortly after 8 p.m. The fire was extinguished by firefighters, Lee said.

"It was contained to the basement; there was no fire damage on the first floor," Lee said. There was some smoke and water damage, and minimal structural damage, Lee said.

The home's occupants managed to get out of the house. One of the guests at the home was treated and released at a local hospital for smoke inhalation.

Lee said the cause of the fire was still under investigation.

## GPS stolen

A GPS unit was stolen on Dec. 21 from the dashboard of a Chrysler Town & Country van while it was parked at a medical office on the 38000 block of Ann Arbor Road. The GPS was ripped from the dashboard, and several CDs and DVDs were also stolen from the vehicle. The door's lock had been punched in order for the thieves to enter the van and steal the items.

## Fire started at business

Livonia police and firefighters responded to a report of a small fire at Levan Wine Palace, 36147 Plymouth, at 8:10 p.m. Dec. 21.

Police and firefighters responded and found that small flames were burning at the base of the front wall of the business near the front door. Wood paneling outside the building had caught fire. The paneling was located near a cement garage can, located outside the front door, that served as an ashtray for smokers.

## Car stolen

A 2002 gray Dodge Intrepid was stolen from the rear porch of Dec. 23 from the parking lot at Busch's Market, 37830 Six Mile. The owner reported that he had sports equipment in the trunk, sunglasses and CDs. He also had his car registration and his garage door opener in the vehicle.

Lt. Tom Goralski said motorists should not keep garage door openers and regis-

trations in the vehicle because it makes an easy access to the home for thieves. If the opener can be seen, the thief often will steal the vehicle. "Sometimes thieves will steal the vehicle just to get into the home," Goralski said. "That didn't happen in this case, but those items should be kept out of the vehicle."

## Farmington

## Underage drinking

Police stopped a car for speeding on eastbound M-5 near Farmington Road on Dec. 22. The driver was cited for speeding and a 20-year-old passenger who had been drinking at a party was cited for minor in possession, after submitting to a preliminary breath test with a result of .09.

## Drinking and fighting

On the afternoon of Dec. 20, three people were arrested at Chatham Hills Apartments, 36135 Grand River, after police received a report of people fighting and arrived to break up the fight. Police learned that a resident there had two friends over to drink and play cards when the fight broke out between the visitors. In trying to separate the two, one of them kicked an officer and attempted to flee. The resident later admitted to pointing a starter pistol at the two combatants in order to intimidate them and get them to stop fighting. All three were arrested and a warrant request was sent to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office for consideration on charges of felonious assault, resisting and obstructing a police officer and simple assault.

## Residential B&amp;E

On the afternoon of Dec. 19, a resident of Wilmarth Street reported returning home to find a broken window on the door of the sunroom, but no items taken. There were also any marks around the door frame and handle. The resident is in the process of moving and did not spend the night at the house.

## Possession of marijuana/warrants

On Dec. 17, a traffic stop was made of a slow moving car on westbound M-5 near Halsted. An odor of marijuana was detected and a search showed that the male passenger had a baggie of marijuana in his pocket and two baggies of marijuana in a boxing glove in the back seat. He was arrested for possession of marijuana, as well as warrants out of the West Bloomfield and Royal Oak police departments for interfering with a police officer.

## Farmington Hills

## Larceny

A 27-year-old apartment resident on Jefferson Ct. reported to police that a FedEx package she knew would arrive was stolen from outside her front door Dec. 22. The woman told police she called FedEx, whose representatives informed her that the package had been delivered. She also told police that a neighbor said the package was at her door, but was later gone.

## Cigarettes taken

The manager for the Cigo gas station at 29420 10 Mile Road called police when she discovered that the building had been entered by someone who smashed the window open Dec. 20. Police investigated and with the manager's confirmation discovered that 63 cartons of cigarettes had been stolen.

## Auto parts stolen

A. J. Danboise at 31015 Grand River called police Dec. 19 when it was discovered that someone had removed and stolen catalytic converters that were in four Ford Econoline vans and a GMC pickup truck. The converters were valued at \$3,500.

## Breaking and entering

A 21-year-old resident on Polk Ct. called police when it was discovered that someone had broken into the home and took two television sets, a DVD player and laptop computer collectively valued at \$1,700.

## Door kicked in

A neighbor on Harlowshire contacted police after he noticed an unknown car had been parked in a nearby driveway and the front door kicked in. A laptop and jewelry of unknown value were reported missing Dec. 12.

## Garden City

## Unauthorized debit card use

A 55-year-old Garden City woman called the Garden City police Dec. 24 after she discovered that her debit card, valued at \$600, was being used by her debit card. The victim told the police that she had not authorized the transactions and had not provided her PIN to anyone.

The withdrawals were made at local businesses and police have learned there is no record of the transactions.

The matter remains under investigation.

## Retail fraud

Loss Prevention Officers at K Mart, 29600 Ford Road, contacted Garden City police Dec. 24 after they discovered that a shopper removing price tags from merchandise and then concealing that merchandise.

The 42-year-old Garden City woman was confronted by police officers and nearly \$400 in concealed merchandise was recovered, including a new pair of boots the suspect was wearing.

The woman was arrested and taken to GCPD where she was issued a violation for retail fraud.

## Stolen car

A 1996 Mercury Grand Marquis was reported stolen from the lot of the Garden City Towers located at 6120 Middlebelt on Dec. 22.

The owner told police he had parked the vehicle at 3 p.m. the previous day and discovered it missing at 7 a.m. the next morning.

Both sets of keys have been accounted for, according to Garden City police.

## Drunken driving

A 22-year-old Dearborn woman was arrested Dec. 20 for operating while intoxicated after an officer observed her driving the suspect in Farmington Hills on Garden City traveling at 60 mph in a 40 mph zone.

The woman was unable to produce a driver's license and it was discovered her driving privileges were suspended.

She was taken into custody for OWI and DWLS her vehicle impounded and was lodged at the Garden City Police Department.

## Property damage

Garden City police responded Dec. 21 to investigate a car alarm at 4:30 a.m. in the 30900 block of Boek. After checking the vehicle with the owner, no evidence of criminal activity was discovered.

The vehicle owner later contacted police to report he did discover a door handle had been damaged. The victim also reported that, while there was nothing missing from the car, the family had been in their own car in the vehicle. The coat was turned over to police.

A homeowner in the 31200 block of Black called Garden City police Dec. 20 after discovering someone had broken into the home and stolen \$3,000 in jewelry.

The victim told police that the family had been away from the residence most of the day and discovered the crime upon their return.

The police found that a window had been forced open to gain entry.

## Theft

About \$700 in tools and a cell phone were discovered missing Dec. 20 from a garage in the 30900 block of Elmwood in

Garden City. The resident told police he had locked, but not dead bolted a pedestrian door to the garage the night before and discovered the theft at 6:30 a.m.

Another resident in the area also contacted police to report there had been search activity in his garage overnight but nothing was taken.

## Theft

A resident of the 31000 block of John Hawk called Garden City police Dec. 20 after discovering an air compressor and snow blower with a total value of about \$500 had been taken from his garage overnight.

The victim surmised that entry had been gained through a side door with a very weak locking mechanism. The police were able to obtain the serial number for the snow blower and it was entered into the nationwide database as stolen property.

## Redford

## Redford Clinic broken into

Police are investigating a robbery that took place Dec. 21 at the Redford Clinic, 25241 Grand River.

Police were called to the clinic after an alarm sounded at the clinic during the early morning hours of Dec. 21. The front door was found pried open with the locking mechanism broken. No one was found inside the clinic, and nothing was found missing from inside, although several drawers and cabinets were opened.

## Home broken into

A home in the 11300 block of Appleton was reportedly broken into around Dec. 21 for the second time in two months.

The homeowners contacted police and told them the home was broken into via the front door. The home was intact when police arrived. The home was broken into in the kitchen where copper piping, a hot water heater and a furnace was taken.

## RTFD rescues dog

Redford police and the fire department responded to a house fire on Dec. 22 in the 19200 block of Garfield.

The homeowner told police he woke up to a strong smell of smoke. He got out of his bed, and grabbed one of his dogs to get out of the house. His other dog ran upstairs, and he was not able to find it. Firefighters entered the home and rescued the dog. The fire, which the RTFD deemed not suspicious, was then put out.

## Handgun, wallet stolen

A vehicle parked in the 13900 block of San Jose was broken into Dec. 22 and had several items stolen.

The vehicle, which was unlocked, contained the victim's wallet and a handgun in the trunk. The victim told police someone entered the car while it was in his driveway. The gun was entered into LEIN and a statement was taken from the victim.

## Plymouth Township

## Wheel caps stolen

The center caps on all four wheels of a Chevrolet Silverado were reportedly stolen Dec. 16 or Dec. 17 while the vehicle was parked in the driveway of a house on Winesap Drive, a Plymouth Township Police department report said. There was no damage to the Silverado.

## Reindeer vandalized

Someone drove a vehicle over a lighted reindeer figurine in Plymouth Township on the night of Dec. 16, police said. The vandalism occurred outside a house on Terry Street.

## Scrapper strikes

Someone cut the catalytic converter from underneath a Chevrolet Cavalier in Plymouth Township on Dec. 23, a police report said. The car was parked at the time outside an apartment on Risman Drive.

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In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law, Attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both Attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-75. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of I-24 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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# Livonia native retires from 'The President's Own' band



Kadala

Featured soloist and performed at the White House, in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and across the country during the band's annual concert tour. She was featured as a tour soloist in 1994, 1997, 1999 and 2003, and has performed numerous other solos with "The President's Own" including Aaron Copland's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra and Morton Gould's Derivations for Clarinet and Winds, which was included on the Marine Band's 10-disc set, The Bicentennial Collection.

Medal. According to her commendation letter by Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps: "Whether performing at the White House, on the concert stage, on the parade deck, or at Arlington National Cemetery, Master Gunnery Sgt. Kadala's contributions to the musical reputation of the Marine Band are matched only by her dedication to and compassion for her fellow Marines. By virtue of her exceptional leadership, steadfast devotion to duty, and uncommon virtuosity in a position of great musical responsibility, Master Gunnery Sgt. Kadala reflected great credit upon herself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service." Kadala currently lives in Alexandria, Va.

Marine Band principal clarinet Master Gunnery Sgt. Lisa Kadala, a Livonia native, has retired after 28 years of active duty service with "The President's Own." Her retirement was effective Dec. 14. Kadala began her musical training at age 11. She graduated in 1979 from Churchill High School. In 1984, she earned a bachelor's degree in music performance at the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor, where she studied with John Mohler. Kadala won a Marine Band clarinet audition and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in January 1985. She was appointed principal clarinet in 1992, becoming the first female to hold this position. With the Marine Band, Kadala was a frequently

## DITTMAR

Continued from page A5

years. She served as a volunteer at the Friend of the Library's book sales and donated time to work at the book store to raise money for the library's programs. Dittmar also was one of two founding members of Friends of Greenmead. That group has raised thousands of dollars on garden walks and Christmas walks to help pay for restoring Newburg Church, rebuilding Hill House and beautifying the Greenmead Historical Village grounds. Her personality impressed those who met her for the first time or were longtime friends. "Dee was always very

approachable and always very nice," Jim McCann said. "Even when I was in college, I could stop by there and visit with them. I always felt comfortable going over there and having a drink with Dee Dee and (her husband) Norby. I was a 24-year-old kid, but Dee Dee was so easy to get along with." McCann also remembers Dittmar for her late-night singing on a balcony at a cottage up north with family members, which left neighbors not too pleased. "She always liked to sing *God Bless America*," McCann said. The next-door neighbor put up a "for sale" sign the following week. Kirksey said her family reflected her gregariousness that was Dittmar's trademark. "She

took it to a fine art. She was so upbeat and full of life, and so positive about everything," Kirksey said. On commissions, Dittmar and Kirksey met to discuss commission activities and events on a business level that often required what the mayor called "candor." "But it was always a nice experience talking with her," Kirksey said. McCann said her death is the loss of a true volunteer in Livonia. "She was one who always felt she was part of this community," he said. "I'm glad she got that (First Citizen) before we lost her."

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# Move over Spielberg

Midwest Emmy nominee's short video goes viral and catches 'TV Guide' nod

By Joanne Maliszewski  
Observer Staff Writer



Weber

"Do you suffer from 'choreophobia,' a.k.a. the fear of dancing? Not to worry. This instructional video, featuring all the sweet moves of the Peanuts clan, will get your hips shaking and your toes tapping in no time, with steps like 'the wafting odor' and 'the zombie M.C. Hammer.'"

Short, Sweet. And an effective parody of the Peanuts gang that has earned more than 160,000 views.

"It was timed really well," said the Farmington Hills native. "You have to have relevancy to the season. And length is

key to having a successful video."

Steven Spielberg take notice! Weber, who shoots, directs and produces advertising video for a division of Comcast in Chicago, is a stand-up comedian, comedic writer, incredibly skilled in video and film and is working his way up the long ladder.

He doesn't expect to be plucked up out of the crowd of young filmmakers. Not that he would turn it down. He doesn't imagine himself as a male Lana Turner discovered at a soda shop or Opie turned Academy Award winner Nor Howard.

But he has his goals and his path. "I am at the beginning of a long journey. This (video gone viral) is an encouraging thing to bring some semblance of success."

Wanting to be a filmmaker or TV show maker - with his characteristically comedic edge - isn't easy. He knows it. But he's sticking to his dreams, even after a horrible internship and little money - so little that eating stale bread was more the norm than the unusual.

"The internship at least gave me the chance to get some video work so I could do a demo to get a job," said Weber, who was back in Farmington Hills visiting his family during the holidays.

Weber has always been interested in comedy, has long been writing comedic material and has a degree in film, advertising and communication arts from Michigan State University in 2005.

Right now though, he is ecstatic that his video, posted some two-to-three weeks ago, has been noticed not only by thousands of viewers, but has caught the enraptured eye of world-famous TV Guide.

But his humility is far too understated. Visitors to his website, owenweber.com will see it's pretty clear this young man has some accomplishments of which to be proud.

First of all, Weber is a three-time Chicago Midwest Emmy nominee, a 3-time CAB award winner and a five-time Telly award winner. Not bad for his budding film career.

On the comedy side of his career, Weber is not talking about someone who just likes to entertain his friends and family with quick-witted tidbits. To quote his website: "I manufacture jokes. Then they go through a rigorous testing process. Some make it to market. Many are recalled."

"Owen Weber is a Detroit native who has spent the last six years in Chicago performing live and creating comedy shorts."

"He has worked with nationally touring comics like Chelsea Handler (E!'), Chelsea Lately), Greg Vaccarello (The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, The King of Queens), Steve Tott (A&E, Comedy Central) and Ben Creedt (Comedy's Dirtyest Dozen). Owen can current-

ly be seen doing standup and improv at a variety of venues across the Midwest."

One more thing. Anyone who reads US Weekly's Fashion Police page, should carefully look below the stars and out-fits and notice the name Owen Weber. As a freelance comedy writer, Weber offers his quips on the latest divas and their fashions.

The love of comedy began a long time ago. "But it wasn't until his senior year at MSU when he really took it public. He auditioned for a stand-up comedy competition aptly named, 'Last Spartan Standing.'"

"I thought it was now or never. I was one of the finalists and moved on to the next level. At the actual competition, he expected an audience of maybe 50 at the most."

Weber was the first one on. "I had never done this before and I got second place." From that he was booked at a comedy club in Novi and later Grand Rapids and was represented by an agent. All these years later, Weber knows he's on the right track. "I have a good mix of film and comedy. You've got to laugh," he said. "For my future there is more of the same and I know I am capable of doing something people want to watch."

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## Thrift Stores hold New Year's Day sale

Step into the new year with a new look and a fresh start with the help of the Salvation Army's annual New Year's Day Sale. All 33 metro Detroit Salvation Army thrift store

locations, including stores in Canton, Garden City, Livonia and Redford, will offer 50 percent off clothing from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 1. In addition to 50 percent savings on clothing, shoppers will have opportunities to pick up great deals on accessories, home goods and other items with bonus sales announced at individual stores throughout the day in other departments.

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Proceeds from all stores benefit The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Centers, independently funded, 180-day residential rehabilitation program for adults. Completely self-funded, the ARC draws its entire operating budget from the revenue of the 33 Salvation Army Thrift Stores located in southeast Michigan. For more information, visit [www.salarmythrift.com](http://www.salarmythrift.com) or call (313) 965-7760.

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# Pursue rights after high-pressure sales pitch works

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** Dear Rick: I got talked into doing something — buying a variable annuity — that I regret. I realize it was a mistake. When I told my son what I had bought he pointed out some things that I didn't know and after having second thoughts, I want my money back. I contacted my agent the day after I bought the annuity and he said nothing could be done without incurring a substantial penalty. My son wants me to hire an attorney because of the high-pressure sales tactics and that the policy doesn't make sense for me. Is there anything I can do on my own without having to hire an attorney? I feel incredibly stupid.

