

Westland Observer

Putting you in touch with your world

Thursday
February 3, 2000

Serving the Westland Community for 35 years

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 70

WESTLAND, MICHIGAN • 66 PAGES • <http://observer.eccentric.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

COMMUNITY LIFE

Oh, you beautiful doll: A native of Norway, now local, has enjoyed collecting dolls from around the world during her far-flung travels./B1

AT HOME

Glass action: Members of the Michigan Depression Glass Society, which meets in Livonia, sparkle with pleasure over the beauty of the pieces and the memories the items evoke./D6

ENTERTAINMENT

Dining: Woo your valentine at a romantic restaurant. Our list includes Cafe Bon Homme, Cafe Cortina, La Bistecca Italian Grille, Marco's, and Fonte D'Amore./E1

REAL ESTATE

Sales keep bubbling: Almost every area community has seen the value of homes rise since last year at this time./F1

INDEX

- At Home D
- Classified Index F5
- Autos G9
- Home & Service Guide G8
- Jobs F11
- Rentals F8
- Community Life B1
- Crossword F7
- Entertainment E1
- Obituaries A2
- Opinions A12-13
- Real Estate F1
- Sports C1

HOW TO REACH US

Newsroom: 734-953-2104
Newsroom Fax: 734-591-7279
E-mail: jbrown@oe.homecomm.net
Nightline/Sports: 734-953-2104
Reader Comment Line: 734-953-2042
Classified Advertising: 734-591-0900
Display Advertising: 734-591-2300
Home Delivery: 734-591-0500

SAVINGS CARD

Be sure to ask about this money-saving card when you renew your subscription to your Hometown Newspaper!



6 63174 10011 6

Elected clerk option pondered



Westland City Council members are mulling the possibility of an elected city clerk, as is done in some communities. The possibility follows the firing of former Clerk Patricia Gibbons, which has generated controversy.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
dclem@oe.homecomm.net

A proposal to let Westland voters elect their own city clerk has gained momentum in the aftermath of Patricia Gibbons' firing by a four-member council majority.

"I believe that the city clerk position should be a nonpartisan, apolitical

position accountable only to the residents of Westland," Councilman Richard LeBlanc said.

LeBlanc and colleagues Glenn Anderson and Sandra Cicirelli have mounted the three signatures needed to place the issue on the council agenda for a 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7, meeting at City Hall.

Please see **CLERK, A4**

Gibbons speaks out

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
dclem@oe.homecomm.net

Breaking her silence, former Westland City Clerk Patricia Gibbons said Monday she felt humiliated by the way her firing was handled.

But she said she has learned that good citizens of the community will come to the defense of a person wronged.

"I really feel wonderful that people

have faith in me," Gibbons, 52, said. "I really appreciate all the nice and honest people out there who want to support me. I really feel honored that they're backing me and supporting me."

Gibbons has defended her job performance in the \$69,739-a-year position from which she was ousted Jan. 18.

Scores of citizens and Westland coun-

Please see **GIBBONS, A4**

Shall we dance?



STAFF PHOTOS BY ROBBY JACOBS

Party time: Revelers enjoy their time at the Firefighters Ball at the Hellenic Cultural Center.

Firefighters cut a rug at ball

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER
jbrown@oe.homecomm.net

The Firefighters Ball Saturday, Jan. 29, was a resounding success.

"Great," said Capt. Colleen Fedel of the Westland Fire Department. "Everybody had a good time. We were happy with the turnout."

She said turnout was 320-350 at the Hellenic Cultural Center, with many city employees, business supporters and those from other area fire departments attending.

Fedel and other organizers appreciate the community/business support. Decker's Flowers helped with decorations. "They just did a great job," she said. "It was beautiful."

The firefighters wore their dress blues, usually only worn when attending promotions or funerals. They looked nice, Fedel said, and it was good to wear those clothes for a

Please see **BALL, A3**



Good time: Sgt. Ed Hosmer (left), union president, talks over the night's events with Sgt. Marty Reddy of the Westland Fire Department.

Please see **FEST, A3**

Chase reported

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
dclem@oe.homecomm.net

A Garden City man, suspected in a string of robberies and driving a stolen van, led Westland police on a 75-mph chase that ended early Monday when he hit a utility pole in Canton Township, authorities said.

The 39-year-old suspect was arrested after an officer smashed into the driver's window of a 1995 Ford Aerostar and pulled him out, a police report said.

A 19-year-old passenger, not a rob-

Please see **CHASE, A3**

Library patrons cherish home delivery service

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
dclem@oe.homecomm.net

Al Nagy stops by the Westland library every other Wednesday to pick up books that he delivers to Helen Poet's home.

Nagy, 63, volunteers his time to help readers like Poet, 87, who is confined to her home.

"I have a little spare time on my hands, so I thought I would do a little good for some people who need it," he said.

Nagy, an auto body instructor at the William D. Ford Career/Technical Center, is one of five drivers who help the library's home-delivery program for shut-in residents.

Poet suffers constant sciatic nerve pain because she has arthritis at the base of her spine. She is one of 13 people benefiting from the program.

"I'm in these four walks all the time, and the pain pills I take don't seem to do much good," she said, sitting in her living room. "Mr. Nagy always brings me good stuff. It kind of takes my mind

off the pain. This program has been just wonderful."

Arriving one recent Wednesday, Nagy was greeted by a smiling Poet and a barking dachshund, 10-year-old Kelly.

"She's my best friend and my pal," Poet said.

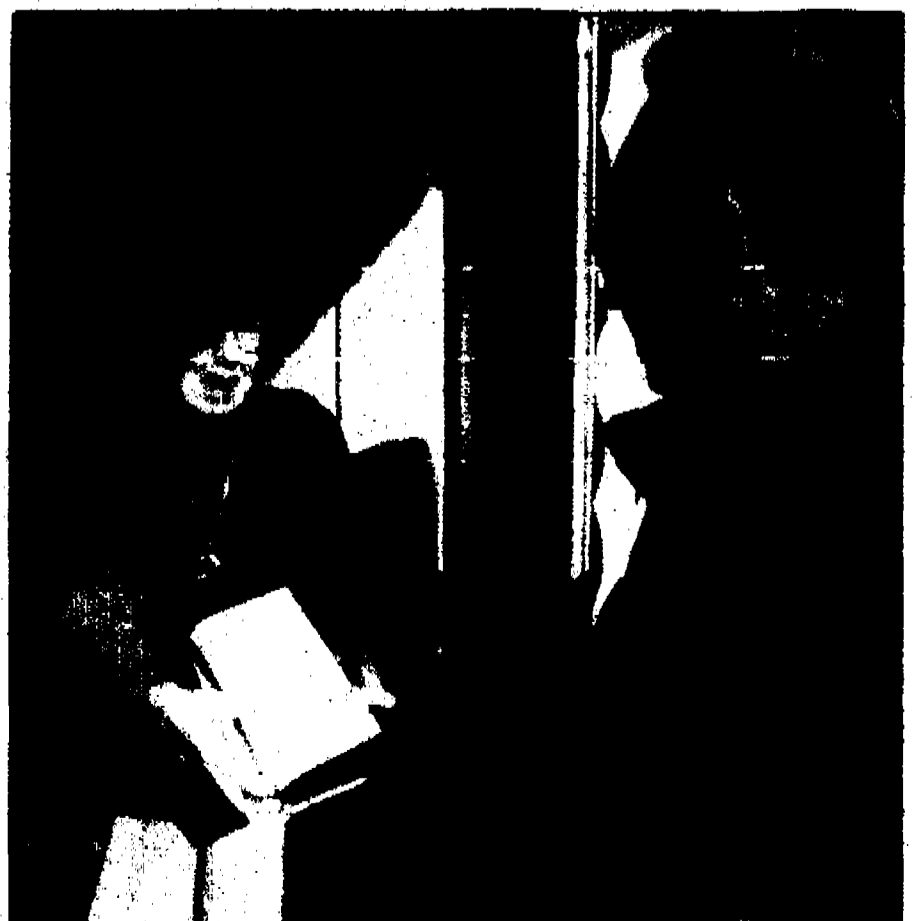
At the library, employee Martha Rogers picks out novels, books on tape, videos and other library materials for most of the homebound customers. She gets help from two volunteers who help her package the materials for the drivers.