**A:** First of all, don't feel stupid. These things happen. The



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

reason many sales people use these high-pressure tactics is because they work. My general advice for everyone is that when a salesperson is putting pressure on you, that is a sure sign that you need to take some time and think about your decision. That being said, all is not lost and you do have an opportunity to potentially reverse the transaction.

When you purchase an annuity in Michigan, you have the right to

cancel the transaction generally within 10 days of receiving the policy. Since you have not yet received your policy, the 10-day rule would protect you. Since you do not have confidence in your agent, I would recommend that you contact the home office of the company for their procedures how to cancel the policy. You generally have to notify them in writing so I recommend that you send notification by first-class, certified mail, return receipt requested. In addition, if they accept emails send one. By doing all of this, you should be able to cancel the transaction and receive your money back.

High-pressure sales tactics have been around for generations. Sometimes salespeople use aggressive tactics because people may need that push to complete the transaction. Other times it's just to pressure someone into doing something that they really don't want to do. Why they do it does not matter to me. My general rule is if I start feeling any pressure from a salesperson, I immediately terminate the meeting and tell them I need more time to make a decision. Of course, in many situations the sales people will try another approach to try to get you to sign. Once again, you have to be firm and

terminate the meeting.

Aggressive salespeople are not confined to the financial world; they are in every part of our society. However, that doesn't mean that we have to subscribe to it. There are many salespeople in every facet of life who do not employ aggressive tactics. Instead, they try to educate the client and help them make the right decision. Those are the salespeople that you have to use.

In the financial industry, there are many advisers that work on a fee-only basis. They charge a fee for their service and receive nothing from any investment

they recommend. As far as I am concerned you'll have a much better chance of being successful by using a fee-only adviser without the cloud of conflicts of interest that exist with many financial salespersons.

If you've been taken advantage of by an aggressive salesperson, particularly in the financial industry, you have rights and you should never hesitate to pursue them.

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like Bloom to respond to your questions, please e-mail him at [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).

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# Local hockey coach enthralled youngsters with his tales

By Susan Steinnmueller  
Observer Staff Writer



Paul Lubanski takes a picture with audience members at the Farmington library where he read his book 'Bonky, a Moose and the Magic Hockey Stick.'

When Paul Lubanski visited his hockey star son in Alaska, he was intrigued by how moose wander around the neighborhoods there.

He wrote it into his first children's book, *Bonky, a Moose and the Magic Hockey Stick*, which he read Thursday at the Farmington Hills Community Library.

"My youngest son lived in Alaska the last three years and the moose wandered freely in the little town," he said, explaining to the young audience how he got the idea for the book, before reading the tale.

He showed them a photo he snapped of a moose in a snowy subdivision chewing the bark of a tree. "The moose don't bother you ... unless you sneak up on them, they'll leave you alone," he said.

Lubanski, a 28-year Farmington Hills resident, is a hockey coach, hockey journalist, professional skills instructor

and motivational speaker. The book was published by turnaround media of New York City. It's geared for children 10 and under.

### A winning tale

It tells the tale of Bonky, a young boy who lives in Alaska and yearns to be a top hockey player, as was his father. A moose called Albert becomes his best friend and helps him reach his goal with a magic hockey stick crafted from antlers. Bonky also learns to

believe in himself and his dreams. That includes being reunited with his dad, a pilot who disappeared while serving in the armed forces, but who comes back just in time to see Bonky win a key game.

Lubanski said the book in some way is a "give back" to those who let him play sports and follow his dreams while growing up.

The story was a winner for an audience of some seven young children and their parents who lis-

tened intently. They included Bryan Pizzuti of Farmington Hills, his son Benton, 8, and his daughter Amaya, 9, both Beechview Elementary students.

Benton said his favorite part was when Bonk "scored the winning goal." Amaya said she liked best "how the moose can talk."

Bryan Pizzuti said his son skated in Tim Horton's TimBit Learn-To-Play Program in Farmington Hills for ages 3-10, which is led by Lubanski. "He's a good coach," he said.

### Team player tips

Lubanski also discussed how to be a good team player. He asked the audience what a good teammate would do and one answer was "skate fast."

"Yes, but why? Because they are trying their hardest ... and trying for the team," he said.

He said they should strive to be a good person, and encourage and help friends. That will

translate into being a good team player who helps their teammates, he said.

"Win, lose or tie — you try to find the good things that happened in that game. We're all going to have our bad days," he said.

Adults will notice a good team player, and "that will give you a chance to move on." Lubanski and his wife Cathy have three grown children.

He said his passion for competing and coaching was fueled by his dad and grandfather.

### Family of athletes

His father, Eddie Lubanski, was a record-setting former professional baseball pitcher who became a world champion bowler. His story was recently told in the book *King of the Pins: Eddie's Double 300!* Lubanski.

His youngest son Brett, 21, is now a freshman center at Holy Cross of the Atlantic Hockey Conference.

Lubanski's son Eric and

daughter Allison are also standout athletes he said.

Lubanski himself played hockey competitively for many years, beginning in high school in Oak Park, and continuing at Michigan State University.

Over 30 years he has coached individuals and teams at all levels of both ice and roller hockey. He also led several championship baseball teams as a manager for the North Farmington-West Bloomfield youth baseball organization.

He has two online youth ice hockey consulting businesses.

Lubanski has just published his second book, *Just Leave it To Cooper*, which is about his dog.

On Saturday, March 16, he will be at the Plymouth Library Local Author Fair, which is open 1-3 p.m. to the general public.

Lubanski's books are available by visiting [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), on hard copy and Kindle.

steinnmueller@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2241

# Farmington eyes new computers; interlocal agreement with the Hills pending

By Susan Steinnmueller and Joanne Maliszewski  
Observer Staff Writers

Farmington and Farmington Hills will enter into an agreement to merge technology services, which will provide new computers and support in Farmington City Hall.

The cities submitted an EVID - Economic Vitality Incentive Program - grant to the Michigan Department of Treasury to help support the effort. EVID grants reward consolidation of services between cities.

In the past two weeks, both city councils approved grant submission and a general outline for a five-year service agreement. The councils will later approve an agreement.

The entire project is estimated at approximately \$200,000, with \$70,000 paid by Farmington and the remaining \$130,000 by the EVIP grant, said Farmington City Manager Vince Pastue.

"The grant will be given on a reimbursement basis, Pastue said. "We haven't put a schedule together with the Hills staff."

The cities must show progress on their joint effort before grant money is distributed, said Mike Lasley, Farmington Hills Central Services Director. The effort will totally revamp Farmington's computer systems. "We'll bring Farmington to the same network platform standard as Farmington Hills."

### Work together

Tighter municipal budgets, the need to save money and the EVIP incentive are prompting increased partnership between the cities. In addition to the technology agreement, the cities are working together on the Grand River Improvement Corridor Authority, a winter snow and ice pilot program for some of Farmington's roads and the combined public safety dispatch services. "We have continual dis-

cussions. We are all looking for opportunities to save money," Lasley said.

Pastue agreed. "We've already worked together. The departments get along and have a lot of discussions. It is one of those things in which success breeds success. I think we will see more of this and not just with Farmington Hills."

Farmington department heads are anxious to have a new computer system. They described current systems crashing when some attachments are opened, slow processing time and systems not keeping up with new programs available to them.

"Just from the standpoint of efficiency, when you're working and the computer says you are no longer working online and you have to shut down, it becomes a distraction," Public Safety Director Bob Schulz said.

He said public safety would potentially like to use new technologies, such as a crime mapping program, that can't currently be used effectively.

Kevin Christiansen, economic and community director, said he looks forward to using an expanded geographic mapping system (GIS), which would allow data for each parcel of property to be stored and "layered."

"Certainly an expanded GIS system for record keeping perspective is invaluable," he said.

### Well-served

Pastue said that the city has been well-served for 18 years by one individual, who was contracted to fill the city's information needs.

"Given the complexity and security of today's information systems, greater and more immediate support is required," he said.

Pastue said the collaboration with Farmington Hills also makes sense because both cities are involved with many of the same state and county agencies, such as CLEMIS and LEIN for public safety; Oakland County treasurer and equaliza-

tion for property tax collection, assessment data, and property records;

and Oakland County clerk and Michigan secretary of state for election files.

The grant covers expenditures to allow the consolidation of these services, Pastue said.

This would include training for Farmington

staff with the new system. Farmington Hills staff will administer the system conversion.

Pastue said when compared with larger well-run cities nearby such as Farmington Hills, Novi and Livonia, "Farmington will be spending less per capita for essentially the same basic services."

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**GOP**

Continued from page A1

speaker pro tem, chaired the House Judiciary Committee and was vice chair of House Tax Policy Committee, believes discussions will continue about the repeal of personal property taxes, regulatory reform and the state's 2014 budget, including how to increase spending for higher education and create incentives for universities that graduate students who meet academic requirements in a timely manner, as well as begin initial talks about cutting correctional costs.

"We will open up an early agenda to address the regulatory environment; then in February the budget process begins for next year," he said.

Walsh wants to examine efficiencies and how to reduce overhead costs at universities. Walsh wonders why administrators have increased while the number of teaching faculty has remained unchanged. "I'd like to take a look at setting aside more dollars in the classroom and whether we can assist in that area," he said.

Walsh wants to look at sentencing guidelines and how to better train inmates to avoid recidivism. He believes criminals should serve their sentences, but added: "We have not been providing the right training at the right time for them to get a job."

**Kurt Heise**

Heise hopes to continue as a vice chair of the House Judiciary Committee. Lawmakers will not know about their new committee assignments until the first week of January.

"For me, the next two years will be refocusing on the economy and jobs," he said. Heise expects discussion of the repeal of personal property taxes to continue. "Everyone agrees that we have to fine-tune it," he said.

Local governments were guaranteed reimbursement of 80 percent — not 100 percent, which is what they wanted — but the personal property tax will not be killed unless voters approve a ballot initiative related to the replacement revenue in 2014.

Heise said the current plan is a 10-year plan through 2022. "What we approved last week is a much more realistic plan than what we had two weeks ago," he said Dec. 17. "It will depend on the statewide election expected in 2014. If voters reject it, it stops."

Businesses with assets of less than \$40,000, such as print shops, salons or barber shops, will see relief, Heise said. "If I am a small business paying personal property tax under \$40,000, I don't have to pay on equipment," he said. "That's a big tax cut for a small

business."

Heise expects the House Judiciary Committee will deal with court reform in terms of efficiencies currently pursued by local governments and school districts in merged services and collaborative efforts to cut expenses.

"We've seen a lot of stories of judges behaving badly, especially in Wayne County," Heise said in reference to poor attendance and ethical deficiencies. He would like to see the court system examined for combined services: "We need to see where people's time and talents are being spent."

Money for indigent defense and medical marijuana issues also are expected to be tackled, Heise said. Policy for corrections will be driven by the governor, but lawmakers will earmark funding for it, he said.

**Hugh Crawford**

State Rep. Hugh Crawford of Novi expects that educational reform will be on the agenda early in 2013, along with regulatory reform.

The Educational Achievement Authority will be discussed. "It addresses the lowest 5 percent of the schools in the state," he said. "Fifteen schools in Detroit are EAA, and there will be a statewide cap of 50 schools."

"I think it will help kids. I visited a couple in Detroit and I was impressed with the kids and with the teachers compared with what I had heard last year."

With the personal property tax repeal, reimbursement of local governments "is obviously a big issue," Crawford said. "We have to make sure that they are not harmed. They can add money locally."

Regulatory reform will be front and center on Crawford's plate if he continues to be on that House committee. The Office of Regulatory Reform has issued reports to that committee that may result in hundreds of bills introduced to address what officials believe are over-regulated areas.

**John Pappageorge**

State Sen. John Pappageorge of Troy believes much of the legislative discussion depends on Gov. Snyder's State of the State address Jan. 16. "The big thing will be the budget process," Pappageorge said. "There's never enough money for what you want to do."

Pappageorge believes lawmakers need to look at infrastructure and transportation budgets. "There are three things that most of the general population of my district care about: the gas tax, toll roads and potholes," he said. "That's the dilemma. We have to figure out how to get more resources here and make infrastructure a priority."

Funding teacher retire-

ments will be another topic and work will continue on the EAA issue. On tax policy, Pappageorge believes most of the "big stuff" was taken care of with the personal property taxes and workers comp costs.

**Patrick Colbeck**

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck of Canton believes the state needs to promote reforms it has completed over the past two years.

"I'd like to follow up the reforms and bring jobs," he said. He'd like to make sure returning military veterans land jobs.

Colbeck, who served on the Senate Education Committee, also wants to see educational policies promote local control. "We're going to bring people who complete these reports before the Educational Policy Committee, ask them how they are using the information in these reports and see if they are neces-



Walsh



Crawford



Pappageorge



Colbeck



Kowall

sary," he said. "We want to let the teachers do what they are trained to do, and that is teach."

Colbeck wants to make sure government is more customer relations-oriented to businesses looking to move into Michigan. "We want to let them know where the properties are and where the skilled labor is," he said.

Colbeck believes that companies can find out that information quickly on the Internet and he wants the state to market itself and let companies know to locate in Michigan with a favorable tax climate. "Time is money in economic development," he said.

**Mike Kowall**

Mike Kowall, state senator from White Lake, said his main focus will be getting people back to work through the port authority legislation, which will help bring in more business.

Port authority bills have worked well in other states, Kowall said, using them to bond out for projects including everything from grain elevators to short rails. Ohio built a headquarters for Goodyear tires using this mechanism.

Kowall wants to see the Brownfield Development Act returned. In Oakland County alone, it could bring 1,865 jobs.

Kowall said Snyder appointed new employees in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. "They are going through every rule, every regulation, to determine whether they are worth keeping or getting rid of," he said. "This is a major effort."

Kowall wants to see stricter penalties against people caught transporting Asian carp. He wants to hit the transporters with not only jail time, but hit them in their pocketbooks by confiscating their fish tanks. "Those are very expensive," he said. "It is along the same line as drug forfeiture laws."



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**Contact:** (313) 562-3080

**Plymouth-Canton**

**NEWCOMER LUAU**

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7-15 p.m.  
**Location:** Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Harford in Canton.  
**Details:** Canton area residents interested in escaping the cold for the warm vibe of Hawaii are encouraged to attend an adult Luau hosted by the Canton Newcomers and Neighbors club. The evenings agenda includes: tons of socializing, Hawaiian music and themed games, a best-dressed for the island contest, a raffle to benefit St. Christine's Soup Kitchen, a treaty treat from 5th House Moore and more.  
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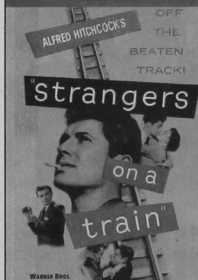
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**Details:** United Home Health Services offers the community free counseling with a certified MMAP (Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program) counselor. The MMAP counselor can help review Medicare and Medicaid eligibility and the various plans, apply for Medicaid, research and enroll in Medicare Part D drug insurance, assist with Medicare supplemental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify and report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse issues, and explore long term care insurance options. No reservations necessary.  
**Contact:** If you have any questions please contact United Home Health Services at (734) 981-9820. You may also access the MMAP website at [www.mmapinc.org/page/about.html](http://www.mmapinc.org/page/about.html)  
**POTTERY CLASSES**  
**Date/Time:** Starting Jan. 8  
**Location:** Village Potters Guild, 340 N. Main in Plymouth.  
**Details:** The Village Potters Guild begins with 15 week classes open to adults who

are just beginning their interest in clay as well as those who have been very experienced in pottery. There are 2 classes offered on Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m. Instructors will provide demonstrations and hands-on assistance in hand-building and wheel throwing techniques as well as glazing. Specialized sessions for raku, pit firing or maybe horse-hair firing will also be included during the term. The guild also offers an independent study class that meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Artists with intermediate to advanced skills are welcome to participate in this student directed class.  
**Contact:** For more information or to register for classes, contact Debbie at (248) 417-2484 or visit the website at [www.villagepottersguild.org](http://www.villagepottersguild.org).  
**PCAC EXHIBITS**  
**Date/Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursdays through Jan. 2  
**Location:** Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth  
**Details:** The Plymouth Community Arts Council announces its December 2012 Exhibits: In the Main Gallery, a solo show, "An Exhibit of Drawings & Paintings by Jean-Paul Abou-Dib." Mr. Abou-Dib is a graduate of the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, with a Masters Degree in Painting from Wayne State University. His paintings and drawings feature the human form in the style of classic realism, rendered in charcoal, graphite and paint. The December Front Wall exhibit will feature drawings, paintings and photography by the PCAC adult art students of instructors Denise Cassidy (acrylics classes), Pam Grosman (drawing and painting classes), and Christina Evans (photography and painting classes).  
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by e-mail at [pibbotso@aol.com](mailto:pibbotso@aol.com) or Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918  
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**Location:** Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 3650 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** Hope 4 Healing Herbs, a grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one to the prison system provides a safe environment allowing members to share in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Donations only.  
**Contact:** For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.  
**HIGHER ROCK CAFE**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. the fourth Friday of the month  
**Location:** The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer  
**Details:** Higher Rock Cafe is an evening of Christian music, fellowship, games and concessions. There's no cover charge.  
**Contact:** For more information visit Higher Rock Cafe on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WayneWestlandHRC](http://www.facebook.com/WayneWestlandHRC) or call (734) 722-3660.  
**FREE WORKSHOP**  
**Time/Date:** 6-7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month  
**Location:** Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, east of Venoy, Westland  
**Details:** Westland residents at risk of losing their homes can attend a free Loan Modification and Short Sale Workshop. Annette Compo of WJR Real Estate 411 and Linda Miller, an MSHDA-certified foreclosure counselor with National Faith Homebuyers, will be on hand to meet with residents one-on-one to do an overview of the foreclosure process and present them with various options for their situation.  
**Contact:** To register for the workshop, call (313) 378-5418 or send an e-mail to [lindamiller@nationalfaith.org](mailto:lindamiller@nationalfaith.org).

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**Contact:** Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or

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**Details:** Meetings are open to combat-wounded veterans.

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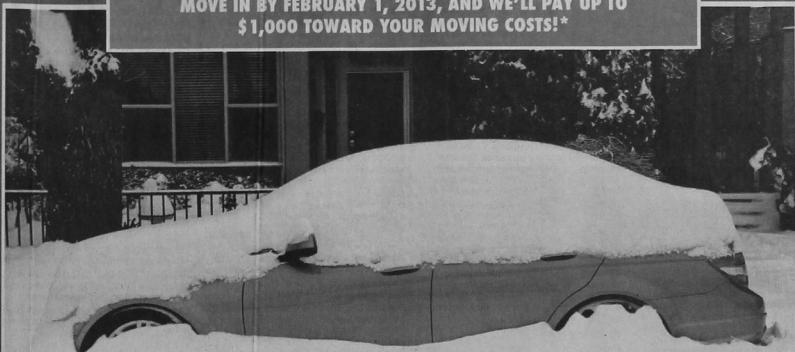
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Actual testimonial from Emily A., Dearborn Heights, MI

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# SPORTS

ED WRIGHT, EDITOR  
ewright@hometownlife.com  
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Coaching Garden City's varsity boys basketball team is a family affair for head coach Ron Pummill (left) and his oldest son Ron Jr.

## Sweet ride Rockets earn 2 wins on trip

It wasn't easy, but the Westland John Glenn boys basketball team completed a successful two-game swing to the west side of the state by beating Grand Haven, 41-38, Friday night at Muskegon Reeths Puffer High School.

The Rockets, who improved to 5-1 overall, got a game-high 17 points from junior forward Isaac Everette.

Senior guard Nick Daniels, bound for Oakland University, contributed 14 in the win.

The Rockets, who beat Muskegon the previous day, 54-53, on Dre Black's three-pointer with only 3.5 seconds left, used a 13-7 third-quarter run to down the Buccaneers, who slipped to 3-2 overall.

Sean Steffel led Grand Haven with 16 points. The Rockets made 7-of-12 free throws, while Grand Haven made 7-of-8.

**FRANKLIN 56, LAKELAND 44:** Michael Gluth and Andrew Lebbos scored 13 points apiece Friday leading host Livonia Franklin (2-4) to a consolation round win over visiting White Lake Lakeland (1-4) in the Patriot Invitational.

Franklin trailed 29-25 at halftime, but took the lead with a 16-11 third-quarter run and put the game away with a 15-4 surge in the final period.

Olushakin Cole and Alex Armstrong added nine and eight points, respectively, for the Patriots, who committed a season-low seven turnovers.

The 6-7 Gluth and Tyrone Rayford also combined for 14 rebounds.

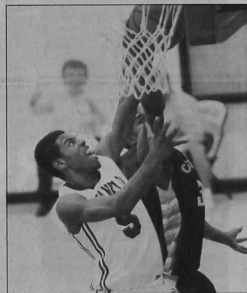
Colton Jarrett paced the Eagles with a game-high 16 points.

**JOHN GLENN 54, MUSKOGON 53:** Dr. Dre has certainly produced his share of lit records.

And Westland John Glenn junior Dre Black made a name for himself on the local hoop scene by hitting a dramatic three-point shot with only 3.5 seconds remaining to give the Rockets (4-1) the win over the Big Reds (3-2) at Reeths-Puffer High School.

Glenn got a team-high 13 points from junior forward Isaac Everette, while junior center James

Please see **HOOPS, B4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Livonia Franklin's Tyrone Rayford fouls for a rebound against Crestwood during the Patriot Invitational.

## FAMILY TIES

Basketball embedded in GC coaches' DNA

By Ed Wright  
Observer/Staff Writer

For 15 consecutive Friday nights in 1995, 5-year-old Ron Pummill Jr. slept on a couch near the landing and go play pickup ball with a bunch of his friends and I slept by the stairs so he wouldn't forget to take me with him," Pummill, now 21, vividly remembered Thursday morning.

"On Saturday mornings during basketball season, my dad would get up early and go play pickup ball with a bunch of his friends and I slept by the stairs so he wouldn't forget to take me with him," Pummill, now 21, vividly remembered Thursday morning.

"One morning the younger Pummill was sleeping so soundly that his dad decided to let him sleep in — a mistake Ron Sr. wouldn't make twice.

"I woke up when I heard his car backing out of the driveway," the younger Pummill said, smiling. "As he drove down the street, I started bawling because I was so bummed I wouldn't get to go with him."

"During breaks in the pickup games played at what is now Garden City Middle School, Ron Jr. would dribble out onto the court and attempt to conquer gravity by launching a basketball at the 10-foot



Michele (left) and Sara Tyree look over a practice plan Thursday afternoon in the Garden City High School gymnasium.

high hoop.

"He was so small that his shots would fall short every time, but he kept shooting; he never gave up," Ron Sr. recalled. "I'll never forget this: Toward the end of the final week, Ron dribbled out there and — with everybody

watching — made his first basket on the 10-foot hoop. All the guys started cheering and he looked back at us with the biggest grin."

At that moment, an unbreakable father-son basketball bond was forged.

As the Pummills

recounted the unforgettable story, they stood in the Garden City High School gymnasium, each wearing a whistle around his neck.

A short time after Ron Sr. was hired as the Cougars' new varsity boys basketball coach this summer, he brought Ron Jr. on board as his No. 1 assistant, fulfilling a lifetime dream for both.

### Sister act

The 13-year age gap that separates Michele Tyree and her younger sister Sara has been bridged nicely over the years by the sport of basketball.

"I had season tickets for the Detroit Shock back in the day, so I'd take her to a lot of those games," Michele Tyree said. "And when Sara was in middle school, I was coaching here, so I got her involved in the winter league that Marshall Henry set up."

Ted Fournier (currently the Garden City girls junior varsity coach) was one of her coaches.

Sara Tyree not only enjoyed the sport, she thrived in it, excelling for Westland John Glenn before moving on to play for Schoolcraft College

Please see **FAMILY, B3**

## Whalers rally, stop losing skid, 4-2

By Tim Smith  
Observer/Staff Writer

Alex Aleardi figured if he kept shooting Thursday, sooner or later something good would happen — both for him and his team.

The Plymouth Whalers forward from Farmington Hills figured correctly. In a Kids Day matinee at Compuware Arena against Saginaw, Aleardi's equalizer in the second period sparked a three-goal

surge that rallied the Whalers to a 4-2 victory.

It was an important comeback for the Whalers, who snapped a seven-game losing streak.

"It was a good play," Aleardi noted. "Mitch Jones held the puck in and (Danny) Vanderwiell made a nice little chip pass to me and I cut across the middle."

"In the first period I hit low post on the same shot and this time I was able to bury it."

The goal, with 10:32 to play in the middle stanza, made it a 2-2 contest. It came 26 seconds following a power play tally by Saginaw's Garret Ross.

Aleardi ripped his shot from the left circle past Spirit netminder Nikita Serebryakov for his 14th goal of the Ontario Hockey League season.

### In the lead

Plymouth (15-11-5-3, second

Please see **WHALERS, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Plymouth's Connor Sills advances the puck along the boards against Saginaw's Jeremiah Addison.



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# Thurston's 'X' factor

## PG Bowen energizes Eagles hoops squad

By Ed Wright  
Observer Staff Writer

Redford Thurston senior point guard Xavier Bowen is living, breathing, slick-dribbling proof that you don't have to be 6-foot-6 with the wingspan of a 7'4" to dominate a basketball game.

Bowen compensates for his 5-8 stature with a motor that runs like a Ferrari's and a set of hardwood instincts that have been sharpened by more than 10 years of playing top-level hoops.

Earlier this month against a lean, long and athletic team from Detroit University Prep, Bowen posted what has become a typical stat line for him: 15 points, seven rebounds, six assists and five steals.

A week earlier against Livonia Stevenson, the Eagles' version of the Energizer Bunny put up 15 points and 10 assists. While impressive, Bowen's physical skills aren't the only assets he brings to the table for Thurston, which has bolted to a 4-1 start.

"Xavier is really showing a lot of leadership skills this year," Thurston head coach Brian Bates said. "He's a three-year varsity player, so his teammates look

up to him. He leads by example.

"He's probably one of the best ball-handlers in the area, too. When the game is tight, we want the ball in his hands."

### Early riser

Bowen has been playing against top-flight talent since he can remember. Recruited to play for the highly regarded, Southfield-based The Family AAU program in third grade, he has been competing in national tournaments since he was 8.

"They would always put us in a higher age group than what we should have been in, so I was always playing against older kids, which gave me an advantage once I got to high school," Bowen said.

"When you play against really good competition like I did when I was younger, nothing bothers you once you get to high school."

Among his most memorable basketball plays as a youngster included a half-court, buzzer-beating, game-winning shot in a national tournament in Indianapolis, and a 56-point explosion while playing for the Redford Township Junior Athletic Association Bulls as an 11-year-old.

"Most of my (56) points in that game were 3-

pointers, which is funny because I wasn't even that good of a 3-point shooter back then," Bowen said. "Everything I threw up was going in that day."

Bowen didn't have to look far to find a mentor and role model during his formative years.

"My sister, Dominique, took me under her wing," he said. "She was one of the best players in the state when she was in high school, but she hurt her knee at the end of her junior year, so she missed her senior year. I've always looked up to her."

### Never rest

Bowen credits his uncanny dribbling prowess and off-the-charts basketball IQ to a year-round basketball-playing regimen.

"I've been playing non-stop since I was young," he said. "I try to play at least two hours every day and some days in the summer I play nine or 10 hours, depending on whether or not I can find an open gym."

His advice for younger players who may not have been blessed with an abundance of height is two-fold.

"You have to play with a lot of heart and aggressiveness if you want to

make it," he said. "Don't give up just because you're not real tall. Don't let your size be a disadvantage. Have a nose for the ball and go get it."

Bowen attended Livonia Franklin during his freshman year of high school before transferring to Thurston prior to his 10th-grade year. Right out of the gate, he was the starting point guard as a sophomore for the Eagles.

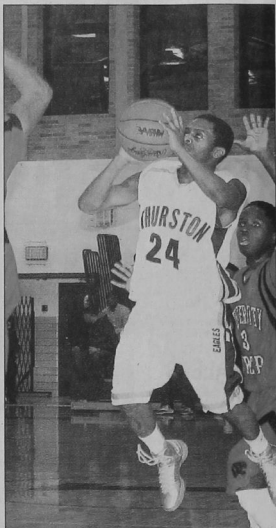
"That was a pretty intense season," Bowen said. "Even though I was playing with a lot of people I knew, I still had to prove myself every game because I was only a sophomore."

As a junior, Bowen helped lead the Eagles to their first Class A district title in four years. This year, the sky is the limit for Thurston, he said.

"If we come together as a team, we could make it to the Breslin Center," he said, referring to the site of the Class A championship game.

### Future Racer?

Bowen's ultimate hoops dream is to play collegiate basketball for Kentucky-based Murray State University — the school his all-time favorite player attends.



ED WRIGHT  
Redford Thurston's Xavier Bowen is pictured doing what he does best: spilling an opponent's defense to get a good look at the basket.

"I don't watch a lot of basketball on TV — I'd rather be playing — but when I do, I like to watch Isaiah Canaan," Bowen said. "I like how he gets his team going, whether they're way up

or way down." Wherever he attends college, Bowen intends to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

ewright@hometownlife.com  
(734) 578-2167

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### BOYS BASKETBALL

**Thursday, Jan. 3**  
Farm. at Harrison, 7 p.m.  
**Friday, Jan. 4**  
Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.  
Wayne at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.  
S. Lyon at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
Northville at Salem, 7 p.m.  
Pontiac at N. Farm., 7 p.m.  
PCA at L. West, 8:30 p.m.  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
**Thursday, Jan. 3**  
PCA at L. West, 5:30 p.m.  
Farm. at Lake Orion, 7 p.m.  
**Friday, Jan. 4**  
Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.  
Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson at S. Lyon, 7 p.m.  
Salem at Northville, 7 p.m.  
Harrison at Adams, 7 p.m.  
Merry at A.A. Richard, 7 p.m.  
Lady at Regina, 7:30 p.m.

### PREP HOCKEY

**Friday, Jan. 4**  
Churchill vs. Grand Rapids CC at Edger Arena, 6 p.m.  
Plymouth vs. Mott at Lakeland Arena, 8:20 p.m.  
Midland vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.  
Northville vs. Salem at Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 5**  
Ladywood vs. Northville at Arctic Pond, 5:30 p.m.  
NF-Harrison vs. Mott at Lakeland Arena, 5:30 p.m.  
Franklin vs. Stevenson at Edger Arena, 7 p.m.  
Plymouth at N.ville, 7 p.m.  
Farmington vs. Clarkston at Ice Box, 8 p.m.

### PREP WRESTLING

**Saturday, Jan. 5**  
Burton-Bendle Inv., 9 a.m.  
Roch. Adams Inv., 9 a.m.  
Aulsebrook Inv., 9 a.m.  
Novi CC Invitational, 9 a.m.  
Howell DuSalle, 9 a.m.  
Wyandotte Inv., 9:15 a.m.  
Village Team Tour, 9:30 a.m.  
Lakeland Inv., 10 a.m.  
W. Bloomfield Inv., 10 a.m.

### BOYS SWIMMING

**Thursday, Jan. 3**  
Monroe vs. Plymouth at Canton H.S., 6:30 p.m.  
**Friday, Jan. 4**  
Salem Invitational, 7 p.m.  
W. Bloomfield Inv., TBA.  
**GIRLS GYMNASTICS**  
**Saturday, Jan. 5**  
Rockford Inv., 9:30 a.m.  
**PREP BOWLING**  
**Friday, Jan. 4**  
N. Farm. at Troy, 3:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 5**  
Lawrence Tech at MU, 8 p.m.

### MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

**Wednesday, Jan. 2**  
Lawrence Tech at MU, 8 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 5**  
Siena Heights at MU, 3 p.m.  
Wayne Co. at Scarf, 3 p.m.  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 2**  
Lawrence Tech at MU, 6 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 5**  
Siena Heights at MU, 1 p.m.  
Wayne Co. at Scarf, 1 p.m.

### ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

**Monday, Dec. 31**  
Whalers at Windsor, 2 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Jan. 2**  
Whalers at Guelph, 7 p.m.  
**Friday, Jan. 4**  
Whalers vs. Owen Sound at Compuser Arena, 7 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 5**  
Whalers vs. Guelph at Compuser Arena, 7 p.m.  
TBA — time to be announced.

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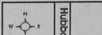
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Plymouth Road

Next to Bill Brown Ford across from Saint Michael's Church



Plymouth Whalers forward Tom Wilson (No. 10) wards off the checking of Saginaw's Andrey Alexeev (No. 8) during Thursday's matinee at Compuware Arena.

**WHALERS**

Continued from page B1

in the OHL. West Division) then broke the tie the nearly two minutes later on the power play, to the delight of 3,005 fans.

A nifty, three-way passing play resulted in the goal. Defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto fed Aleari who redirected the puck in front to Tom Wilson for the tap-in.

Whalers goalie Matt Mahalak (46 saves) kept the net in front with several clutch stops late in the second and he also stepped up during a crucial penalty kill midway during the third.

During a power play midway during the second period, Saginaw (14-17-3-2) amped up the offensive pressure but could not net the equalizer. The Spirit got five shots through to Mahalak and several others that Plymouth's D-men got in front of.

"We needed him (Mahalak) to make those saves at key times," Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci said. "And lots of guys blocked."

The Whalers added an insurance goal with 3:29 left when defenseman Connor Carrick forced a turnover in the neutral zone, skated down the left wing and sent a shot that eluded Serebryakov (31 saves).

Saginaw had the jump early, having a 15-7 shot advantage at one point during the first and going up 1-0 on a short-handed goal by Eric Locke.

"They scored a short-handed goal that deflated us a little bit," Vellucci said. "But we just had a good talk between the first and the second and we came out better."

Plymouth finally got on



Looking for a teammate to pass the puck to Thursday is Plymouth Whalers forward Alex Aleari (No. 40), of Farmington Hills. At left is Saginaw's Dylan Sadoway.

the board at 4:41 of the middle frame, thanks to a gritty effort by the line of Matt Misteale, Wilson and Cody Payne.