Jane Zemba, supervisor of circulation and technical services, used to run the program, which started last spring. She chose to continue picking out materials for Poet.

"Helen always tells me I can read her mind," Zemba said. "I usually pick human, interest kinds of stories and good women authors that I think she'd like."

Nagy, on one recent delivery,

Please see **LIBRARY, A3**



A welcome face: Helen Poet, 87, greets Al Nagy at the door as he delivers library materials to her home.

STAFF PHOTOS BY ROBBY JACOBS



Words:
Westland Fire Chief Mark Neal talking at the ball. More than 300 people attended Saturday's gala at the Hellenic Cultural Center.



Fred and Ginger: Firefighter Tim Marshall and Gretchen Schroeder do some dancing at the ball.

Ball from page A1

fun occasion and not a funeral. The band, Joyride, provided plenty of dance music and kept the revelers moving.

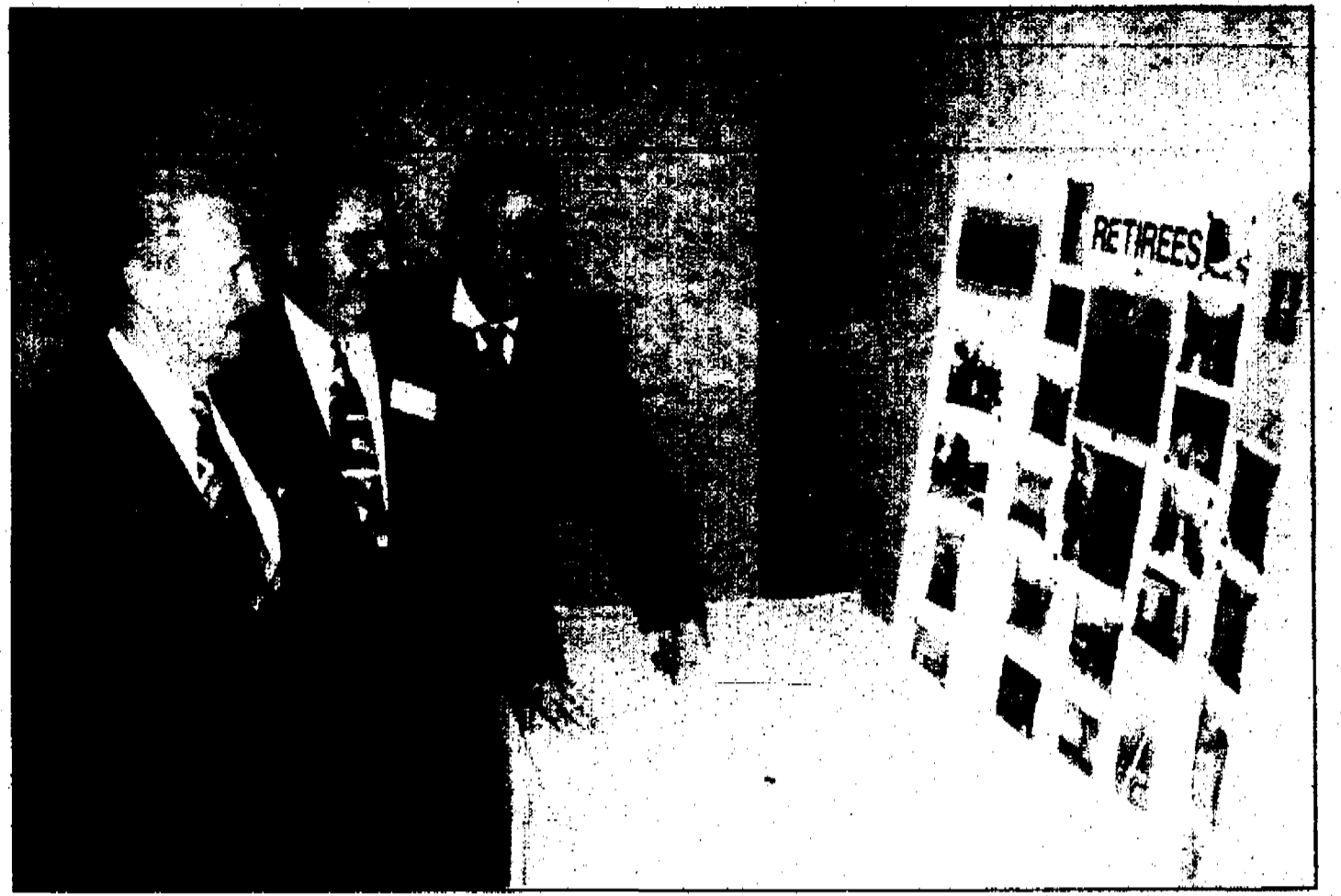
"We were happy with the way it turned out." Organizers hope for a bigger event in the future. They may hold it every other year, but that's still in the discussion stage.

"It's definitely going to happen again," said Sgt. Ed Hosmer, union president. Having it every other year could keep the excitement for the event, he said, which had returned after a long hiatus.

"It turned out very well," Hosmer said. "We had a bigger turnout than we thought." Organizers were originally planning for 200 people.

"The band was great, the food was great, the decorations were great," Hosmer said. More than 50 Westland firefighters and their spouses attended, and the spouses liked meeting the others, he said. "You could feel there was a need for it."

None of the revelers had to go on duty Saturday night. "We had guys on duty," Fedel said. "The guys on duty just couldn't come."



Memories: Retired firefighters (left to right) Battalion Chief Larry Futrell, Battalion Chief Ed Ferguson and Assistant Chief George Riley looking at pictures of other retired firefighters.

Fest from page A1

This year's event will feature an ice sculptor doing figurines. There will be sleigh rides through Central City Park, said Kosowski, who's working with co-chairs Sharon Scott and Diane Fritz. Scott is a city councilwoman. Fritz is interim city clerk.

"Last year we had about 800 on our count," Kosowski said of Winterfest, a city of Westland event. Organizers are hoping to do even better this year, in the neighborhood of 1,000.

The event is free except for food and sleigh rides, he said.

Scott is also hoping for strong attendance.

"It's a fun day. It's minimal cost," she said. "Hopefully, the weather will cooperate."

'It's a fun day. It's minimal cost.'

Sharon Scott
—co-chair

She's found many like Winterfest. "There are many activities children will enjoy," Scott said, agreeing with Kosowski the event fights cabin fever.

"It gets the kids out of the house," she said of Winterfest, designed for the whole family.

There will be a bowling tournament Saturday, Feb. 5, at Westland Bowl, sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds will benefit Westland Youth Assistance. For information, call the chamber at 734-326-7222.

Chase from page A1

very suspect - surrendered on his own.

Both men will likely face drug charges for 12 packets of heroin that police say they found inside the van, Lt. Marc Stobbe said.

The driver, already wanted on a \$238 warrant in Redford, also will likely face charges of robbery and fleeing from police, Stobbe said.

The driver is suspected in a Jan. 26 robbery at the BoRies hair salon at Wayne and Glenwood in Westland, Stobbe said. A man went into the business, asked for change and seized money from a cash register.

The driver also is suspected of three Dearborn incidents in which a man robbed women of their purses in business parking lots, Stobbe said. Those crimes occurred between Jan. 21 and Jan. 28, he said.

The suspect's capture came after Westland police spotted a stolen van at a Marathon gas station on Wayne Road near Glenwood, a police report said.

Police trailed the van a short distance to Wayne Road and Sims, where the driver sped off after Westland and Wayne police cars tried unsuccessfully to block his path, the report said.