Payne circled the net and tried to stuff the puck past Serebryakov at the right post. With the goalie unable to freeze it, Misteale jammed it over the line.

The Spirit regained the lead at 9:02 with a power play marker. Ross one-timed a centering pass from Eric Locke.

**Working for it**

But Aleari's quick response helped keep the Whalers — who last played Dec. 15 — from potentially dropping an eighth straight game.

"We only had one practice," said Aleari, referring to the team's lengthy holiday break.

"Everybody's been on break, some guys haven't skated yet. So coming back and getting this win means a lot."

Vellucci said hard work was a key ingredient to his team finally tasting victory. Plymouth's last win was Nov. 30 against Ottawa. The Whalers, to their credit, did pick up four points during the subsequent stretch thanks to overtime or shootout losses.

"Four of them (overtime losses) went into even-time, some were on the road and we were short-handed some bodies," Vellucci explained. "But we plugged through and had a good game tonight."

"We've outchanced and outshot everybody (during the slump), we just didn't get the goals when we needed to."

Plymouth will need to keep plugging away during a tough stretch of the schedule with two of the team's top three scorers competing at the IJHF World Junior Championships (Ryan Hartman, Team USA; Rickard Rakell, Team Sweden) and the third serving a suspension (Stefan Noesen).

Saturday's game against London (originally slated for Comerica Park) will be followed by road games against Windsor and Guelph.

The Whalers return to Compuware for games Jan. 4 and 5 against Owen Sound and Guelph, respectively. London, Guelph and Owen Sound are three of the four top teams in the OHL Western Conference as of Thursday.

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**FAMILY**

Continued from page B1

and Indiana University-South Bend.

This past spring, when Michele Tyree was selected to succeed Barry Patterson as the Cougars' varsity girls basketball coach, she asked Sara to be her top assistant.

"It's been fun," Michele said about coaching with Sara. "A lot of people ask us how we can coach together being sisters, so we joke around and tell them that we never lived together, so we get along really well."

"A lot of times we have this sister thing going," Sara added. "We'll show up at practice wearing the identical outfit. And there have been a lot of times when we're thinking the same thing that the other one is telling the team."

Having played basketball at Garden City and coached at the school for more than 20 years, Michele Tyree has bleb blue and orange for as long as she can remember. She has carried on her predecessors' game plans that include a hustling man-to-man defense and motion offense.

Michele welcomed Sara's input with open arms, given her younger sister's vast experience in the sport.

"For the most part, we share the same philosophy," Michele said. "She played at a different high

school and for two college programs, so she's been exposed to varied philosophies, whereas I only played for Garden City and coached here. I think we both have learned a lot from one another."

Sara adapted quickly to Garden City's system of basketball.

"When I came in as a coach six or seven years ago, the first thing I wanted to do was learn what they ran and what their overall philosophy was," Sara said. "So I adapted everything I had already learned to what they wanted here, and I think it's gone really well."

Coaching the first game together last month was a surreal experience for both of the Tyrees.

"We looked over at each other at times and smile, or exchange a high five when the team did something well," Michele said. "It's been a great experience so far."

**Like father ...**  
Ron Pummill Sr. can't help but smile when he thinks about the shared passion he and his son have for coaching basketball.

"The thing I love the most about coaching basketball is trying to make my players as good as they can be and trying to make them as passionate about the sport as I am," he said. "So as a parent, to be able to coach with my son who shares the same passion for basketball as I have is, well, it's hard to describe."

Following a stellar high school career at Garden City, Ron Jr. took his advanced hardwood skills to Schoolcraft College and Concordia University in Ann Arbor. He also competes on the Cardinals' golf team.

"Although I wouldn't consider myself ancient," Ron Sr. said, cracking a grin, "it's nice to get Ron's take on things since he's played in college and he's played for several really good coaches."

Following the Cougars' first five games, the Pummills have regularly solicited the opinions of their significant others: Ron Sr.'s wife Justine and Ron Jr.'s fiancée Shannon.

"This coaching thing is really a family affair for us," Ron Sr. said. "We love to hear what other people think of the games, just to get a different perspective. My older daughters have vivid etoaped games for us, so we're all in."

Looking ahead, Ron Jr. said he would love to follow in his father's footsteps as both a physical education teacher and a head basketball coach in high school.

"It's definitely what I want to do," he said. "And I consider myself extremely fortunate to be able to coach with my dad this year because even though I've played for a lot of great coaches over the years, he's the best."

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**Inaugural GC pole vault invite is set for April**

By Ed Wright  
Observer Staff Writer

Garden City assistant track-and-field coach Chris Griffith is making sure the area's pole vaulters will have a forum to show their stuff this spring.

Griffith has spearheaded the formation of the inaugural Garden City Pole Vault Invitational, which is set to unfold Saturday, April 20 at the Garden City High School stadium.

There will be both boys and girls divisions at the event that Griffith hopes draws vaulters from throughout the metropolitan-Detroit area.

"We want the best vaulters in the area to come together at the mid-point of the track-and-field season so they can gauge where they stand before regionals," said Griffith. "Hopefully, this invitational will draw vaulters from Dearborn, Livonia, Plymouth, Canton and surrounding communities. It will serve as an Observer-land-like event, but just for the pole vault."

The top six individual vaulters in each

division will receive a trophy. There will also be a team trophy for schools that enter at least three vaulters.

The entry fee for a boys or girls team is \$25. If a school enters a boys and girls team, the cost is \$40.

The girls' height will start at 6 feet, 6 inches, which will be raised to 7-6 on the second attempt and six inches for each ensuing height until two competitors remain.

The boys' height will start at 8 feet before being raised to 9 feet and then in six-inch intervals.

The boys competition will start at 9 a.m. The girls competition will begin one hour after the boys competition ends.

For more information on the invitational or to enter a team, contact Griffith at [griffithc@hotmail.com](mailto:griffithc@hotmail.com) or Garden City athletic director Rob Phillips at [PhillipsR@gardencityschools.com](mailto:PhillipsR@gardencityschools.com) or (734) 762-8363.

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**SPORTS ROUNDUP**

**K-of-C contest**

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at St. Thomas a Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. with all age-group contestants recognized for their participation in the event, which will progress through local, district and state competition.

Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For more information, call Dave Lengel at (734) 516-4930 or email [dienl2@yahoo.com](mailto:dienl2@yahoo.com).

**Softball camp**

Madonna University will hold a series of winter softball camps (ages 7-18) including:

Fundamentals (Camp I) - 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Fundamentals (Camp II) - noon-2:30 p.m., Sundays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24. (Cost for each is \$125 by Dec. 1, or \$150).

For more information, visit [www.MadonnaCrusaders.com](http://www.MadonnaCrusaders.com).

**Learn to Skate**

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer its Learn to Skate (winter session III) beginning the week of Jan. 14 through the week of March 4 at Edgar Arena, located at 33841 Lyndon (one-half mile south of Five Mile and just west of Farmington Road.

The eight-week program (25 minutes per session) is \$62 (residents) and \$76 (non-residents).

Classes offered include: ages 4-and-up - 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 6 p.m. or 6:20 p.m. Mondays; hockey skills (no sticks, equipment or pucks used) - 6:25 p.m. Mondays; and 3-year-olds only - 5 p.m. Mondays.

There is limited skate rental available at no charge.

Livonia Parks and Recreation, a member of the Ice Skating Institute, also offers various levels of instruction, private lesson, teams and competition opportunities. Private lessons are available for all levels.

For more information, call (734) 466-2412.

**CHS Hall of Fame**

The 11th annual Livonia Churchill Athletic Patron Hall of Fame induction will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 21 at the Italian-American Hall, 392000 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Among the inductees are the 2007 Class A state champion girls volleyball team, former Churchill baseball player Rod Hawraney and parent volunteers Don and Jane DeRo.

Tickets are \$35 per person (if purchased by March 1) or \$40 (after March 1).

The evening includes Hor'deuvres, cash bar, dinner and program (from 7:30-9 p.m.).

For more information, call Rob Suida at (313) 617-5448, or email [rjsuida@cmseenergy.com](mailto:rjsuida@cmseenergy.com).



Garden City pole vaulter Olivia Bosen (pictured during a meet this past spring) will be competing in the inaugural Garden City Pole Vault Invitational in April.

# Falcons fall in Holiday Tourney

# Rocket girls cagers grounded by Rogers

By Brad Emmons  
Observer Staff Writer

Farmingham High coach Terrace Porter is searching to find the right formula to get his boys basketball team turned around.

The Falcons had some positive moments Friday night in Northville's Holiday Tournament, but dropped their fourth game in five starts against the host Mustangs, 44-33.

Farmingham made only 31.2 percent of its shots from the floor (15-of-48), but did not attempt a free throw during the game.

"We got some shots we wanted, but we missed some wide open shots and didn't convert a couple of layups that had an opportunity to convert," Porter said.

"Those are shots you have to make. I don't think we shot a free throw today. We have to find ways to score off of our defense when we're not shooting well."

It was 10-all after one period and Northville outscored the Falcons 10-7 in the second period to make a 20-17 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, Farmington went ice cold against North-

ville's half-court zone defense making only 1-of-14 shots from the floor.

"Our ball movement was not particularly good today," Porter said. "Our player movement was not particularly good. Our guys were standing still. In order to beat a zone you've got to have your ball movement, good player movement. In certain possessions today we didn't have that."

Northville (3-2) led by as many as 15 in the third quarter, but had to repel a Farmington run in the final period as Valentino Kalaj's nailed a free thrower with 5:16 left in the game cut the deficit to 34-26.

But the Mustangs, behind a game-high 23 points from 6-foot-7 center Justin Banks added 12.

But only two other Falcons found the scoring column - Bradley Harris (four) and Kenneth Hammon (two).

Northville, with six players standing 6-5 or better, shot 16-of-39 from the field (41 percent).

"That was an emphasis to limit them to one shot because we knew they were bigger than us," Porter said. "We tried to use our quick-

ness and our speed, but if we didn't rebound, we didn't have the ball and couldn't use it. Their size did hurt us a little bit, but not so much to the fact that our inability to score in that third quarter."

The victory enabled Northville to reach the championship final Saturday night against Waterford Mott (3-2), which earlier in the day pulled away in the second half to beat Livonia Clarenceville, 58-36.

Khalil Malone led the Corsairs (2-1) with 21 points, while Brandon Whittitt added 14.

The Trojans (0-8), who trailed by only four at halftime, 29-25, got seven points from Austin Douglass and James Hill had six.

Saturday's consolation final pitted Farmington against Clarenceville.

"We got to make shots and score the basketball," Porter said. "That's the name of the game at the end of the day. You've got to have more points than your opponent. Defensively, we need to improve and put the ball in the basket. We're looking to go into the new year with a win."

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## HOOPS

Continued from page B1

Pruitt chipped in with 12 points. Black, the hero, contributed 10.

Deshawn Brown paced Muskegon with a game-high 23 points, while D'Vonte Dockery added 13.

Glenn led 18-10 in the second quarter before Muskegon went on a 9-0 run.

It remained close throughout the second half with Glenn making 6-of-6 free throws in the final period including four straight from senior guard Richard Roberts.

Muskegon made 10-of-17 foul shots, while Glenn was 8-of-12.

**SALEM 71, CHELSEA 47:** Chris Diender and Kevin Mack scored 15 and 14, respectively, leading the Rocks (4-1) to an opening round victory Thursday over the host Bulldogs (1-4) in the Chelsea Holiday Tournament.

Steve Siss also contributed 10 for Salem, which led 38-26 at halftime and 62-35 after three quarters.

Zach Rabbitt scored a game-high 23 points for Chelsea.

Salem will play Ann Arbor Pioneer (4-2), a 65-37 winner over Pinckney, in the championship final at 8 p.m. Friday at Chelsea.

**CRESTWOOD 62, FRANKLIN 44:** Bilal Abduljami tallied a game-high 23 points and brother Imran added 13 to propel Dearborn Heights (1-1) to an opening round victory Thursday over host Livonia Franklin (1-4) in the Patriot Invitational.

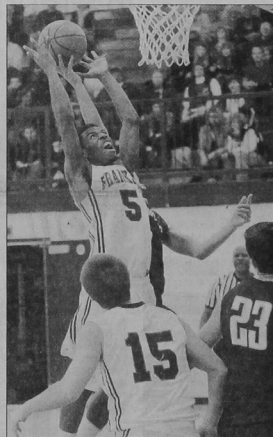
Franklin led 12-9 after one quarter, but went ice cold in the second period being outscored 13-2.

Crestwood then stretched its 22-14 halftime lead to 43-30 after three quarters.

The Patriots made only 16-of-51 shots from the floor (31 percent) and only 11-of-22 free throws (50 percent).

Tyrone Rayford and Andrew Lebbos each scored 11 points for Franklin.

The Patriots were outscored 32-23 and committed 18 turnovers to Crestwood's nine.



Livonia Franklin's Tyrone Rayford skis for a rebound during an opening round game of the Patriot Invitational.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Ladywood basketball team Scrooged in Classic loss

By Brad Emmons  
Observer Staff Writer

The Grinch That Stole Christmas apparently won't leave Livonia Ladywood's basketball alone. I was bad enough the Blazers fell Thursday night in the Motor City Roundball Classic to state Class A runner-up Groves Pointe South, 49-34, at Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day.

"The big blow occurred during the second minute of the game when the Blazers lost their top scoring and rebounding forward, senior Kiley Gorski, to an apparent left knee injury.

"Ironically, the 5-foot-10 Gorski was making her return to the lineup after missing the last four games while rehabbing an ankle injury suffered in the season opener.

"She (Gorski) had only played three quarters of our five games this year," said Ladywood coach Anthony Coratti, whose team slipped to 4-2 overall. "She hadn't played the last four games. She goes out and gets hurt in the first minute and hurts her knee. We're hoping for the best, but it doesn't look good. You feel for the kid. She's a senior and she wants to play basketball in college."

Ladywood managed to stay close for a half trailing by only five at

intermission, 25-20, but the Blue Devils pulled away by outscoring Ladywood 17-1 in the third quarter.

The Blazers went stone cold during that stretch by missing all 12 shots from the floor.

"We just couldn't put the ball in the basket," Coratti said. "It is what it is. (They) play great defense and they wear you out. We didn't respond as well as could have."

After hitting 6-of-12 shots in the second quarter the Blue Devils went 7-of-15 in the third to take a commanding 42-21 lead.

"I thought in the first half we turned it over," South coach Kevin Richards said. "A lot of it was just trying to rush and trying to force it inside. I thought our spacing was bad and it resulted in a lot of turnovers for us."

"I thought we pressed the first half and the second half we just let happen."

Senior center Claire DeBoer scored 10 of her game-high 17 points in first half to lead South (6-1), while guard Cierra Rice contributed 12.

"We had better spacing (third quarter) and had a couple of shots fall from outside," said Richards, whose team's only setback was in the season opener to Chicago Whitney Young (ranked No. 2 nationally). "And they (Ladywood)

didn't have a matchup for Claire (DeBoer) inside."

Andie Anastos, Ladywood's senior point-guard, finished with a team-high 15 points, including 11 in the first half. Senior guard Shelby Walsh added 12 and senior forward Sara Even had seven.

"She (DeBoer) is a lot to handle," Coratti said. "As with their perimeter kids you've got to think who you're going to double team. And did a pretty good job, but that girl (DeBoer) is good. She's going to Bucknell (University)."

Ladywood opens Catholic League Central Division play Friday, Jan. 4 at Warren Regina.

"The result today wasn't great, but our kids took a small step forward in competing against a very good team," Coratti said. "I like our chances going into the (Catholic) league. We're playing some great teams and against some very good players in what I think is the best league in the state."

But the potential loss of Gorski certainly dampens the holiday spirit.

"She's capable and you feel for her," Coratti said. "She just loves basketball. She had the ankle issue. She worked her tail off to get back and now she does this. It sucks."

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By Brad Emmons  
Observer Staff Writer

Unbeaten Westland John Glenn was looking for a quality non-conference opponent during the holiday break and got more than it bargained for Thursday night at the Motor City Roundball Classic held at Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day.

The Rocket girls couldn't overcome a 22-9 first-quarter deficit against Toledo Rogers and suffered a 62-53 setback.

Rogers, now 7-2 overall with one of its defeats a 25-point setback to two-time defending Division 1 Ohio state champion Twinsburg, got a game-high 18 points and four assists from 5-foot-2 point guard ShaRon Sweeney.

"The Lady Rams beat Glenn to the punch in the opening period using a three-quarter court trapping press to build a 13-point lead.

"That's one of our little special defenses that we throw in and it was giving them a lot of problems," Rogers coach Lamar Smith said. "So we kept doing it, not all the time, but mixing it in and out."

In the second quarter, Glenn got 10 points from Raven Bankston to close the game at 32-27 at halftime.

But in the third quarter, the Rockets went cold again going 4-of-17 from the field as Rogers stretched its lead to 46-31 with 2:36 remaining on a basket by Keasia Pearce.

Glenn made a fourth-quarter comeback pulling to within four on two different occasions, but a basket by 6-2 freshman Toriana Easley with 1:06 remaining gave the Lady Rams a six-point advantage, 56-50, and helped seal the win.

Williams, a 6-1 junior, finished with 12 points and nine rebounds, while Sasha Dailey Easley added 11 points.

Akhenfer Johnson and Sasha Dailey helped control the glass grabbing 14 and 11 rebounds, respectively.

"They killed us on the boards," Glenn coach Eric Kovatch said. "We went man to man defense for awhile and then zone, and

we didn't box out well in either. That's something we're going to have to address all year because our height."

Raven Bankston finished with a team-high 15 points, while twin Raine added 13. Junior guard Kaia Barnes added 10.

But the Rockets shot only 19-of-60 from the floor (31.6 percent) and leading scorer ShaKeya Graves, saddled with second-quarter foul trouble, shot just 3-of-15.

Glenn made just 9-of-19 free throws, while Rogers was 17-of-26.

"We haven't practiced a whole lot over Christmas break," Kovatch said. "Don't want to make any excuses, but we missed a lot of simple shots. We didn't do a coaching staff prepare them as well as we should have. We've only had one practice since last Thursday. Our girls have been out of the gym and a little rusty, but they played hard. From where they started - we were very in it until the end."

But the player that gave Glenn the most fits with her penetration dribbles and slick passes for wide open layups was Sweeney, who is bound for Eastern Michigan.

The Earl Boykins female clone also made 8-of-10 free throws and had three steals.

"Cha Ron is one of the toughest and she's our leader this year," Smith said. "She's the only senior we have and I'm very proud of her. She showed how a point-guard should control the team and run a team."

Glenn's next game is Friday, Jan. 4 against KLAAs South Division co-favorite Canton, which is coming off a big win over Farmington Hills Mercy.

"Obviously we have stuff to work on, but we scheduled a quality opponent to see where we stand," Kovatch said. "This game is to get us ready for the big push in the KLAAs and defend our (Assistant) coach's job."

Our girls are working mentally and we're going to put this in the right perspective, learn from it and move forward."

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# MU women's cagers win in Florida

Livonia Stevenson's Kaylee McGrath, a senior center, scored a game-high 18 points and grabbed five rebounds to catapult the Madonna University women's basketball team to a 78-58 win Friday over host Ave Maria (Fla.) at Goliasso Field House.

The Crusaders, who improved to 7-5 overall, also got 16 points off the bench from Rachel Melcher, who made 8-of-10 free throws.

Michele Lindsey contributed 13 points and seven boards, while Heather Pratt added 10 points.

The Crusaders, who rallied from a 29-28 halftime deficit, hit 9-of-21 shots from three-point range and rebounded by making 23-of-50 (46 percent) for the game.

MU converted 25 points off turnovers and led by as many as 20 in the second half.

Ave Maria (5-5) got 16 points from Emily Huber, while Erin Murphy and Teya Spooner-Serdar added 10 apiece.

MU closed out its three-game swing Saturday and Sunday in Naples, Fla. against Auburn-Montgomery and University of Virginia-Lynchburg, respectively.

# Lady Raiders fall to 'D' champs

Bri'jaan Durrough's game-high 22 points and eight rebounds went in vain Thursday afternoon as Beverly Hills Farmington fell to two-time defending Class D state girls basketball champion Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes, 36-32, in the Motor City Roundball Classic hosted by Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day.

The Lakers (4-2), got a team-high 17 points from Lexie Robak, while Anna

Robb chipped in with nine.

In addition to Durrough, only two other players scored for the Raiders with Kaitlyn Kendall notching six and Jessica Carruthers adding three.

North (4-4) made 4-of-8 foul shots, while Lakes hit 3-of-4.

The Raiders led 9-6 after one quarter, but trailed 18-13 at halftime. Both teams scored 22 second-half points.

# COMMUNITY LIFE

## Get a taste of pottery painting at Soup Swap fundraiser

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

What tastes better than a bowl of hearty soup on a cold winter day?

Sipping it from your own hand-decorated bowl — and knowing the experience has helped local nonprofit organizations.

The Village Potters Guild in Plymouth hopes to give 150 individuals a chance to do just that through its first "Soup Swap" next month. The two-part event will include a series of bowl-decorating workshops that culminate in "swap" day, when participants pick up their completed bowls and donate canned goods in exchange for hot soup.

"I did the same project when I was working with the Chelsea Center for the Arts," said Leslie Greeneisen, Guild member and a Canton resident. "We were starting our pottery program there and needed new (kiln) shelves and I ran across this whole national soup swap day. I thought, how can we twist this around and turn it into a great community event and still benefit the organization?"

"It was so successful there that we decided to try it here."

Participants will pay \$15 and sign up for one of nine workshop times and dates next month. Clay bowls, created and decorated by Guild artists, will be available for decorating at each workshop. Participants will paint on colorful designs and Guild members will coat each finished piece in clear glaze and fire them in kilns. Glazes are food



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Leslie Greeneisen hopes to replace the worn shelves in this gas-fired kiln with money raised by the 2013 Soup Swap.



Members of the Village Potters Guild made these bowls for the 2013 Soup Swap fundraiser. They are ready for painting and glazing.

safe, dishwasher safe and microwave safe.

### Pencil to paint

Carolyn Hook, Guild president, demonstrated the painting process recently while working



Carolyn Hook, a member of Village Potters Guild, demonstrates how to paint a design on pottery. Individuals who sign up for a 2013 Soup Swap workshop next month at the Guild will get a chance to paint their own design on a bowl.

on a set of mugs in the pottery studio.

"The way I do it is I take a pencil and get the

design figured out," she said, referring to the pencil marks on her bisque mug. "And then I think what kind of colors do I want to use? Then I start laying in the colors. I'm using under glazes. I'm painting the designs with them and then I'm going to finish it in a clear glaze."

She suggests that Soup Swap participants have a design in mind when they arrive at their bowl-painting workshop.

The bowls will be ready for pick up on Soup Swap day, Saturday, Jan. 26. At that time, anyone who brings canned goods for The Salvation Army, can swap them for hot soup prepared by The Chef's Club Over the Grill Gang or the Culinary Team from Plymouth Canton Educational Park.

### 2013 SOUP SWAP

**What:** Village Potters Guild presents a series of bowl-painting workshops that culminates in a special "swap" day during which participants receive soup in exchange for donating canned goods to The Salvation Army.

**Workshops:** Participants pick out a bowl and paint on a design. Guild members will glaze and fire each piece and have them ready for pick-up on swap day. Pick any of the following painting sessions:

- 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013
- 5:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, 2013
- 1:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013
- 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m., Monday, Jan. 21, 2013

**Location:** Workshops and Soup Swap day will be held at the Village Potters Guild, 340 N. Main, located behind The Crossings Restaurant, in Plymouth.

**Cost:** Workshops are \$15 per person and \$10 for additional bowls. Families pay \$15 for the first two members and \$10 each for additional family members. Not interested in the workshop? You can buy a Guild-decorated bowl for \$14 at the swap.

**2013 Soup Swap:** The Chef's Club Over the Grill Gang and the Plymouth Canton Educational Park Culinary Team will make and serve soup, 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013 at the Guild. Swap canned goods for soup. Workshop participants pick up their bowls.

**Contact:** The Village Potters Guild at (734) 207-8807.

### Fundraiser

The Culinary Team will receive a portion of proceeds from the event.

The Salvation Army will receive canned goods. The Guild hopes to raise \$1,200-\$1,500 for new kiln shelves. Ceramic shelves are stationed inside each of the Guild's seven indoor kilns and two outdoor kilns. They hold the pottery as it is fired, but can break or warp over time.

"We're self-sustaining. Self-funded. With increased expenses, like everybody else, our budget is falling short," Greeneisen said. "And we have more needs than we can cover. So, we're trying to come up with activities for people to become involved

with that will help generate some revenue. This (Soup Swap) was something that was tossed around to try to raise money for new kiln shelves. We're in desperate need for new shelves."

Classes help pay for Guild expenses, too. Winter-spring classes start Jan. 9, 2013.

Sessions in basic and continuing pottery run 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, through April 17. An independent study class is offered 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, beginning Jan. 8, 2013.

Tuition is \$350 by check and \$360 by credit card. For more information call the Guild at (734) 207-8807 or visit [www.village-pottersguild.org](http://www.village-pottersguild.org)

**DISCOVER REMARKABLE**

**Experience the New St. Mary Mercy**

Inspired by you. Created for you.

At St. Mary Mercy Livonia, we're re-inventing the way you and your family experience a hospital stay with our new three-story addition that boasts a state-of-the-art Emergency Center and two floors of 80 total private patient rooms.

Our spacious patient rooms incorporate natural healing elements, while allowing for technological advancements and plenty of room to accommodate visitors, and even overnight guests.

We've doubled the size of our Emergency Center with over 50 specialized treatment rooms that are separated by walls - not curtains - so our patients will experience more privacy, in addition to less wait time.

We're transforming the future of healthcare by combining medical excellence with the latest technology and unparalleled compassion. And soon after the opening of the new addition in our south wing, we are renovating our north wing patient rooms to private.

Experience the new St. Mary Mercy.  
[stmarymercy.org](http://stmarymercy.org)

**DISCOVER REMARKABLE**

**YOUR DESTINATION FOR WINTER FUN**

**FREE PARKING** in the Compuware garage Mon - Fri 11am - 6pm with skating admission

- Family Outings
- Private Ice Parties
- Birthday Parties
- Field Trips
- Group Rates
- Skate Rentals
- Convenient, Adjacent Parking
- Open 7 Days Including Holidays

**HOURS:**  
Mon-Thurs..... 11am - 10 pm  
Friday..... 11am - Midnight  
Saturday..... 10 am - Midnight  
Sunday..... Noon - 8 pm

**The Rink**  
CAMPUS MARTIUS PARK

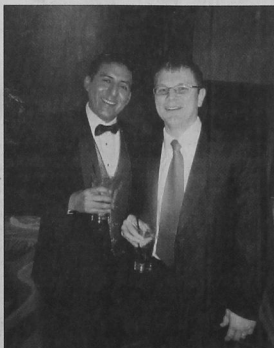
800 Woodward Avenue  
3 Blocks North of Jefferson  
Located in Detroit's Meeting Place. Across from the Compuware Building and Hard Rock Cafe.

For reservations & further info, call 313-963-9393

# A grand gala at the Grand



Farmington Hills residents, Dr. Milena Cankovic, (left) laboratory director of Detroit Henry Ford Hospital, and Vesna Prepelec.



PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES  
Both physicians at Henry Ford Hospital, Dr. Michael Johnson of Sterling Heights (left) and Dr. Adam Schlichting of Livonia, enjoy the gala.

By Julie Yolles  
Social Scene Columnist

Bloomfield Hills resident Dr. Robert Stachler (left) of Henry Ford Hospital, with Canton resident Dave Williams of corporate sponsor George W. Auch Corporation, and Simone Vitale of Royal Oak, the event's emcee and band leader.



Social Scene  
Julie Yolles

We wrap up the 2012 Social Scene season with the grandest of them all — the Henry Ford Hospital Grand Ball that was held at the MGM Grand. Nearly 1,000 guests came in their glitziest holiday attire to help raise nearly \$450,000 for Henry Ford's clinical programs. Henry Ford Hospital closes out 2012 with many successes, including the launch of the \$12 million

Innovation Institute which will focus on helping to shape the future of health care. And with that segue, here's the healthiest and happiest of what's to come in 2013.

For consideration of coverage in this column, please send event happenings, including invitations and press kits, to Julie Yolles, Social Scene Columnist, Observer & Eccentric News-papers, 371 Greenwood, Birmingham, MI 48009. Contact her at jyolles@comcast.net or (248) 642-9465.

**ATTENTION: FREE DROP OFF!**  
Electronic Waste, TVs, Computers, Phones, etc.  
**A.W. Lee Recycling**  
39711 Warren Rd. • Canton  
East of I-275 at Railroad Tracks  
M-F 8:30 - 4:30  
**734.981.6016**

**CLEARANCE SALE**  
Additional 10% Off Floor Models\*  
\*see website for more details  
**HANDCRAFTED FURNITURE FOR EVERY ROOM OF YOUR HOME**  
CHOOSE YOUR STYLE, WOOD TYPE & STAIN  
Bring in this Ad & Receive FREE Upgrade to In-Home Delivery  
**AMISH TABLES**  
236 N. Main St. Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 927-1110 | amishtables.com | amishth.com



## Cebrate Sensibly

These Local Businesses and the Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers would like to wish everyone a Safe and Enjoyable New Year's Eve. Please remember to celebrate sensibly, be sure you have a designated driver and bring everyone home safely!

**AMERICAN HOUSE**  
2400 Middlebelt Rd.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
(248) 471-9141  
ahfarmington@comcast.net  
www.americanhouse.com

**METS - MICHIGAN EDUCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION**  
Services Providing Quality Student Transportation Services To Local School Districts & Throughout Michigan For More Information & Employment Opportunities Call 517-647-7765  
www.contractbusdrivers.com

**ASHFORD COURT SENIOR RESIDENCE**  
37501 Joy Rd.  
Westland MI 48185  
(734) 451-1156  
www.ashfordcourtwestland.com

**MIDWEST SCREW PRODUCTS**  
11975 Globe St.  
Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 591-1800

**BILL & ROD'S APPLIANCE INC.**  
15210 Middlebelt Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48154  
(734) 425-5040

**MILFORD HEALTH CARE CLINIC**  
1255 N. Milford Rd.  
Milford, MI 48381  
(248) 685-3600

**CENTURY 21 DYNAMIC REALTY**  
6600 N. Wayne Rd.  
Westland MI 48185  
(734) 728-8000  
Info@century21dynamic.com  
Century21dynamic.com

**MILFORD PHARMACY**  
1191 Milford Rd.  
Milford, MI 48381  
(313) 531-1303  
(248) 685-8363

**CHUCK'S SERVICE CENTER**  
285 North Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 453-7773

**MONAGHAN'S TOWING**  
21680 Fern  
Oak Park MI 48237  
(248) 546-0875

**COLE, NEWTON & DURAN**  
Certified Public Accountants  
33762 Schoolcraft Rd., 2nd Floor  
Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 427-7030  
www.cndcpa.com

**NORTH REDFORD TOWING & TRANSPORT**  
25215 Glendale  
Redford, MI 48239  
(313) 531-1303  
www.nrtowing.com

**GLOBAL OFFICE SOLUTIONS**  
22759 Haslip Dr.  
Novi, MI 48375  
(800) 321-8990  
www.globalofficesolutions.com

**PRO CONCEPTS**  
Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling  
(734) 308-0676  
Proconceptdesign.net

**LIVONIA SAVE OUR YOUTH COALITION**  
3200 Civic Center Dr.  
Livonia MI 48154  
(734) 338-5588  
www.livoniasaveouryouth.org

**TAIL WAGGER'S 1990**  
28402 Five Mile  
Livonia, MI 48154  
(734) 855-4077  
www.tailwaggers1990.org

# Thrift stores seek donations to bolster inventory

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Salvation Army Thrift stores need a little help keeping shelves stocked. They're asking supporters to make an extra effort to donate gently-used clothing, linen, household appliances, furniture, toys, shoes, purses and houseware items. Although sales increased 11.5 percent in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, donations were down 7 percent during the same period and down 2 percent from October-November.

"Without product, it eventually will effect our sales," said Jacquelyn Izdior, director of operations at The Salvation Army South-east Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC).

Dwindling sales would affect the organization's ability to run substance abuse rehabilitation centers in Detroit and Romulus, which depend on revenue from The Salvation Army's 33 thrift stores in southeastern Michigan.

"Individuals dealing with substance abuse problems are able to go through a six-month work therapy program. They work in our stores or warehouses and they go to counseling sessions and specialized meetings for whatever they are dealing with. We try to stress the importance of spirituality. Having faith in the Lord is what catapults you through problems in life."

The centers offer 85 beds for women in Romulus and 315 beds for men in Detroit. "Our budget is \$60 million for both centers. That's why we need donations from the public," Izdior said. "We try hard to have excess (product) that we bring back to the

warehouse and hold until stores are in need of it. But when overall donations start to wane, it affects what we can put away and it affects the quality we are able to offer to the public."

She said stores might resort to stocking shelves with slightly ripped or stained clothing if donations continue to decrease. Garments and accessories make up half of store sales.

"We still have product and are able to supply our stores, but usually every year, January, February and March are very tough. People don't donate at that part of the year."

Local stores will be open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday through Saturday, and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, for last-minute donations. Individuals will receive a tax receipt that can be applied toward 2012 tax returns. Donations made before Jan. 1, 2012.

Izdior said that although donations recently have decreased, The Salvation Army has continued to grow stores.

"We opened a store in Monroe and expanded in Chesterfield," she said, adding that a Taylor store will open in March 2013.

Plans also call for expanding stores in Livonia and Southfield next year.