The driver led police south to

Michigan Avenue and then west toward I-275, reaching speeds of 75 mph in a 40-mph zone during a chase that spanned four miles, Stobbe said.

A police report noted that the driver "was swerving over all five lanes" of westbound Michigan Avenue.

The driver lost control of the van as he approached a traffic backup at I-275 and tried to pass on the south shoulder, the police report said.

The van slid into a grassy median and hit a utility pole, and the passenger got out and surrendered to police, the report said.

The driver again tried to escape but hit the pole, and a police officer used the butt of his pistol to smash out the van's window and wrestle the suspect under control, the police report said.

The driver also was hit in the head by the pistol as the window broke, the report said. He was treated and released at Oakwood Hospital/Annapolis Center in Wayne.

Authorities are continuing their investigation, and Stobbe said neither man had been charged as of Tuesday afternoon.

Police trailed the van a short distance to Wayne Road and Sims, where the driver sped off after Westland and Wayne police cars tried unsuccessfully to block his path, the report said.

Surplus food available from city of Westland

The city of Westland will distribute surplus food 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 17-18, at the Dorsey Community Center.

Residents in the area bounded by Palmer, Stieber, Merriman and Wildwood roads, which is known as Norwayne and Oak Village, will pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17.

All other residents north of Michigan Avenue will pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18.

Westland residents south of

Michigan Avenue should pick up their commodities the third Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebell.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will pick up their food at Taylor Towers and must call their building manager for the day of distribution.

For February, salmon and instant potatoes will be distributed.

For information, call the Dorsey Center surplus food hotline, 734-595-0366.



this is good stuff

(The word is out!)

Semi-Annual Clearance

70% off*

selected merchandise throughout the store.

Hurry in. Bargains like this don't last forever!
Starts Thursday, February 3.

*Savings off original prices of some merchandise. Excludes items identified by signs. Not valid on the sale of other cases.

Jacobson's

Birmingham • (248) 644-6900 Livonia • (734) 591-7696 Rochester • (248) 651-6000

SHOPPING HOURS • MON-SAT 10-9 • OPEN SUN AT NOON

www.jacobsons.com

Clerk from page A1

The measure calls for a May 9 ballot proposal in which voters would decide whether to amend the city charter to allow the clerk to be elected every four years, starting with the next round of city elections in 2001.

The proposal's timing would coincide with an already-scheduled May 9 election in which voters will decide whether to renew a 15-year, 1-mill tax to pay the city's debt for a Dearborn Heights-based incinerator.

Some neighboring communities, such as Livonia and Canton Township, already elect their clerks. Others, like Garden City and Wayne, have appointed clerks.

LeBlanc, Cicirelli and Anderson requested the issue be placed on the Feb. 7 council agenda following outrage over the Jan. 18 firing of Gibbons, whose performance they praised.

Gibbons was ousted by council President Charles "Trav" Griffin, President Pro Tem David Cox and members David James and Sharon Scott for reasons they declined to divulge. They cited only general job performance concerns.

Time factor

Cox said he would welcome talks about a voter-elected clerk, but he believes May 9 is too soon

'On a national level, constitutional amendments are not proposed and voted on in (three) months.'

David Cox

—council president pro tem

to place the issue on the ballot. "That's a dangerous time frame," he said Tuesday.

Cox said he generally supports "any opportunity for the citizens to make a decision about their city," but he indicated that a council committee should be appointed to study the issue.

"On a national level, constitutional amendments are not proposed and voted on in (three) months," he said.

Cox said discussion of an elected clerk should be coupled with talks about changing the way city council members are elected.

Cox proposed talks on whether all seven council members should be elected in the same year. Voters now elect four of seven council members every two years.

Scott and James agreed with Cox that an elected clerk's position should be discussed — but not placed on the May 9 ballot.

"I think it's something we should investigate," Scott said.

James said, "I'd like to see other cities that do it by election and see how smooth it goes."

Even though Cicirelli signed a request to have the issue placed on the Feb. 7 council agenda, she said she still is weighing the proposal.

"I do have some reservations about a city our size electing a city clerk," she said. "It certainly does make it a political position."

Cicirelli also questioned whether a city clerk could run an efficient office while campaigning for re-election.

However, she conceded that Livonia, Canton and Dearborn elect city clerks.

In favor of idea

LeBlanc said he stated as long ago as his 1995 council campaign that he believed Westland's clerk should be elected.

"I know that I'll be supporting it," he said. "I'll be looking forward to the debate."

In a separate development,

resident Marian Greenfield said Tuesday she will try to initiate a recall campaign against Scott within the next week.

Griffin, Cox and James can't be targeted for recall for six months because they started new terms Jan. 1. Scott is in the middle of a four-year term.

Greenfield said she will file a recall petition within the next week with the Wayne County Elections Commission calling for Scott's ouster for her role in firing Gibbons.

If the commission approves the recall language, Greenfield and others will have to collect more than 5,000 signatures of registered voters to have the issue placed on a special ballot.

Scott called Greenfield's efforts "sad."

"I always got along with Marian Greenfield in the past," Scott said. "That's very sad to me to think that a friend would do that. I always considered Marian a friend."

"I think my record will stand for itself," Scott said, adding later, "recalls are not good. When you don't like a person's performance, you don't vote for them in the next election ... Right now, I'm sure I have enough support to combat it."

Gibbons from page A1

council members Glenn Anderson, Sandra Cicirelli and Richard LeBlanc also have commended the job she did during her 17 months as clerk. She had been a city employee for nearly 23 years.

During a telephone interview, Gibbons described how she felt when council President Charles "Trav" Griffin came to her office on Jan. 14, placed her on administrative leave, took her keys and ordered her to leave City Hall.

"I felt like a criminal," she said.

Griffin has drawn criticism for ousting Gibbons four days before the council officially voted not to reappoint her as city clerk.

He has said he wanted to spare Gibbons the embarrassment of being ousted as she sat at the council table.

Still, his handling of the affair has raised allegations that he and council members David Cox, Sharon Scott and David James violated the state Open Meetings Act by deciding Gibbons' fate prior to the council meeting.

Gibbons said she took most of her personal belongings from her office on the same day Griffin ordered her out. She said Griffin told her that she would have to make an appointment with former Clerk Diane Fritz to return for the rest of her things.

Gibbons said one of her daughters returned for what were mostly plants that she had left in her office.

But her statement indicated that Griffin already knew that Fritz would be named interim clerk — four days before the Jan.

18 council meeting at which Fritz was appointed.

Council members indicated during that meeting — and have said since then — that they didn't know whether Fritz would accept the job.

"We were not sure whether Diane was even going to accept it until that night ...," Scott has said.

Griffin offered Gibbons a retirement package, but she would have had to spend thousands of dollars to "buy" time under the plan. She said Monday she is 3½ years short of the 25 years of city employment she needs to qualify for a pension now.

She will, however, be entitled to collect a pension when she reaches age 55.

Gibbons was an "at-will employee" of the council, meaning she could be fired simply by a majority vote. Griffin and others haven't cited specific reasons for ousting her.

During the interview, Gibbons refrained from expressing how she felt toward the council members who fired her. She is talking with an attorney, but she said she isn't sure what her next move will be.

Until Monday, the only statement Gibbons had made since her firing was through her son-in-law, Tad Smith. She had defended her job performance in that statement.

On Monday, Gibbons said she decided to speak out because she wanted the community to know how much she has received the support she has received.