- Area stores include:
- 43403 Joy, near Sheldon, Canton; (734) 415-9225
  - 28982 Ford Road, near Middlebelt, Garden City; (734) 261-7175
  - 33600 Plymouth Road, near Farmington Road, Livonia; (734) 425-5773
  - 27170 Grand River Ave., near Eight Mile, Redford; (313) 255-0777
  - 26235 Greenfield, near 10 Mile, Southfield; (248) 552-9588
  - 114 E. Fourth, near Main, Royal Oak; (248) 542-6661

**CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION**

**REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 16, 2013**

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for January 16, 2013 has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items.

The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on February 20, 2013 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI at 5:30 p.m.

Publish: December 30, 2012

**Arthritis Today**  
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.  
RHEUMATOLOGY  
18829 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone: (248) 478-7850

**SHOULDER PROBLEMS**

How long should a person wait before seeing a doctor because of shoulder pain? The answer depends on the nature of the pain and the degree of disability that ensues.

If the pain is intermittent during the day and does not disturb sleep at night, then waiting for time to heal the problem is reasonable. If pain lingers through the day and/or pain occurs at night in bed, disrupting sleep, then one should make a doctor's appointment.

If impairment is present, then a physician's appointment is in order no matter how minimal the pain.

The most common cause for shoulder pain is supraspinatus tendonitis, the public knows the problem as "shoulder bursitis," but that term is a misnomer. The importance of correct terminology is to emphasize that a tendon is causing the pain. A shoulder tendonitis usually resolves, but does so slowly, so the person should be prepared to experience pain for 1-2 weeks and a gradual improvement in an unrelieved shoulder movement.

The doctor often wants x-rays of the shoulder. Examination will reveal loss of movement if present, and a difference in the contour of the involved shoulder as compared with the normal one. However, changes may be subtle. x-ray can bring out problems like osteoarthritis or a rotator cuff tear better than examination could do.

Treatment for shoulder pain ranges from pain medication like aspirin or Tylenol, to physical therapy using heat or cold and combined with deltoid strengthening exercises. Tendon injection is a good way to treat the problem if the cause is a supraspinatus tendonitis.

**GARDEN & NATURE**

Send garden and nature information and photos to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

**Stonefly search**

Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) seeks volunteers to help with the 12th annual search for stoneflies on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013. Finding a stonefly living in the river is a good indication that the river is healthy because these small insects require cold, clean water. Last year, 73 volunteers found these "nuggets of gold" at 14 of 32 sites. This year's search will begin at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. No searching is done in Dearborn; volunteers carpool out in 10-12 teams to Rouge streams located around metropolitan Detroit. Volunteers must dress for the weather and be prepared to be out in the cold for several hours. Only trained team leaders go in the water; volunteers search through sampling on the banks. Children five years and older are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult; groups of up to 6 people can be accommodated.

Volunteers must pre-register by Jan. 11, 2013 on the FOTR website, www.therouge.org or by calling (313) 792-9621.

**Master Gardener**

MSU Extension is accepting applications for the next Master Gardener classes. Beginning in January 2013, this 12-week course teaches the student basic horticultural principles and environmentally-sound gardening practices. Course topics include introduction and volunteerism, plant science, soils for plant growth, flower gardening, woody ornamentals, turf lawn care, vegetable culture, small fruit culture, tree fruit culture, plant health care, indoor plants and household pests. Cost is \$300, along with a \$25 registration fee. For more information and/or to download application visit: <http://www.mgwwc.org/Pages/MSUExtensionOffice.aspx> or call Anita Calender at (734) 729-3632 Ext. 103.

**Livonia Garden Club**

Vince Kogo, an urban chicken farmer, will talk about raising chickens, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information visit [www.orgsites.com/ml/livoniagardenclub/](http://www.orgsites.com/ml/livoniagardenclub/).

**Bible and flowers**

"Holy Flowers," will focus on the origin, history and uses of Bible-related flowers and how they can form the basis for a theme garden, 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013 at the Canfield Center, 1801 N. Beech-Daly Road, Dear-

born Heights; (313) 563-5753. Sponsored by the Dearborn Heights Garden Club. Bring a lunch. The program is free.

**English Gardens**

• Get tips for indoor gardening at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013.

• Make a seasonal garden filled with long-lasting green and flowering plants for \$29.99 at a "Make It and Take It" workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013. Register at [www.englishgardens.com](http://www.englishgardens.com).

• Learn what it takes to start seeds indoors at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013.

• A free presentation on fresh flower arranging is planned for 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013.

• Make a Spring floral arrangement, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013. Cost is \$29.99. Sign up at [www.englishgardens.com](http://www.englishgardens.com).

• Get tips on attracting birds to the garden in a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26.

• Youngsters, 3-12, can make a pine cone bird feeder for \$5 at a workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26. Register at [www.englishgardens.com](http://www.englishgardens.com).

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

**60-minute classes**

Master Gardeners West-

ern Wayne County (MGW-WC) will offer a series of hour-long seminars in February 2013 at the Wayne County Extension Office, 5454 Venoy, a quarter-mile north of Van Born, in Wayne. Classes start at 7:30 p.m. and cost \$10 each or \$30 for all four classes if registered in advance. All proceeds fund gardening grants and scholarships. To register, e-mail to [mgwwc.org@gmail.com](mailto:mgwwc.org@gmail.com).

• Pat Mann of Greenfield Village Herb Associates will talk about fairy gardens, including history and popularity, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013. Learn how to create your own fairy garden.

• Heirloom Tomatoes - From Seed to Sauce, will include tips on seed selection, growing techniques, use in the kitchen and recipes. Paul Rodman, community garden expert and an Advanced Master Gardener, will lead the class, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013.

• Roy Prentice, farm manager of the MSU Tollgate Education Center in Novi, will teach the basics of pruning trees and shrubs, including pruning for health, form and improved vigor, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013. Participants will gain knowledge of common pruning tools and obtain helpful references.

• Bob Bransky, photographer and Master Gardener/Master Composter, will teach outdoor and garden photography, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013. Learn how to take outstanding pictures, including camera basics, composition of a great picture, closeup photos of plants.



**Gifts from the heart**

The Loving Hearts and Hands Knitting and Crochet group from The Italian American Club of Livonia recently filled colorful gift bags with hundreds of hand-made items. Members meet monthly to make afghans, lap blankets, shawls, scarves, hats and more. The bags have been donated to needy residents in Livonia-area nursing homes and St. Mary Mercy Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center.

**Nature organization offers trees**

The Arbor Day Foundation will give 10 flowering trees to each new member who joins the organization in January 2013.

New members will receive two white flowering dogwoods, two flowering crabapples, two Washington Hawthorns, two American redbuds and two golden rain trees.

The free trees are part of the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

They will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between Feb. 1, 2013



White dogwood tree

and May 31, 2013 with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch tall trees are guaranteed to grow or

they will be replaced free of charge.

Members will also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, *Arbor Day*, and *The Tree Book*, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Flowering Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, Neb., 68410, by Jan. 31, 2013. New members also can join online at [arbor-day.org/january](http://arbor-day.org/january).

Please Join

**AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL**

at

**FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE AND WINE BAR**

17400 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48152

**PROTECTING YOUR RETIREMENT WITH GUARANTEED LIFETIME INCOME**

FEATURING SPEAKER

**CARISSA HAGEN**

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, RIVERSOURCE ANNUITIES

**SAVE THE DATE MONDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 2013 | 11:15 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

**Auto workers, have you been offered the option to receive a lump-sum payment from your employer? If so, please join us at our upcoming informational event.**

Luncheon to include choice of:

- Filet Oscar *grilled filet topped with jumbo lump crab & béarnaise sauce*
- Tuna Mignon *seared rare with poppy seed aioli & tomato vinaigrette*
- Seared New Bedford Scallop *never lemon-boney glaze, baby carrots, green beans, asparagus*
- New Zealand Double Lamb Chops *plated in order with a pistachio-mint pesto*

**Seating is limited, please RSVP today.**

Call Mary at 734.432.6490 or email to [Mary.A.Zak@ampf.com](mailto:Mary.A.Zak@ampf.com)

**Michael K. Klassa, CFP®, ChFC®, CRPC®**  
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Three Days of  
**QUALITY THEATERS** 24-48 hrs. \$5.25  
(\$11.00 and up on Fridays)

**\$5.25 BARGAIN TWILIGHT** \$11.00 and up  
THURSDAY, JAN. 3, 2013

SHOWTIMES 12:15, 7:10, 9:10pm  
TITLES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG)**  
11:50, 2:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

**BLANKET UNCLE (R)**  
11:50, 3:00, 6:20, 9:40

**100 MONSTERS, INC. (G)**  
11:50, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00

**CLACK READER (PG-13)**  
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

**FRIGID 12 (14)**

**THE BEAR (R)**  
1:00, 4:10, 6:55, 9:45

**THE HORROR: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13)**

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at [sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com).

December

HOLIDAY SERVICES

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 30

**Location:** Newburg United Methodist Church, 35500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia  
**Contact:** (734) 422-0149

HOLIDAY SERVICES

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Dec. 31

**Location:** Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** The New Year's Eve service will include communion  
**Contact:** (248) 553-3380

January

DIVORCE GRIEF SUPPORT

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. beginning Jan. 3, 2013

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

**Details:** Two new support groups, "Through the Fire" an eight-week divorce recovery group, and "Hope for Tomorrow" an eight-week grief support class, are offered. Both of these programs have been developed and will be led by the Rev. John Straub and his wife, Suzanne, who have more than 10 years teaching experience. Pre-registration deadline is Dec. 16  
**Contact:** (248) 553-3380

DUELING PIANOS

**Time/Date:** Doors open 7 p.m., show starts 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013  
**Location:** St. Damian, 30055 Joy Road, Westland  
**Details:** Light refreshments, 50/50 raffle and cash bar. Tickets are \$20 and available at the church office  
**Contact:** (734) 421-6130

GREEN FILM SERIES

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17

**Location:** Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham  
**Details:** PRI's John Hockenberry goes inside the organizations that fought the scientific establishment to shift the direction of the climate debate. Film is followed by a discussion with Kathryn L. Savoie, Ph.D., an authorized presenter of the Climate Reality Project, trained directly by former vice president Al Gore. Free admission. Sponsored by the church's Green Ministry  
**Contact:** [www.cbucc.org](http://www.cbucc.org)

OPEN HOUSE

**Time/Date:** 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31

**Location:** St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia  
**Details:** Tour the school, talk to other parents and staff during this open house for

the school, which includes classes for preschool through middle school, CVO sports, bus transportation for Livonia residents, and flexible payment plans. Registration packets will be available at the open house  
**Contact:** [www.saintgenevieve.org](http://www.saintgenevieve.org) or call (734) 425-4420

SPECIAL SERVICE

**Time/Date:** 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6

**Location:** Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** In the midst of dealing with the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, economic hardships, a broken relationship, or a grim medical prognosis, the holiday season can be filled with sadness, rather than joy. When the hustle and bustle of Christmas is through, January can feel bleak. "Light in Our Darkness," will be an evening of prayer and song. Participants may acknowledge the hurts in their lives and pray for God's light to enter into their darkness.  
**Contact:** (248) 553-7170

WIDOWED FRIENDS

**Time/Date:** 5 p.m. cash bar, 6 p.m. dinner

**Location:** G. Sub's, 20300 Farmington Road, one block south of Eight Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** Cost is \$18 and includes meal, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only) with the exact amount. Stay for cards, games, and conversation

until 9 p.m. Reservations by Jan. 11, 2013

**Other activities:** Celebrate Mass at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013 at St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth; stay after for fellowship and refreshments  
**Contact:** Carol at (313) 562-3080 for dinner; Pat at (734) 895-6246 for Mass

Ongoing

CLASSES/STUDY

**Men's Bible study**  
**Time/Date:** Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

**Location:** Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township  
**Contact:** John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

**Time/Date:** Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays  
**Location:** 42200 Tyler, Belleville  
**Contact:** (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival

**Time/Date:** 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday

**Location:** YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford  
**Details:** KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer  
**Contact:** (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto

**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

**Location:** Six Mile and

Beech Daly, Redford

**Details:** Scripture study  
**Contact:** (313) 534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday

**Location:** School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Catholic author and bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads a study of the Gospel of St. Luke. The sessions are open to all, regardless of their faith or parish affiliation  
**Contact:** (734) 261-1455, ext. 200, or [www.livonia-stmichael.org](http://www.livonia-stmichael.org)

Ward Presbyterian

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Mondays

**Location:** Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville  
**Details:** Learner's Bible study is held  
**Contact:** (248) 374-5920

CLOTHING BANK

**Location:** Canton Christian Fellowship  
**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m. second Wednesday

**Details:** Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need  
**Contact:** (734) 404-2480, visit [www.CantonF.org](http://www.CantonF.org) or send e-mail to [info@cantonf.org](mailto:info@cantonf.org)

Please see CALENDAR, B9

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

**DATE:** January 14, 2013  
**TIME:** 7:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Farmington Hills City Hall, City Council Chambers  
31555 Eleven Mile Rd.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
**ITEM:** Zoning Text and Map Amendment 4, 2012

The Farmington Hills City Council will give formal consideration to a proposed text and map amendment of the Farmington Hills City Code, Chapter 34, "Zoning", and related Zoning Map. The amendment proposes to:

- Update, amend and re-format Chapter 34, "Zoning" and related Zoning Map for purposes of incorporating Clearzoning formatting and clarifying certain provisions.

Any person who is interested in this amendment is invited to either attend and participate in the public hearing, or submit written comments concerning this amendment at or before the hearing to Edward R. Gardiner, Director, Planning & Community Development Department at the above address. The proposed and existing text may be reviewed at the Planning Office at the above address on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Edward R. Gardiner, Director  
Planning & Community Development Department

Phone: 248-871-2545  
E-mail: [egardiner@fhgov.com](mailto:egardiner@fhgov.com)

Published: December 30, 2012

47791001 - 34

MOVE IN BY FEBRUARY 1, 2013, AND WE'LL PAY UP TO \$1,000 TOWARD YOUR MOVING COSTS!\*



Enjoy a Worry Free Winter at Waltonwood

Gone are the days when cold weather would keep you from getting out to visit friends or to the store. No more worries about snow removal or slipping on the way to the mailbox.

Waltonwood offers carefree senior living with endless opportunities outside your door. With friendly neighbors, convenient amenities, personal staff and caregivers on-site, you're free to choose how you spend the day.

Spacious apartments • Housekeeping & maintenance • Delicious, home-cooked meals • Activities and scheduled transportation  
Pet friendly community • Personalized care services available

Two locations in Canton. Call and schedule your personal tour today.



CARRIAGE PARK

Independent Living and Licensed Assisted Living

(734) 386-0811

2000 N Canton Center Road

CHERRY HILL

Independent Living, Licensed Assisted Living and Memory Care

(734) 335-1554

42600 Cherry Hill

\*Independent Living only. See community for complete details.

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



# CALENDAR

Continued from page A8

## FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL

**Time/Date:** 5-6 p.m. every Thursday  
**Location:** The Salvation Army, 27500 Shawwassee, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Free meal  
**Contact:** (248) 477-1153, ext. 12

## FOOD BANK

**New Hope Church**  
**Time/Date:** 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only  
**Location:** 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton  
**Contact:** Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2538.

## MOMS

**Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, MOPS; 7:30-9 p.m. first and third Thursday, MOPNext. Both programs run September-May  
**Location:** 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners, MOPNext supports mothers of school-aged children. Contact: Rebekah Creeden at (734) 522-6830 for MOPS and Susan Magner at (248) 478-2643 for MOPNext details.