Read Sports today

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Tuesday, February 8, 2000, the Westland Police Dept. will conduct Public Auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 AM at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
1978	VOLVO	242DL/4 DR	BROWN	VC24245M1151142
1987	PONTIAC	FIERO/2 DR	RED,	1G2PE11R1HP229586

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00 AM at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Road, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
1980	GMC	UTILITY PICK-UP	WHITE	TCT23AJ550202
1985	TOYOTA	CAMRY/4 DR	WHITE	JT2SV21E4H3041928

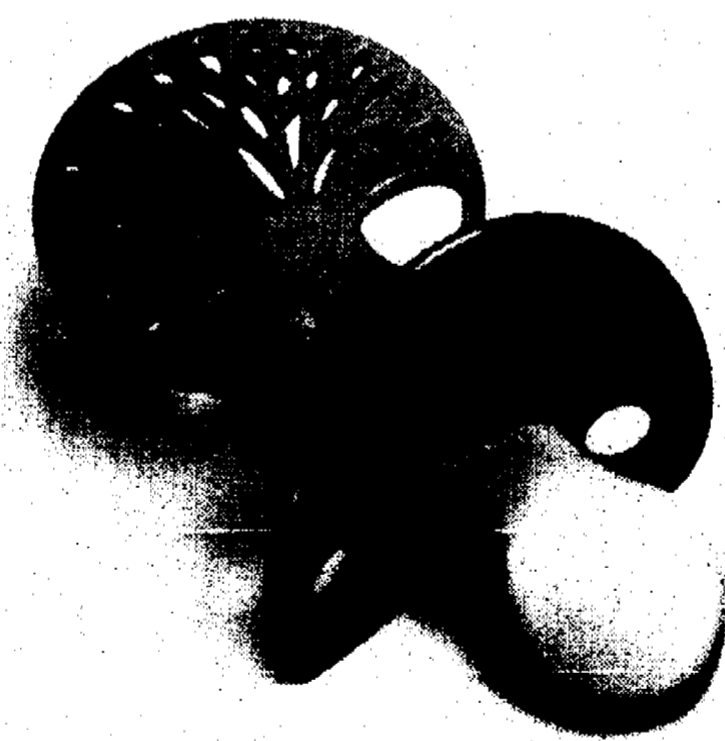
All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION

Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicles listed below will be auctioned after MARCH 04, 2000, unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
	FORD	TORINO/2 DR	WHITE	5H25H200259

Publish: February 3, 2000



At a time like this, we could all use some comforting.

Babies need a lot of care and comforting, but so do expectant parents.

That's what Oakwood does. We soothe, comfort and help you with doctor selection, prenatal care, nutrition, age and other health concerns. We also have a top neonatal intensive care unit.

So call 800.543.WELL to learn more and arrange your tour of our birthing centers.

This way, the most stress you'll have is picking a name.



Oakwood

WAYNE/WESTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT WESTLAND, MICHIGAN 48336 SECTION 00010 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for Bid Package #8:

TMP Project #98027 - Madison Elementary School
TMP Project #98028 - Graham Elementary School
TMP Project #98029 - Patchin Elementary School

Wayne-Westland Community Schools will be received until 1:30 P.M. local time on Tuesday, February 22, 2000, at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Wayne-Westland Community School Board of Education, 86745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan 48185. Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened. Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Divisions:

Bid Division Description

102 Asphalt Paving
103 Selective Demolition
108 General Trades
109 Roofing & Sheet Metal
114 Aluminum Windows, Glass & Glazing
115 Metal Studs/Drywall/E.I.F.S.
117 Acoustical Treatment
118 Carpet & Resilient Flooring
120 Painting/Staining/Caulking
125 Toilet Partitions
128 Plastic Laminated Casework
130 Window Treatment
140 Plumbing
142 HVAC
143 Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, MeS/EV, 25950 West Five Mile Rd., Redford, MI 48239; the FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; and the Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit.

Bidders may obtain a set of bidding documents by contacting the Construction Manager, MeS/EV, at (313) 535-6213. Additional plans may be ordered and purchased directly from Dunn Blue Reprographics Technology, (248) 863-2960. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, MeS/EV. The bid division(s) being bid is (are) to be identified on the outside of the envelope. There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting held on Tuesday, February 8, 2000 @ 1:30 P.M. at the Wayne-Westland Community School Board of Education Building. All bidders are encouraged to attend.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond in the amount of at least five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Wayne-Westland Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Wayne-Westland Community Schools reserve the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

Publish: February 3 and 4, 2000

Appreciation shown **Library** *from page A1*

On Jan. 14, some of the nurses at Westland Convalescent Center decided to bring in cookies, chips and other snacks for Wayne-Westland vocational education students. It was the students' last day of training at the center.

More than 50 young people and their instructor enjoyed the snack of appreciation. Also contributing were nursing assistants, who took up a collection

and ordered pizza to share with the students to make it a complete lunch.

The student response was one of "awe." They had worked at other nursing centers and not received such appreciation, said Peggy Ellenwood of the center. Those who were a part of this event should know their kindness hasn't gone unnoticed, she said.

Dropped off three books on tape: "Strange Fits of Passion" by Anita Shreve, "Every Day" by Elizabeth Richards and "Plain-song" by Kent Haruf.

"I like romance novels and the Gaelic ones, too," Poet said.

She has no family members who live close by, so she depends on Nagy, friends and neighbors to help her.

"Everybody has been so good to me," she said.

Poet always loved reading. "As a young girl I spent a lot of time in the library," she recalled with a smile. "People would wonder where Helen was, and I would be in the library. I'm not a big TV fan. I like the news and game shows like 'Jeopardy.' That's about it."

Nagy said he and Poet exchanged gifts last Christmas. "I gave her a calendar, and she gave me a box of candy," he said.

Said Poet: "If not for people like Mr. Nagy, I don't know what I'd do."

To volunteer for the home-delivery program or to receive its services, call the library at 734/326-6123. An employee will verify that you are homebound and have no way of getting materials. People who are temporarily shut in, such as those recovering from surgery, may qualify.

■ 'If not for people like Mr. Nagy, I don't know what I'd do.'

*Helen Poet
—reader*



Helen Poet

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Veterans seeking help

Veteran's Haven Inc. is working toward a \$1 million goal for an apartment facility to help veterans gain independence and success. The project is named Target Vet 2000, according to Vince Berna, president/founder.

The Veterans Outreach Center is currently at 4924 Wayne Road in Wayne.

After five years of continuous moving, Veteran's Haven Inc. is committed to continuing services in a permanent shelter in such

areas as food, clothing, hygiene, counseling, employment, furniture, housing and transportation.

Veteran's Haven began in 1994 with a food pantry in Berna's bedroom and his van as the moving warehouse for supplies. It has evolved into a charity to feed, clothe, counsel and provide housing for veterans.

For information, call (734) 728-0527.

basics

sale

25% off

February 2-14

more than 1000 items

We've got you covered with:

- Underwear
- Socks
- Handkerchiefs
- Shirts
- and more!

Jacobson's

734-391-7600 • 734-651-0008

MON-SAT 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM • SUN. AT NOON

www.jacobsons.com

■ INTERNET CLASSES
Internet classes at the library will resume again this February. The popular Internet 101 class provides the student who has little or no computer background with basic knowledge about the Internet, how to "navigate" or find your way around the Web, and how to use the "search" tools to help find your information. Internet 201 will expand on the first class by teaching about more advanced search tools in order to make your searches more effective. Class sizes have been expanded to meet the increased demand for these informational classes. Held in Community Meeting Room B, staff will be able to meet with up to 80 students to discuss topics. Internet computers will be reserved for student practice for one hour following each class. Internet classes are offered free of charge. Internet 101 will be offered 2-3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, and 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 26. For more information, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

■ WEB SITE OF THE WEEK
<http://www.vote-smart.org/>
Project Vote Smart provides great information on issues and how your legislators have voted. It even has a toll-free number (888-VOTE-SMART) for those who don't surf the Web.
<http://mel.lib.mi.us/government/gov-milelections.htm>
For information on elections, politics and issues, surf on over to MEL, the Michigan Electronic Library. The site also contains links to a variety of related Web sites.
<http://www.mic.lib.mi.us/~hvwml>
This is the Web site for the Michigan chapter of the League of Women Voters. This nonpartisan site contains superb links to related sites and also contains explains of how to vote.

■ PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS
Chess Night
7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, Faust Reading Room. Amateurs and experts alike are invited to join in for the monthly Chess Night where you can strategize and conquer. Participants are encouraged to mentor beginning players. Pick up a chess set at the Reference Desk if you like or use your own. No fee. No registration required.
Open Mike Poetry
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, Community Meeting Room B. The library hosts an evening of family-friendliness poetry read by community members. Bring your own original poetry or an old favorite to share with the group. All ages are welcome. No fee. No registration required. Light refreshments will be served.
Scrapbooks & Memory Books
1:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, Community Meeting Room AB. Bring in your photos, newspaper clippings and other mementos and learn how to make pages guaranteed to keep your memories alive! An experienced consultant will show you ways to cut, decorate and enhance your books. No fee. No registration required, but seating is limited to 25 participants.
Adult Reading Club
7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, Group

INFORMATION MEETINGS
William R. Faust
Public Library of Westland
discussions on recently books. Discussions are held in Group Meeting Room-C. Call and reserve your copy today. No fee. No registration required.

■ YOUNG ADULTS ACTIVITIES
Young Adult Book Discussion Group
7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, Group Meeting Room C. "Everworld: Search for Senna" by K.A. Applegate. These book discussions are informal and there's no quiz, so come in, kick back, and let the group know what you think. Call and reserve your copy today. No fee. No registration. Light snacks will be served.
"I Love This Book" Contest
All Day, Feb. 1-13, YA Area. Young adults! Select your favorite book and tell the library staff why you like it. Two entries will be drawn and awarded a prize. All entries will have their reviews posted on the wall in the YA Area. Pick up your entry form in either the YA Area or at the Children's Reference Desk area, fill it out and drop it in the contest box in the YA Area. Each winner will receive a \$20 gift certificate from Harmony House. No fee. No registration required.

■ CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
Creation Station
2-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, Children's Activity Room. Have fun and exercise your creativity as you help decorate the Children's Room for Valentine's Day. Fill in and color an "I Love This Book" heart. No fee. No registration required.
Sleepytime Storytime
7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7, Community Meeting Room A. This half-hour storytime is held every Monday evening. Wear your jammies and bring your blanket! No fee. No registration required.
Toddler Tales & Preschool Storytime
• 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8
• 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9
Toddler Tales (18-36 months) and Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5) are held 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday and 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday. Stop in for fun fables, tales and stories. Storytimes last about 30 minutes. No fee. No registration required, although class size is limited.

After School Special
3-5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, Children's Activity Room. This drop-in program held each Wednesday is for all school-age children. It provides an opportunity to make crafts, play games and unwind after a hard day at school. No fee. No registration required.

■ FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES
The Friends' board meets on the second Tuesday each month to discuss fund-raising and program planning. All are invited to attend. Stop in and find out how you can help in providing quality programs at the library. Next meeting is 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8.

City's mayor will speak

Mayor Robert Thomas will hold his first city of Westland Town Hall meeting for the year 2000 at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, at Taylor Towers, 36500

Marquette across from the Wayne-Westland Board of Education office complex, between Wayne and Newburgh roads in Westland.

Read Taste Sunday

Free! Family Attractions

THE GRATITUDE STEEL BAND
Live Caribbean Music and Entertainment.
On Stage in the Food Court, 6 pm - 9 pm.
FEB 5

HEIKEN PUPPETS PRESENTS FATHER MILLENNIUM'S ZERO SHOW
Showtimes: Sat, Feb 12, Noon, 2pm & 4pm.
Sun, Feb 13, 1pm & 3pm.
On Stage in the Food Court.
FEB 12-13

SWING THE NIGHT AWAY
Free Swing Dance Lessons.
5pm - 9pm in the Food Court.
FEB 26

WONDERLAND
The Who What Why When Where Mall
Hours: Monday, Saturday 10 - 9, Sunday 11 - 6
11500 W. Halladay Road, Livonia, MI 48150
www.wonderlandmall.com

Glenn seeking top grad

John Glenn High School will graduate its 36th senior class this June. The ceremony will include an honorary presentation to a graduate who has gone on to achieve excellence. The Faculty Council at John Glenn is seeking nominations for its Distinguished Alumnus Award and will review the applications and decide on the honoree.

This is an annual presentation and one of the highlights of the graduation ceremony each year. Glenn educators feel that suc-

The educators are requesting community assistance to help in the selection process by nominating a John Glenn graduate who has truly earned distinction.

cessful graduates have a positive motivational effect on the gradu-

ating seniors as well as the school community and the faculty.

The educators are requesting community assistance to help in the selection process by nominating a John Glenn graduate who has truly earned distinction in his or her field of endeavor following graduation. If you wish to nominate a graduate, contact Pam Tucker at John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland MI 48185.



Kudos: Herschel Poger (above) was the Volunteer of the Year for Westland Youth Assistance. Toarmina's Pizza was Business of the Year.

Mentor, business leader Youth Assistance honorees

The Westland Youth Assistance Program held its annual Volunteer Recognition Party Jan. 24 at the Bailey Center in Westland. A volunteer and a business were recognized for their support of the program in 1999.

The Volunteer of the Year is Herschel Poger, 29, a mentor who has been assigned 10 youths over the past seven years. Poger was lauded for his acceptance of youth without prejudging them, his dedication and encouragement and for making the weekly mentor meetings "fun."

Poger was also appointed to the Youth Advisory Board for the city of Westland by Mayor Robert Thomas last year.

The Business of the Year was Toarmina's Pizza. The award was given to Lou Toarmina for his cooperation with Youth Assistance over the years in assisting with the semi-annual garage sale and supervising youth who assist with other city-spon-

Anyone interested in information on becoming a mentor for a Westland youth can call (734) 467-7904.

sored functions at the Bailey Center. On hand to recognize the honorees were five members of Poger's family, Councilman Richard LeBlanc, state Rep. Eileen DeHart, D-Westland, Wayne County Commission Vice Chair Kay Beard, D-Westland, Judge Gail McKnight and other volunteers and members of the Youth Advisory Board. The Westland Youth Assistance Program is planning a mentor training in March. Anyone interested in information on becoming a mentor for a Westland youth can call (734) 467-7904.

Read Sports for all the scores

NO INCREASE! SAME EVERYDAY LOW PRICES!
SAME PRICES AS BEFORE

All Premium Cartons..... **\$29.99** +TAX
All Generic Cartons..... **\$27.35** +TAX

WINSTON or CAMEL Except Non-filter 26.49 plus tax	SALEM All Styles \$25.99 plus tax	MONARCH or DORAL All Styles \$21.85 plus tax
MARLBORO All Styles \$26.49 plus tax	KOOL All Styles \$26.49 plus tax	BASIC or CAMBRIDGE All Styles \$23.85 plus tax

1551 SOUTH WAYNE ROAD
721-7676
Hours: Mon-Thurs 10-7; Fri-Sat 10-8

6616 NORTH WAYNE ROAD
729-7676
Hours: Mon-Thurs 10-7; Fri-Sat 10-8; Sun 11-4

HomeTown SAVINGS CARD

Great Discounts when you present your HomeTown Savings Card to these area businesses!

LOOK FOR OUR DECAL IN THE WINDOW!

<p>\$ Automotive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Mile/Henley Marathon Berkley Augers Auto Body Collision Clawson Done Done-Rite Auto Wash Berkley Eclipse Window Tint, 9206 Telegraph Redford Huntington Woods Mobile Huntington Woods Jim Freedand Pontiac Buick Royal Oak Stop and Go Auto Repair Farmdale Tom Halbeson Gloveyear Birmingham/Royal Oak Westmore Farmdale <p>\$ Beauty & Health Care Professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable Optics Royal Oak Alliance Tanning Salon Clawson Berkley Beach Tanning Salon Berkley Better Health Store Walled Lake Chester Drugs 180 S. Wayne Road Westland Dr. Daniel V. Tomlinello Royal Oak Dr. Lefkowitz Farmdale Dulac Hair Fashion Farmington Hills Ferris Hair Birmingham Family Dental Center 734-427-8888 Livonia Great Hair Salon Berkley House of Optics Royal Oak Medical Center Podiatrist Dr. W. Bloom, D.M.P. Farm Farmington Hills Nikonya Beauty & Skincare Berkley Parsons Salon 478-3688 Farmington Hills Peak Salon Southfield Shirley's Hair Salon Westland Shawna's Hair Salon Clawson The Gully's Hair Royal Oak Vanish Salon/Day Spa Farmdale <p>\$ Barber & Beauty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barber & Beauty Westland New York Barber Farmdale 	<p>J.S. Prestige Cleaners on 5 Mile Livonia</p> <p>Mal Koi Cleaners All Locations</p> <p>Park Ave \$1.75 Cleaners 844-5081 Canton</p> <p>Rags to Riches Cleaners Clawson</p> <p>Touch of Clean Plymouth</p> <p>White Cleaners & Coin Laundry Berkley</p> <p>\$ Entertainment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambassador Roller Rink Clawson Detroit Zoological Society Royal Oak Electric Stick Westland Hartfield Lane Berkley <p>\$ Florists & Gifts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Royal Oak Kavine Floral Expressions Farmdale Mary Jane Flowers Royal Oak Steve Codomo Flowers Southfield The Green Bee Royal Oak <p>\$ Home Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABC Plumbing Clawson American Blind and Wallpaper Factory Plymouth Burgstroms Inc Plumbing & Heating Livonia Berkley Plumbing Berkley Boyer Heating & Cooling Inc Farmdale Burton & Sons Garden City Burton Plumbing & Heating Wayne Cosmos Electric Inc Royal Oak Cosco Carpet Care Ypsilanti College Decorating Center 988 Newburgh Westland Hedden Plumbing Plymouth I Do Windows 313-887-8888 Redford KTP Designers Inc. Berkley New Beginnings LLC 734-919-9798 Livonia Sumner Plumbing & Sewer Royal Oak United Temperature Livonia 	<p>Miners Den Royal Oak</p> <p>O & D Bush Jewelers 734-456-3030 Plymouth</p> <p>Woods Pleasant Ridge/Royal Oak</p> <p>\$ Landscape & Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Billie Outdoor Care Canton D. A. Alexander & Co. Livonia Saxtons Garden Center Plymouth <p>\$ Pizza</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cottage Inn Pizzas Birmingham Marlee Deli & Pizzeria 734-961-1200 Canton Papa Romo's Farmdale Pizza One Farmdale Rafico Pizzas Royal Oak <p>\$ Restaurants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexander The Great Westland Barbe Pasties Livonia Beahive Family Dining Wayne Christmas Cuisine Farmdale Clubhouse BBQ Farmdale Code 30 Coffee Cafe Inc. Redford Dairy Queen of Royal Oak Royal Oak Deli Delis Royal Oak Don Pedro's Redford Duggans Irish Pub Royal Oak Farm-up Chicken & ribs Clawson Hard Ice Cream Cafe on Farmington S. of Plymouth Livonia Hat Trick Pub/Deli Berkley Mail & Errands Birmingham Miss Honey's School/Childcare Livonia New King Linn 248-474-8781 Farmington Hills O'Malley's Bar & Grill 15231 Farmington & Five Livonia Paynes Berkley Saxton's Italian New York Deli Clawson Shave Cafe Bloomfield Hills Subway Berkley/Farmdale Surgemore Deli Clawson Wendy's Royal Oak <p>\$ Retail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcove Hobby Shop Royal Oak Alexanders Framing Royal Oak Atlas Greenfield Market Southfield America's Vitamin & Nutrition Berkley Beads R.I.O. Royal Oak Border Outlet 3500 Lily 734-397-6326 Canton Bourties BBQ & Fireplace Farmdale Cheer's Rent-All Berkley Champions Cellular Warehouse Southfield Chris Furniture Farmington/Plymouth Rd Livonia Circa Berkley Contract Design Group Royal Oak Crossing Bridges Berkley Delley Carpet 8 Mile W of Merriman Livonia Dimitrie Upholstering Royal Oak Dining Furniture Ltd Roseville Dot's and Trains Lathrup Village Express Photo & Mile Livonia Four Seasons Garden Center Oak Park F & N Floor Covering 15 & Dequandre Troy Frenchie's and Sons Hardware Royal Oak Henderson Glass Berkley Hershey's Shoes 29522 Ford Road Garden City Independent Carpet One Westland J & K Trophy & Engraving 248-473-7871 Livonia Just Waiting Maternity Shoppe Berkley Kitchen & Bath Depot Royal Oak Looking Glass Antiques Plymouth Midropolitan Uniform Berkley Mitry's Cards & Gifts 734-421-1988 Garden City Nite Gallery Berkley Once Upon A Child 5804 N Sheldon Canton Pascha Books & Gifts 6 Mile Livonia Paperbarns Unlimited Farmdale 	<p>Randy's Ell of Troy Troy</p> <p>Remo Collectibles 42839 Ford 734-961-7500 Canton</p> <p>Red Wing Shoes Garden City</p> <p>Robins Nest Gifts & Collectibles Plymouth</p> <p>Smoky's Cigarette Outlet Berkley</p> <p>Talking Book World Lathrup Village</p> <p>Teaty Health Berkley</p> <p>The Framery & Gallery Troy</p> <p>Therapeutic Books 965 N Mill 734-453-4950 Plymouth</p> <p>Thomas Brothers Carpet Clawson</p> <p>Training Effect Fitness Store Birmingham</p> <p>Unlimited Cellular Clawson</p> <p>Village Paddler Plymouth</p> <p>\$ Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Service Mechanical Berkley Americana Estate Sales Berkley Bill & Rod's Appliances 734-428-2504 Livonia Buttons Rite II Royal Oak Carmack Appliance Garden City City Birmingham/Farmdale Community Federal Plymouth, Canton, Northville Family Heating & Cooling 734-422-8880 Garden City Jane Dance Connection 313-842-1203 Dearborn Mail Boxes Etc 7 Mile East to Joos Produce Livonia Men on the Move Westland Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Plymouth Robert Coburn Party 31 Assoc Royal Oak Singer Service Center Clawson The Dance Connection 734-379-8755 Canton Tuffy Auto Service Plymouth Rd W of Middlebelt Livonia Universal Electric Motor Service Berkley World Explorers Travel 877-381-4414 Lake Orion
---	--	--	--

To subscribe or renew a one-year subscription and receive your HomeTown Savings Card, call 734-591-0500 in Wayne County or 248-901-4716 in Oakland County

Southeast Michigan gets lion's share of road work

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@hometownnews.net

Southeast Michigan will get a lion's share of the state's road work over the next four years, according to the "5 Year Road and Bridge Program" unveiled Tuesday, Jan. 25, by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Of the \$6.4 billion the state plans to spend on road repairs and upgrades through the end of the year 2004, 35 percent will be pumped into the metropolitan Detroit region, including Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties.

Metro Detroit has the oldest freeways and bridges in the state, while the region contains the state's largest concentration of population. Metro area freeways carry almost half - 43 percent - of all the state's traffic.

"All transportation improvements included in this plan are prioritized based on need, and we are continuing to fix the worst roads and bridges first," said James DeSana, director of MDOT.

What the MDOT refers to as the "University" region of the state - areas surrounding Lansing and Ann Arbor, including Ingham, Livingston, Shiawassee, Clinton, Eaton and Jackson counties - will get another 12

percent of the state funding.

Using increased funding from the federal government, through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), and Build Michigan II, the state will put an average of \$1.3 billion dollars into repairing and rebuilding 1,400 miles of roads and 280 bridges each year through 2004, according to the document.