## Dunning Park Bible Chapel

**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays  
**Location:** 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford  
**Details:** MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.  
**Contact:** Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

## PEF-FRIENDLY SERVICE

**Time/Date:** 1 p.m. Sunday  
**Location:** Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service. All Creatures ULC describes the gathering as non-denominational and Christian. Water is available for dogs  
**Contact:** (313) 563-0162

## PRAYER

**Nardin Park United Methodist Church**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday  
**Location:** 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests.  
**Contact:** (248) 478-8860

## St. Edith Church

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday  
**Location:** 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back of the church.  
**Details:** Music, singing,

**prayer**  
**Contact:** Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656 or Geri at (734) 464-8906  
**St. Michael Lutheran Church**  
**Time/Date:** 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday  
**Location:** 7000 Sheldon, Canton  
**Details:** Praying silently or aloud together, prayer requests welcomed.  
**Contact:** (734) 459-3333

**St. Michael the Archangel**  
**Time/Date:** 10-11 a.m. Saturdays  
**Location:** In the church rectory conference room, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** St. Monica's Prayer Group is open to all women who want to support one another in praying for their children, regardless of age.  
**Other prayer sessions:** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. third Wednesday, includes parish prayer and Eucharistic adoration, with Benediction service following.  
**Contact:** (734) 261-1455, ext. 200

**PRESCHOOL Preschool**  
**Time/Date:** 2011-12 school year  
**Location:** 40000 Six Mile, Northville  
**Details:** Enrolling now for children turning 3, 4 and 5 years old by Dec. 1.  
**Contact:** (248) 374-5911, or e-mail carol.nowacki@wardchurch.org

**SINGLES Detroit World Outreach**  
**Time/Date:** 4-6 p.m. Sunday  
**Location:** 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 304  
**Details:** Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated. Occasionally includes guest speakers; open to the public and visitors are welcome.  
**Contact:** The facilitator at (313) 283-8200; lef@dwo.org  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30-7:45 p.m., social time; 7:45-8 p.m., opening; 8-9 p.m., program Thursdays  
**Location:** 200 E. Main St., Northville  
**Details:** Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5  
**Contact:** (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org  
**Steve's Family Restaurant**  
**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursdays  
**Location:** 15800 Middlebelt, 1/2 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

**Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others who are ready to help cope or become involved in the other social activities offered by Widowed Friends.**  
**Location:** (313) 534-0399  
**Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church**  
**Time/Date:** 11:30 a.m. Sunday  
**Location:** 40000 Six Mile, Northville  
**Details:** Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship, coffee, doughnuts, conversation.  
**Contact:** (248) 374-5920

**CONGREGATION Beth Ann**  
**Time/Date:** Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Sabbath  
**Location:** 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield  
**Details:** Sing zimrot (traditional Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in translation as well as the original Hebrew.  
**Contact:** (248) 733-1931 or e-mail nancyellen879@att.net

**SUPPORT • Apostolic Christian Church**  
**Time/Date:** 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily  
**Location:** 29667 Wentworth, Livonia  
**Details:** Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.  
**Contact:** (734) 251-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com  
**Detroit World Outreach**  
**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday  
**Location:** 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202  
**Details:** Addition No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling.  
**Contact:** (313) 255-2222, ext. 248

**Farmington Hills Baptist Church**  
**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August  
**Location:** 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group  
**Contact:** (248) 433-1011  
**Merriman Road Baptist Church**  
**Time/Date:** 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday  
**Location:** 2055 Merriman, Garden City

**Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations**  
**Contact:** www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at (734) 981-2519

**Riverside Park Church of God**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
**Location:** 11771 Newburgh, Livonia  
**Details:** Adult Day Ministry offers an adult daytime care program with a speciality in dementia care. Includes a planned program that includes a variety of health, social and support services in a protective setting. Not a drop-in center.  
**Contact:** (734) 367-4220 or (734) 464-0990; www.riversideparkchurch.org; or e-mail to padm@riversideparkchurch.org  
**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to noon Saturday morning  
**Location:** 16360 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available. There are no requirements, this is a service the church wants the community to be aware of and use if needed. Donations of nonperishable items also accepted for the cupboard.  
**Contact:** (734) 421-8451.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS 31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48336

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

That the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, has tentatively declared its intention to make the following improvement:

Construction of **STRATTON HILL SUBDIVISION ROAD IMPROVEMENTS** to be located in the City as follows:

STREET	FROM	TO
Stratton Hill Court	Drake Road	Cul-de-sac

That plans and specifications outlining the improvement and the location thereof are on file with the City Clerk for public examination, along with the costs of said project, which are proposed as follows:

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT:	\$ 123,300
PERCENT OF COST ASSESSED TO DISTRICT:	80.77%
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST TO DISTRICT:	\$ 99,600
AVERAGE COST PER BASE UNIT TO BE ASSESSED:	\$ 9,900.60

That the City Council has tentatively designated the proposed special assessment district to include the following properties:

TIN, R9E, SECTION 04, INCLUDING TAX IDENTIFICATION PARCEL NUMBERS: 22-23-04-301-010 through 020

That the City Council will meet in the City Hall Council Chamber, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, on the 14th of January, 2013, at 7:30 p.m., to hear and consider any comments in opposition or in favor of said improvement.

If the City Council approves the making of the improvements, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the improvements. Act 186 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1973, as amended, provides that the special assessment must be protested at the hearing held for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll before the Michigan Tax Tribunal may acquire jurisdiction of any dispute involving the special assessment. **The hearing for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll will be held, if at all, at some time in the future, prior to notice of assessment, as required by law. Appearance and protest at such hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.** An owner or party in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment, or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the City Clerk at or prior to the time of the hearing, in which case appearance in person is not required.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

PHONE: 248/871-2420

Mailed: December 28, 2012  
Published: December 30, 2012 and January 3, 2013  
Farmington Observer

PAMELA B. SMITH, CITY CLERK CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

NAB 02070215

# Guide to Employment

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

### Help Wanted - General

**CAREGIVER** Southeast area. Mon-Fri 2:30-7:00pm for Developmentally Disabled Children. Minimum Pay: \$8.50/hr. 248-636-2861

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** Need for anyone can get paid to work. Work from home. PT schedule open for Purple Heart. Call Mike at 915-724-724-877 or email: phm@purpleheart.com

**DIRECT CARE WORKER** PT. Positive attitude a must. Must have clean driving record. Start at \$7.61/hr. 734-394-9620

**Heavy Truck Mechanic** PT. weekends with health benefits, paid vacation & incentive bonus. Candidates must be certified in a service. 734-452-3100

**LEADING CONSULTANT** for retirement community in retirement, education, pleasure, emergency, a real go-getter. Training provided. Full-time with 24% benefits and 401K. Fax resume to: 734-729-5640 EOE

### Help Wanted - General

**MAINTENANCE** Full-time maintenance position for retirement community in Westland. Requires general knowledge of electrical and major repairs, including plumbing, electrical and HVAC. Fax resume to: 734-729-9848 EOE

### Help Wanted - Clerical

**FRONT DESK ASSISTANT** Northville bus line seeking full-time front desk assistant. Candidate must be motivated, highly organized, have strong organizational and computer skills. Last from experience preferred. Please send resume to: Celia A. Demko, Human Resources Dept. P.O. 41000 W. Seven Mile Road, Suite 205, Northville, MI 48167-0202. celledemko@northvillebus.org

### Help Wanted - Medical

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** Medical office seeks experienced medical receptionist. Must have strong computer and medical insurance knowledge. Full time w/ excellent pay and benefits. Job Area: Eastland. Fax Resumes to: 428@mednet.com (734) 986-9872

### Food - Beverage

**COOKS** 100% Full Time  
• Wait Staff / Bartender  
Apply in person. Starting Salary: 110.00. Contact: St. Northville, Michigan  
734-248-2482

### Help Wanted - Domestic

**DIRECT CARE STAFF** Northville. Full-time. Competitive pay and benefits. Fax resume to: 734-729-5640

### Help Wanted - Dental

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** Expected only for family Farmington office. Office expansion & staff. Email resume to: gfr@farmington.com or Fax: 248-419-6398

### Help Wanted - Medical

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** with Exp For dentalists. High level of skill in South Lyon. You must meet! Fax: 248-431-1924

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Innovative, fast-growing manufacturer in state of Michigan is seeking a highly motivated individual to fill openings. Excellent benefits and quality work life.

**PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS** Position openings and excellent benefits. We are seeking individuals with a minimum of 5 years experience in a manufacturing environment. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. If you are interested, please send your resume to: HR@mednet.com

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Now is the best time to buy a new car

Best of all, credit is available.

Look to your local dealer to find a high quality, fuel efficient vehicle. Your dealer knows your market and can help you get financing to meet your needs. If you need a car, now is the time.

Visit your local dealership or cars.com to find a car today.

**Reach** empowers more potential employees with an Observer & Eccentric HomeTownLife.com (Email Resumes) Website: www.reach.com or call 1-800-579-7355

Observer & Eccentric HOMETOWNLIFE.COM www.hometownlife.com

## Marchesano-Pomerson

Claire Evelyn Marchesano and Anthony Michael Pomerson announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Tom and Eileen Marchesano of Plymouth, is a full time student at Grand Valley State University. Her fiancé, son of Michael and Donna Pomerson of Canton, attended Olivet College and is employed as an insurance agent at Lagness Insurance Agency in Plymouth.

A June 2013 wedding is planned in Northville.



## Bermudez-Knochel

Julianne Bermudez and Luke Knochel announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of William and Ann Ostlund of Livonia, plans to graduate in May 2013 from Madonna University with a double major in mental health psychology and sign language interpreting. She recently was accepted into Madonna's graduate clinical psychology program.

Her fiancé, son of Dana and Beth Knochel of Livonia, graduated from the University of Michigan - Dearborn in 2011. He is a tax accountant at



Rehmann and has enrolled in an MBA program at Walsh. A July 2013 wedding is planned for Livonia.

# Passes

View Online  
[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • [oeobits.com](http://oeobits.com)  
Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 3:45 a.m. for Thursday



## BORGMAN, BETTY CHAMPOUX

Age 86, December 25, 2012. Wife of Hank for 65 years. Mother of Christine Borgman (George Mood), Bradley Borgman (Sue), Peter Borgman (Tasy) and the late Cindy Miks (Patrick). Grandmother of Michael, Katie, Stephanie, and Elizabeth. Great-grandmother of Paloma Marie of Marilyn Kirk (William) and the late Walter Champoux, Jr., Ruth Drobzhan, Roger Champoux, and Margery Johnson. Funeral Service Sunday, December 30th, 3:30 p.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Downtown Farmington 11 Mile, Farmington, Rd. Family will receive friends Sunday from 1:30-3 p.m. Reception to follow at the Borgman Residence. The family welcomes contributions to the Betty Champoux-Borgman Book Fund at the Wayne State University Libraries, 4275 Woodward Avenue, MI 48202. ([www.giving.wayne.edu](http://www.giving.wayne.edu)) Checks made payable to Wayne State University. [www.thayer-rock.com](http://www.thayer-rock.com)



## BUTLER, JAMES M.

December 27, 2012. Age 67. Beloved husband of Vicki (nee Kyte) for 45 years. Dear father of Jane Butler (Francis Ryan Anderson) and Kate Butler (Elyse). Special grandfather of Blair Broder of Meghan Kuhlman (Gary), Bill, "Toot" Jr. (Sharon) and Harry Price (Debbie). Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasa, Rodger, and Arnold Church), 3215 Woodward (brown 13-14 Mile), Monday 12noon until Celebration of Life ceremony at 3 p.m. Memorial tributes to Boys & Girls Club of Troy, 3670 John R., Troy, MI 48063. View obituary and share memories at [DesmondFuneralHome.com](http://DesmondFuneralHome.com)



## HERTER, WILLIAM "BILL"

Dec. 27, 2012. Age of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Marcella Loving father of Marcella, Joseph, Patrick, Cheryl, Michael (Jackie) and Mark (Assya) Herter, Cheryl Ferguson, Maureen (Troy) Battistone and Kathryn Stemberger. Dear brother of Rosemary Proctor. Proud grandfather of 18 and Great-grandfather of 3. Memorial Services to be held at later date. To share a memory, please visit [vcmemorialfuneralhome.com](http://vcmemorialfuneralhome.com)

## LARUE, RUTH IRENE

Age 83, December 26, 2012. Loving wife of Kenneth. Beloved mother of Tom and Victoria Bamberg, Teresa Little and Marsha Hunt. Dear grandmother of 15, great grandmother of 26 and great-great grandmother of 2. Visitation at the R.O. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Saturday from 2 to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 8 p.m. Funeral service will be held Monday 11 a.m. Please share a memory of Ruth at [www.rgharris.com](http://www.rgharris.com)

## PERCIGLIO, GREGORY JAY

Born Mar. 6, 1967. Died Dec. 15, 2012. Burial was in Green Lawn Cemetery at Nashville, TN.

## MEEVEN, STEVEN G.

Of Ann Arbor, passed away Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at University of Michigan Hospital. He was 51 years old. Born May 14, 1961 in Royal Oak. He was the son of David J. and Shirley D. Stevens-McLewin. Steve was a graduate of Seaborn High School as well as Michigan State University. He earned his Masters Degree in Accounting from Walsh College. On May 13, 1995 he married Stacey L. Nelson. Steve was a member of Grace Bible Church and a member of Travis Pointe Country Club. He loved driving and her husband with his 3 boys and was an avid golfer. Steve was a devoted husband and father. Steve is survived by his wife Stacey and their three sons, Jack and Spencer of Ann Arbor, one brother, John, McLean, and his wife Kris of Royal Oak; two sisters, Jane McEwen of Macomb and Susan Johnson and her husband Rob of Avon Lake, OH, his parents David and Shirley McEwen of Troy, and his nieces and nephews. An array of flowers and memorial contributions in Steve's honor may be made to Children's Heart Project at [www.samaritanaspire.org](http://www.samaritanaspire.org). Please visit Steve's personal website to share a memory or sign the guestbook at [www.nefuneralhomes.com](http://www.nefuneralhomes.com)

## PARKS, ELIJAH, JR.

Age 87, December 27, 2012. of Garden City. Beloved husband of the late Minnie. Loving father of Pat Alvarado and Bev (Bill) Terrell. Dear grandfather, Great-grandfather of Alex & Tia Alvarado and Jenna, Lucas & Savannah Tott. He was a veteran of WWII serving aboard the USS Enterprise and a Purple Heart recipient. Funeral service at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 31, 2012 at the R.O. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. Visitation Saturday 9-9 p.m. Please share memories at [www.rgharris.com](http://www.rgharris.com)

## NEILSON, MARIE (NEE APPEL)

Age 94, of Farmington Hills, died December 19, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Howard E. Neilson. Loving daughter of the late David and Madeline Appel of Michigan, and predeceased by a sister, Madelyn White of Royal Oak. Ruth graduated from Michigan High School before attending the University where she met her husband of 58 years. She was an avid sports fan of the Michigan High School and College and the University of Michigan. She raised her family in Pleasant Ridge and enjoyed summers in Charlevoix during retirement. She is survived by her three sons, Howard E. and Jeffrey T. (Lisa). Grandmother of Lisa (Rick) Casciaro, Christy (Matt) Kaufman, Bradley Neilson, Elizabeth Neilson, and Mary Katherine Neilson. Great Grandmother of Andrew and Gavin in Casciaro and Kellen, Ella and Zarin Kaufman. Memorial Service to be held at Plymouth, January 9, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham. A Celebration of Life family suggests donations in her name to Alton College. Arrangements by Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, Royal Oak, 248-5470.

## Share your memories at [sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

## NICHOLS, DAVID M.

Age 69, December 23, 2012. Loving husband of Scotti Nichols. Father of David Patrick and Grandfather of Bretna Leight. Dear brother of Shirley Murry. Loving son of Marie and Mitchell and E. Lucetta, both departed. He is also survived by his devoted dog Bosco. Visitation at the R.O. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Saturday January 12, 2013 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers please send donations to The American Legion, Post 32, Attention: Commander Bob Pardo, 9118 Newburgh Rd Livonia, MI 48150.

## REID, MARCO ETE.

Age 77, December 26, 2012. Loving mother of Jeffrey, John, Richard and James Reid and Judith VanDyke. Dear grandmother of 7 and great grandmother of 5. Sister of Barbara Kuckes. A Memorial Service will be held at the Fairhaven Baptist Church, 34850 Marquette Rd., Westland, Saturday, January 5, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. Please share a memory at [www.cremationukh.com](http://www.cremationukh.com)

## NIPPA, SALLY A.

Age 80. Beloved wife of the late Robert. Loving mother of Tom (Michelle) Nippa, Tonya Puzacko and the late Jeff Nippa (Crystal Young). Grandmother of Sarah (Anthony) DiPietro, Matthew (Laurel) Puzacko, Kati (Andrew) Schweigman, and Saloni, Celina, Clara. Nippa and Great Grandmother of Teresa-Lin DiPietro. Dear sister of Al Back and the late Dr. Paul Buck, Sue Hicken, and Bruce Buck. Daughter of the late Paul and Ruth Buck. Also leaves many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Memorial Service Sunday, January 5, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 20805 Middlefield Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48336. Condolences to [CharlesStepFuneralHome.com](http://CharlesStepFuneralHome.com)

## Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

## Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

## Family Services: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling performances, free with admission

## Exhibits: Picasso & Matisse exhibits all of the museum's drawings and prints by the two artists, through Jan. 6, 2013; Faberge: The Rise and Fall. The Collection of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, through Jan. 21, 2013; Hidden Treasures: An Experiment, through March 3, 2013

## Contact: (313) 833-7900, [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

## PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

## Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday

## and during public events, through Jan. 2, 2013

## Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

## Details: An exhibit of paintings and drawing by Jeff Paul Abeyaratne, a graduate of the College for Creative Studies, with a master's degree in painting from Wayne State University

## Contact: (734) 416-4278

## Film

## PENN THEATRE

## Time/Date: 7 p.m. Jan. 3, 2013; 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30

## Location: 760 Pennington Ave., Plymouth

## Details: "Argo," "53 Colmep," "Wreck It Ralph," 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4 and 10, 2013, and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 5-6, 2013; "Cloud Atlas," 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11 and 3:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 12-13

## Contact: (734) 453-0870; [www.penntheatre.com](http://www.penntheatre.com)

## REDFORD THEATRE

## Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 4, 2013 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 5, 2013

## Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit

## Details: "Strangers on a Train," 4 p.m.

## Coming up: "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," 8 p.m. Jan. 18, 2013 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 19, 2013; "Clou Atlas," 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11 and 3:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 12-13

## Contact: (313) 537-2560; [www.redfordtheatre.com](http://www.redfordtheatre.com)

## MUSIC

## BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

## Time/Date: Sign up for open mic, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances, 7 p.m., the third Saturday of the month

## Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

## Details: The next performance on Jan. 19, 2013, Tricia Lloyd will serve as host. Admission is \$5. Individual and family annual memberships also available

## Contact: Scott Ludwig at [BFSPresents@aol.com](mailto:BFSPresents@aol.com) or call (734) 453-0869

## BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

## Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. (Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013

## Location: 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

## Details: The Chamber

## Arts Crafts

## DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

## Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

## Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

## Family Services: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling performances, free with admission

## Exhibits: Picasso & Matisse exhibits all of the museum's drawings and prints by the two artists, through Jan. 6, 2013; Faberge: The Rise and Fall. The Collection of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, through Jan. 21, 2013; Hidden Treasures: An Experiment, through March 3, 2013

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## Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. (Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013

## Location: 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

## Details: The Chamber

## GET OUT

## Music Society of Lincoln Center performs; tickets are \$46 for adults and \$36 for Jewish Community Center members

## Contact: (248) 661-1900, [www.theberman.org](http://www.theberman.org)

## CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF DETROIT

## Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013

## Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, at Lahser, Beverly Hills

## Details: Anthony Marwood plays violin and Aleksandar Madzar is on piano for this program that will include works by Debussy, Schubert, Beethoven and Gordon Kerry. Tickets range from \$15-\$60

## Contact: (482) 855-6070 or visit [www.ChamberMusicDetroit.org](http://www.ChamberMusicDetroit.org)

## FARMINGTON PLAYERS BARN

## Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013

## Location: 3232 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

## Details: Peter Oprisko presents "Fabulous Frank," a tribute to Frank Sinatra. The show will feature timeless classic such as "Fly Me to the Moon," "New York, New York," and "Strangers in the Night."

## Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$17 for students and seniors. They're available at [http://happycrowdfhog.com](http://http://happycrowdfhog.com), by calling (248) 473-1848 or at the Costick Center at 28600 W. 11 Mile. Some tickets may be available at the door.

## Contact: (248) 473-1848

## JAZZ AT THE ELKS

## Time/Date: 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. last Tuesday of the month — except December

## Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

## Details: There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds from Jazz Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans

## Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to [plymouthelks@elks1780.com](mailto:plymouthelks@elks1780.com)

## TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

## Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., shows open at 7:30 p.m.

## Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

## Details: Harper and the Midwest Kind Acoustic Show, Jan. 5, 2013; Floyd King and the Bushwackers with the Campfire Company, Jan. 11, 2013; Empty Chair Night with Annie and Rod Capps, Joy Palmer and The Power's Field, Jan. 13, 2013; Songwriters Anonymous Showcase, Jan. 18, 2013; David Nefesh and Jeff Reynolds with Anthony Retz, Jan. 19, 2013; Lindsay Loy and the Flatbellys, Jan. 25, 2013; Billy McLaughlin, Jan. 26, 2013. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks are accepted

## Contact: (734) 454-8302

## WOODWARD CORRIDOR MUSICIANS

## Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13

## Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills

## Details: Chamber music concert features "Site for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio" by Claude Bolling and "Trio in E-flat major, Opus 27" by Franz Liszt. Admission is \$10 for adults. Students in K-12th grade are admitted free

## Contact: WoodwardCM.org; (248) 546-5818 or [LFDean@aol.com](mailto:LFDean@aol.com)

## Something different

## DETROIT ZOO

## Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

## Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

## Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free

## Contact: (248) 541-5717

## FISHING SHOW

## Time/Date: 3-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013; 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, 2013; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013

## Location: Suburban Coliseum, 4500 Grand River Ave., Novi

## Details: Vendors, demonstrations, hands-on fun with fishing. Family activities include a casting contest, fishing from a trout pond, a virtual fishing simulator, and much more. Admission is free on Thursday only for those who bring six cans/boxes or four pounds of non-perishable food items to donate to the annual Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger food drive. The food will be donated to the American Red Cross and area food banks. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children, 6-14; under 6 is free. On-site parking is \$5.

## Contact: (800) 328-6550; [www.ultimatefishingshow.com](http://www.ultimatefishingshow.com)

## KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

## Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, through Feb. 10, 2013

## Location: 434 S. State, Ann Arbor

## Details: "Conserving Antiquity" focuses on the essential but often hidden work of preserving art and artifacts. Visitors will step behind the scenes and experience the work of conservators, which blends scientific research and hands-on treatment with the study of art, archaeology and history.

## Contact: (734) 764-9300; [www.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey)

## PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

## Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through Jan. 13, 2013

## Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

## Hospital offers same-day mammogram results

Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital is offering screening mammogram results at the time the exam is performed.

Several appointments are reserved daily for patients who want to wait for the radiologist to read and report on their digital mammograms. Patients also can receive screening mammogram results by phone within 24 hours, and usually receive a letter with their results within 48 hours.

"Providing the results of screening mammograms to patients in the same appointment as the exam is a rare service in this region," stated Denise Collins, M.D., service chief for Radiology at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital.

Patricia Miller, M.D., division head of Breast Imaging, Radiology, at Henry Ford Health System, said most facilities don't offer such quick results for annual screening mammograms.

"An annual mammogram is recommended for women, beginning at age 40, for early detection of cancer, regardless of family history," Miller said. "Breast self exams also are very important, and women of all ages should perform them monthly."

Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital is located at 6777 W. Maple Road, in West Bloomfield.

Mammogram appointments may be made online at [www.henryfordwest-bloomfield.com/mamm](http://www.henryfordwest-bloomfield.com/mamm) or by calling (248) 325-3828.

## Study shows heart health varies nationwide

Americans' cardiovascular health varies greatly from state to state, according to research in the Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA).

The study is the first to assess cardiovascular health at the state level.

"Since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is funding state heart disease and stroke prevention programs, we thought it would be helpful to have cardiovascular health information on the state level, to help better focus our efforts," stated Dr. Jing Fang, M.D., M.S., an epidemiologist with the CDC's Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention in Atlanta, Ga.

Using 2009 data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System — a telephone survey of more than 350,000

people in the 50 states and Washington, D.C. — researchers collected information on the American Heart Association's seven major heart-health factors: blood pressure, total cholesterol, smoking, body mass index, diabetes, physical activity, and fruit and vegetable consumption.

Researchers found:

- The percentage of the population reporting ideal cardiovascular health — defined as having optimal levels of all seven factors — was lowest in Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Mississippi and highest in Washington, D.C., Vermont and Virginia.

- Three percent of Michigan's population reported having ideal heart health.

- About 10 percent of the total population reported having poor cardiovascular health, with two or fewer heart-health

factors at optimal levels.

- In general, people living in western and New England states reported having a higher percentage of ideal cardiovascular health.

- Americans reported having on average more than four of the seven risk factors for heart disease, Fang stated. "We also found large disparities by age, sex, race/ethnicity and levels of education."

- Those who were 65 or older reported the lowest percentage of ideal heart health and the 65-74 age group reported the highest percentage of ideal heart health.

- Women said they were faring better than men.

- Whites and Asian/Pacific Islanders reported highest rates of heart health while African-Americans, Native Americans and Alaska Natives fared

most poorly.

- Those in the highest education group reported better health than the other groups.

Estimates in the report may help health professionals set goals for reducing risk for heart disease and stroke and for improving cardiovascular health.

"This study gives us important information about the factors and behaviors that need the most improvement in each state to achieve the American Heart Association's goal of improving cardiovascular health for all Americans," Fang said.

The American Heart Association aims to improve the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent while reducing deaths from cardiovascular diseases and stroke by 20 percent, by the year 2020.

## MEDICAL DATEBOOK

### January

#### MICHIGAN BARIATRIC INSTITUTE

The Institute offers free monthly educational seminars, from 6-7:30 p.m. about bariatric weight loss surgery. Talli Zeni, MD, director of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, and Jacob Roberts, DO, bariatric surgeon, will lead the sessions on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013, Feb. 7, 2013 and March 14, 2013 at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, North Auditorium, located on the hospital campus at Levan and Five Mile, Livonia. The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers three options for bariatric weight loss surgery, including laparoscopic gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy and adjustable gastric banding. Bariatric surgery is a minimal surgical approach to treating obesity and is performed laparoscopically, resulting in minimal pain, less scarring, shorter hospitalization and recovery time. For more information, call the



Roberts



Zeni

Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) 949-9344, located at 14555 Levan Road, Suite 311, Marian Professional Building, Livonia.

#### SINUS RELIEF

Warren L. Brandes, D.O. will present a free community lecture about advanced technology that helps people suffering from chronic sinus symptoms, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013, at Botsford Hospital's Community Room in the Administration & Education Center, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Balloon Sinuplasty gives long-term relief by effectively opening blocked sinus passage-

ways and is minimally invasive and FDA-approved. Call (877) 442-7900, option #1 to register.

#### VOLUNTEER VOICES

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan extends an invitation to individuals with any kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Times and dates of sessions in January vary. Call Len McCulloch at (248) 474-2763 ext. 22. Or visit [www.therapychoirs.org](http://www.therapychoirs.org).

#### Ongoing

#### AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington Branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham

branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join or for more information, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit [www.ymcadetroit.org](http://www.ymcadetroit.org).

#### ARTHRITIS SUPPORT

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

#### BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org).

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Sat., Jan. 19, 2013  
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- Food & Drink
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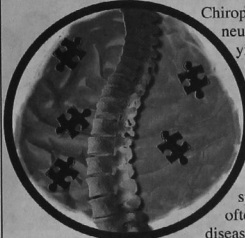
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# Regional Marketplace

## From a House to Home

ADVERTISING FEATURE

When Elaine Cash decided it was time to move to a senior community, she found what she was looking for in her own backyard at Abbey Park at Mill River. Born and raised on a farm just three miles away, Elaine watched the construction of Abbey Park and carefully considered the advantages offered by the community.

As the final stages of building were completed "It got me thinking," she said. "I decided, on my own, this was the answer."

Elaine knew it was time for a change; the family home that she and her husband, Jim, built in 1950 was no longer practical. The Cash Family has lived in

Lyon Township, a picturesque rural setting noted for the warmth of loving neighbors, for six generations. Moving into Abbey Park keeps Elaine close to friends and family and provides security, support and reassurance to loved ones concerned about her living alone.

While Elaine made the move to satisfy the concerns of her family, she is quick to acknowledge that she is very happy in her new home. "I am blessed to have made a best friend here," Elaine said. "I never thought I would spend my later years in such a lovely home as Abbey Park. I feel like the luckiest person living here."

### MY VERY PLEASANT SURPRISE

Just minutes from Ann Arbor, Novi and Brighton, Abbey Park's convenient location — on Milford Road across from Coyote Golf Club and just minutes from I-96 — enjoys a beautiful countryside setting, with state of the art amenities in addition to quick access to three major hospitals.

Within just a few days of Abbey Park's opening in January 2009, Elaine and her three children enjoyed a lunch and tour of the facility. She was surprised and "very impressed," with her initial visit. Elaine appreciated the beautiful landscaping of the grounds and courtyards, an elegant lobby featuring fountains, fireplaces, and a grand piano along with the welcoming

smiles of a few old friends and some new neighbors.

With any move there are decisions to be made, and so after offering the family home to her granddaughter, Elaine's first step was to find the perfect apartment in her new community. With nine floor plans ranging from one bedroom/one bath to two bedrooms with two full baths and two walk-in closets, all apartment options at Abbey Park include

a balcony or patio. Monthly rental fees include heat, water, electricity in addition to 24-hour staffing, medical monitoring, daily housekeeping, weekly laundry service, delicious meals served in the beautiful Grand Dining Room, continental breakfast and over 45 activities — including two happy hour events and live entertainment — to enjoy each week.

There were additional surprises, too: the community was luxurious and elegant but also very affordable. The meals served in the elegant dining room by attentive staff and prepared on site, were delicious. "The food is like a nice restaurant," Elaine said, and said that the employees and residents are. "Like another large family." There's a calendar full of weekly shopping trips, monthly casino excursions, Bingo, ice cream socials and destination outings, such as trips

*"I never thought I would spend my later years in such a lovely home as Abbey Park. I feel like the luckiest person living here."*

Elaine Cash,  
Abbey Park resident.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Abbey Park at Mill River resident Elaine Cash enjoying the beautiful grounds of Abbey Park at their annual car show.

to Frankenmuth and holiday shopping trips. Within the community, there is a theater, library, computer center, fitness center, hair salon and physical therapists on site. Medicare-certified optional personal care services are also available.

### THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE MY NEW HOME

Elaine was quick to credit the leadership of the staff with the spirit of community and a calendar full of celebrations. "To me, [Administrator] Tamra Ward and [Hospitality Director] Charles Duty are 'Abbey Park,' plus of course, their wonderful, friendly, caring staff." Elaine's social calendar is full of parties and events. There's a champagne brunch

every Sunday, birthday parties, Grandkids Halloween Carnival, Grandparent's Day Luau, Oktoberfest and Abbey Park's Festival of Trees. There's a delicious menu for each holiday and celebration dinners are open to family and friends. Abbey Park at Mill River offers a Facebook page that is updated after each event for the enjoyment of the residents and their loved ones.

Soon after her move to Abbey Park at Mill River, Elaine met owners Dr. Benjamin Stein, Joe Norber and Edward Rosenbaum during one of their weekly site visits. "I told them how much I loved it here," Elaine said. "I am a walking commercial for Abbey Park."

Elaine celebrated her third anniversary as a resident at Abbey Park in September and enjoys being part of the Abbey Park family. "I have loved every single day here," she said.



Left: Abbey Park at Mill River resident Elaine Cash is surrounded by family at last year's Christmas party.

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# Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### ACROSS

- 1 Electrical unit, once
- 4 Atomizer
- 8 Ice floe
- 12 Belly dance instrument
- 13 Matty or Felipe
- 14 Liko
- 15 Sauteing
- 17 Helen of Troy's mother
- 18 Rock layers
- 19 Gave up on, slangily
- 21 Cap
- 22 Pamplona
- 23 shout
- 24 Battery units
- 26 Hushpuppy go-with
- 30 Santa — winds
- 31 Undergo decomposition
- 32 — Pan
- 33 Flower cart offering
- 36 Marshall's star
- 38 Fleming or Woosnam
- 39 Role for Harrison
- 40 Free of charge
- 43 Mischief
- 47 Luxuriat
- 48 Prototype
- 50 Tony's cousin
- 51 Alot
- 52 — Paulo, Brazil
- 53 Loaded for
- 54 Skidded
- 55 Blast letters

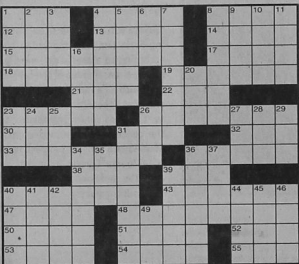
### DOWN

- 1 Wild crowds
- 2 Unable to play
- 3 Tracking dog's clue
- 4 Praying
- 5 Epic by Homer
- 6 Hoss, to Ben
- 7 Harbor vessel
- 8 Opinion
- 9 Mr. Knievel

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

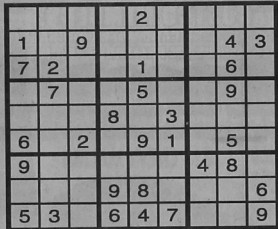
MPG SEPT RICH  
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 TDS SCACTI PETI  
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 SLOPE FOAL  
 WEAR CLOSED IN  
 ANTE AUNT JOE  
 NOSY VEES SUE

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Want more puzzles?  
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## SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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### WORDS

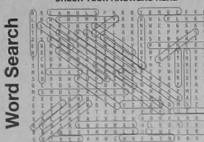
B X C A R O L S P H B T E H O C F V H  
 L N W C H I M N E Y R X G N L E L V E S  
 I L C R V N G B O P N B W C N G S K P  
 T F L E A H G T E L A K I D L P P N S C  
 Z Y R A U B O T I G L Y K S E B G A I C  
 N E W C D P C I I G F S O M F T Y C N X  
 T U E V P L P R L D G A R S M C S R E A  
 S H A K C A S I P E N R Y B C P W O I F N  
 S D R B W P U D H I A E I R X G R S K P  
 O C T D S Z E S D N N C N G E D F T A V  
 H S M U L P R A G U S D C N X F A M I  
 Z E E S H H O Z C K T G E M O Y D A S W  
 E I X S O D R O Y E V I X E N D M S Z T  
 D G T L E E G T E N K F F R B D E L S  
 V A L A H E A I V Z R W O R K S H O P  
 R Y B R S R N O H M A N W L E O N Y V O  
 R B A N R T H P O L E D T N E S E R P O  
 S D T R E E R H B C W R E A T H D A S E

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

### CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



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Sudoku

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