The goal is to have 80 percent of the state's roads in "good condition," as opposed to poor condition, by the end 2004. The plan is to continue through the year 2007, when 90 percent will be in

the "good" category.

Although the state is using a mix of short-term and long-term solutions to Michigan's road troubles, the 5 Year plan says the proportion of "20-plus year fixes" is increasing. Thirty three percent of the money will be spent on long term repairs, according to the plan. In the early 1990s, only 10 percent of state road funding was spent on long term repair.

The program also puts the priority on repairing existing roads. Only 10 percent of the total will be spent on new roads.

One of the new roads to be

built will be in southeast Michigan - the state will complete the M-5 Haggerty Connector from Fourteen Mile Road to Pontiac Trail, but its completion date has been pushed back to 2002.

In the metro area, MDOT will concentrate on modernizing the freeways, improving border crossings, supporting economic development and eliminating choke points, the plan states.

Also on the list of projects are:

IN WAYNE COUNTY

■ I-96 from US-24 to west of M-39 will be reconstructed in the year 2004.

■ The bridge on I-96 at Merriam will get deck replacement in 2001.

■ Six bridges on I-96 will get approach work in 2001.

■ Ford Road, from Wayne Road east to Venoy, will be resurfaced this year.

■ Ford Road, from Mercury to US-12, will be reconstructed in 2004. Bridges will get deck replacements and deck patch along with it.

■ The Southfield, M-39, will see reconstruction and bridge rehabilitation in 2001.

■ Ann Arbor Road, Old M-14, will get reconstruction from Can-

ton Center to Newburgh Road this year and next.

IN OAKLAND COUNTY

■ Reconstruction of interchanges on I-96 at Beck and Wixom roads. Design work begins this year. Construction is set for 2002 and 2003.

■ Completion of an I-75 Corridor Study of the 46 miles of freeways in Oakland, its interchanges and supporting roadways.

■ I-75 from M-15 to the county line will get a "major rehabilitation" in 2003 and 2004.

High school students can sample college

High school students throughout Michigan will have the opportunity to gather for two weeks at Madonna University in Livonia as participants in the 2000 Summer Institute for the Arts, Sciences and Technology sponsored by the Michigan State Board of Education.

These students will live on campus July 9-22 and be involved in intensive lab and field experiences, discussions, research, technology and techniques, with some of Michigan's top artists, teachers, researchers and business and industry professionals. A group of 120 teens - high school sophomores and juniors - will be selected to participate.

Those interested in this experience should contact their school counselor, call the Summer Institute Office at (517)244-1249 or Madonna University at (734)432-5482 to get an application. The deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 21. Participants will be selected in April by state review teams based on their exceptional interest and/or aptitude. Each student will be asked to submit an essay and recommendation to be considered for a position.

"We are excited about the opportunity the Summer Institute provides for Michigan students. One of the greatest attributes of the program is the recognition that there are many types of talents. The students who come together from all over the state have an opportunity to interact with other young people they would probably never have the occasion to meet. Each year, the students leave with pleasant memories and educational experiences that will enrich the rest of their lives," said Sister Nancy Marie Jamroz, vice president for student services and a coordinator of the Summer Institute at Madonna University.

As one of eight institutions chosen to participate this is Madonna University's seventh year in the program. The University is offering the following intensive classes: "Internationalizing for a Global World," "Music Video Production," "Black and White Photography," "Journalism," "Sign Language and Artistic Interpretation for the Deaf," "Japanese Language and Culture," "Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering," "Creative Writing" and "Chemistry and Biology of the Rouge River." Approximately 10 to 12 students will attend each class.

State funds and federal dollars help to offset the total institute costs, as a result, the registration fee is \$250 for each student. Financial assistance may be available for students who can show need.

Also, the institute is offering exploratory sessions throughout the two weeks. Four sessions will be offered with a variety of topics to choose from, ranging from the arts to self development.

POWER SHOPPING STOREWIDE SAVINGS

PLUS, LOOK FOR THE RED BALLOON SIGN

take an
extra
50%
OFF



**NEW REDUCTIONS TAKEN ON
10 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF
FALL AND HOLIDAY ITEMS**

SAVE ON NAMES YOU KNOW AND LOVE

FINITY • AUGUST SILK • JEANNE PIERRE • JOSEPH A • KIKO • HOT COTTON • MARC WARE • NY • JOHN PAUL RICHARDS
MELROSE • ENZO • NINE WEST • VIA SPIGA • COLE HAAN • BOSTONIAN • BILL BLASS • PRESWICK & MOORE • HATHAWAY
ROBERT TALBOTT • JOSEPH ABBOUD • WOODS & GRAY • PRONTO UOMO • TRICOT ST. RAPHAEL • MOSSIMO
TIMBERLAND • ASHWORTH • PERRY ELLIS PORTFOLIO • SAVANE • CARTER'S • PK CLOTHING CO. • DUCK HEAD
PARISIAN BEBÉ • EAGLE'S EYE • FOSSIL • RICHELIEU • GIVENCHY • HANES • ANNE KLEIN II • AND MORE

P.A.R.I.S.I.A.N.

ALL FINAL SAVINGS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

See what's new at www.parsian.com

Sorry, we can't make price adjustments to previously purchased merchandise.
CALL 1-800-434-8188 TO ORDER ANYTIME. STORE HOURS: Laurel Park Place open Sun. 12-6, Mon. Sat. 10-9
FOR INFORMATION call 951-7500 CHARGE IT! Parisian Credit Card, MasterCard, Visa, the American Express® Card or Discover®
LOCATED AT LAUREL PARK PLACE IN LIVONIA, ON THE CORNER OF NEWBURGH ROAD AND SIX MILE ROAD (TAKE THE SIX MILE ROAD EXIT OFF INTERSTATE 75)



Accident decline

Stepped-up police work makes the difference

STORIES BY RICHARD PEARL

Traffic accidents declined in 1998 compared to 1997 in eight of the 10 communities in Wayne and Oakland counties served by the Observer Newspaper and local police mainly credited concentrated patrols for the improvement.

Re-engineering of intersections also got some credit, as did milder weather in 1998.

The figures, released by the Michigan State Police, also showed seven of the 10 communities had fewer personal injury accidents in 1998 than in '97.

The patrol figures come from statewide community police department reports.

The 1998 figures are the latest available from the MSP. The 1999 totals are expected in the spring, the department said.

Showing a reduction in total traffic accidents, according to the state police, were (in alphabetical order) Canton Township, Farmington Hills, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth Township, Redford Township, City of Wayne and Westland.

Communities with fewer personal-injury accidents were (also in alphabetical order) Canton, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth Township and Westland.

In raw numbers, Livonia, the most populous city in the group, also had the most accidents, with 4,280 in 1998, a drop of 6 percent from '97.

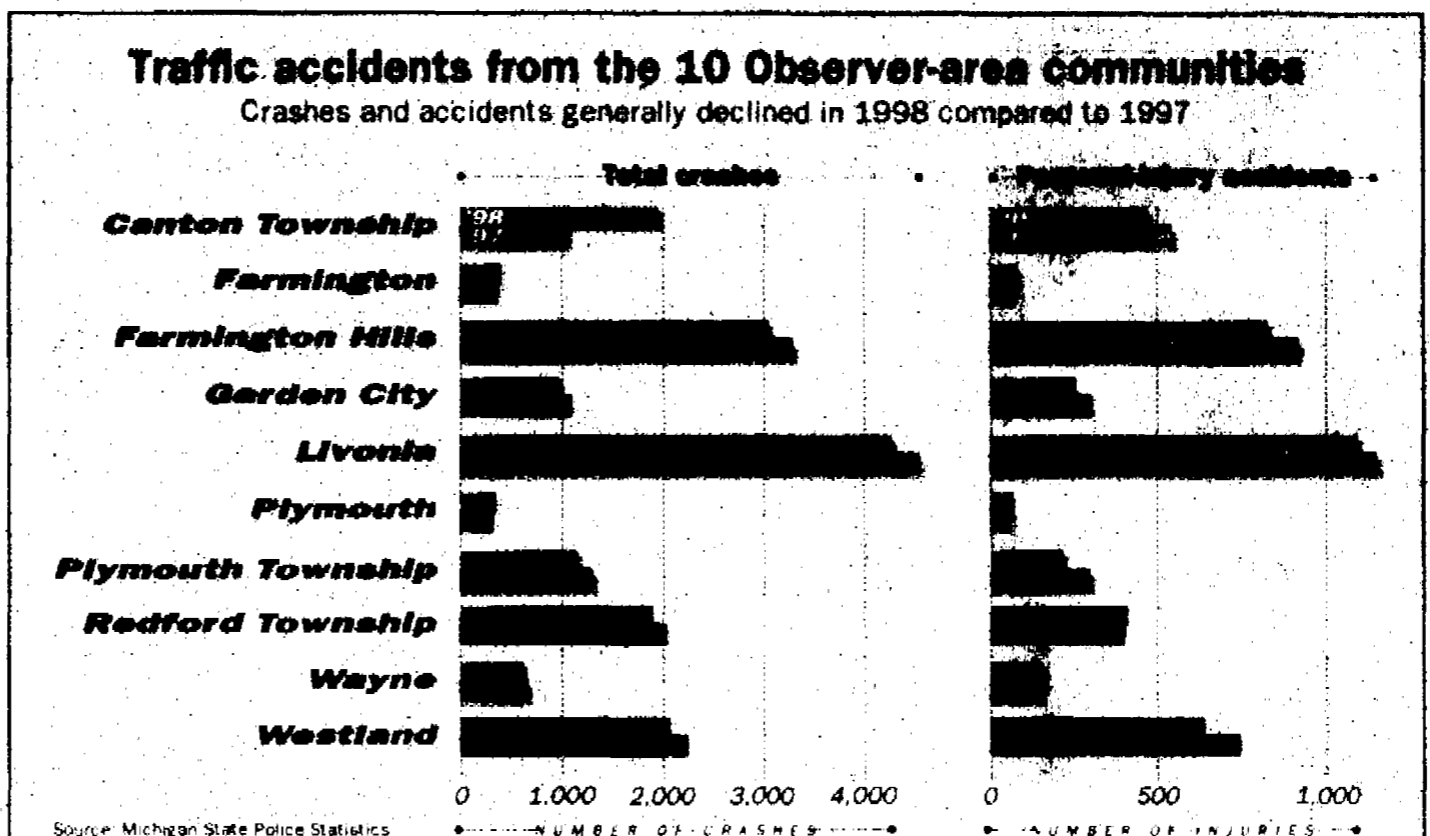
Rounding out the top five were Farmington Hills with 3,055; Westland 2,072; Canton 1,950 and Redford Township 1,882.

Livonia leads

Livonia also had the most personal-injury accidents in '98 with 1,101, followed by the Hills with 633; Westland 641; Canton 469 and Redford 407.

Garden City, however, led in percentage decline of total crashes with 12 percent - from 1,103 crashes in 1997 to 970 in '98.

In terms of personal injury accidents, Plymouth Township led with a decline of 26 percent - from



300 to 212. Garden City was second with an 18 percent decrease, from 308 in '97 to 254 in '98. Westland was third with a 14 percent decline (747 in '97 to 641 in '98).

Garden City Police Lt. Mel Maier said the decline in crashes there was due both to "stepped up active patrols in high-accident areas" and working with Wayne County and the state "to improve the engineering of intersections" - in particular the installation of left-turn signals at Middlebelt and Warren Roads and Middlebelt and Ford.

Maier said the signals "cut down dramatically" on left-turn accidents, especially at Ford and Middlebelt where fewer people ran red lights or turned left into oncoming traffic.

Maier said Police Chief Dave Harvey also put Officer Loren Zetti into afternoon traffic patrol, both to respond to traffic accidents and learn what area residents and business owners see as traffic problems.

The two top accident intersections in Farmington Hills in 1998 - 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads (95 crashes) and Orchard

and 14 Mile (92 accidents) - have begun benefiting from traffic-signal timing changes and should continue improving, according to Hills Traffic Bureau Lt. Gary Hawald.

He said the reconstruction of the Grand River and Halstead interchange with M-5, which "always used to be in the top five" in terms of wrecks, also seems headed for fewer crashes.

Other police departments said stepped-up traffic enforcement efforts, most funded by grants from the state and federal governments, and by overtime allotments, cut crashes.

Red runners

Canton Lt. Pat Nemecek said his Selective Enforcement Unit (SEU), working with regular patrol officers, targets intersections where drivers run red lights - most of them along Ford Road, which is the township's main east-west thoroughfare and its most congested street.

But the SEU officers also analyze the intersections to determine the type of accidents and why they're happening, he said. Such information helps the

township get improvements at intersections, he said, one of which may be a left-turn signal at busy Ford and Canton Center.

Chief Lawrence Carey in neighboring Plymouth Township said the township board in '98 approved additional funding for selective enforcement where most accidents occur - along Ann Arbor Road.

Carey said as a result, traffic stops increased from 6,820 in 1997 to 9,011 in '98, with total tickets issued jumping from 3,728 to 8,840.

That helped township police win a traffic award for enforcement from the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police in '98. The township effort is continuing, Carey added. Some 9,811 violations were issued in 1999.

A left-turn arrow at Lilley and the repaving of Ann Arbor Road this summer also will help the situation, he said.

Livonia Sgt. Wes McKee, Redford Officer Scott Corso, Wayne Officer Ken Kapanowski and Westland Sgt. Peter Brokas also attributed the decline in crashes to aggressive enforcement.

Seatbelt law takes effect March 10

Here's a "heads-up" for all Wayne and Oakland County drivers: Start getting used to wearing your seatbelt now - because stepped-up enforcement begins next week.

Although the new statewide seatbelt law doesn't take effect until March 10, police and sheriff's deputies in the two counties will conduct a "get-used-to" period running Feb. 6-19, according to Sgt. Pete Brokas of the Westland Police Department.

During that time, officers and deputies will enforce both speeding and seatbelt violations now in effect. "We'll be working with 20 other communities" in Wayne County, including the cities of Livonia and Detroit, Brokas said.

On March 10, not wearing a seatbelt will become a primary traffic violation, so next week's efforts will be aimed at educating the public toward that, he said.

When the seatbelt law becomes primary, it will mean officers can stop people for that violation alone, Brokas said. "You don't have to be speeding for us to stop you."

At present, seatbelt violations are ticketed only when discovered during a traffic stop for other violations such as speeding, registration or other violations.

During the "get-used-to" period, officers will target rush hours, mornings in particular, because police are seeing "more and more" serious

Please see LAW, A11

Courtesy could lead to trouble

Think you're being courteous when you stop in traffic to wave someone out of a parking lot? You're not. In fact, you're probably setting that someone up for an accident.

So says Gary Goss, director of public safety for Farmington.

"That's a trap," says Goss, because you could be blocking the other driver's vision.

The so-called "good deed" came up in an interview with Goss about traffic accidents and their causes.

To Goss, the practice of stopping to let someone into traffic was among many of the pet peeves he's acquired in his 29 years in the police business.

For instance, there was the

Please see COURTESY, A11

SUBURBAN FORD DEALERS

2000 FORD TAURUS SE

Safety, Security and Value

Current lessees can Re-Lease a 2000 Taurus SE

\$259

4 month 1 yr. 27 month 36 month lease. See dealer for details.

With \$2,495 customer cash due at signing.

Includes security deposit; excludes tax, title and license fee. Customer cash due at signing is net of all rebates.

2000 FORD WINDSTAR LX

Safety, Security and Value

Current lessees can Re-Lease a 2000 Windstar LX

\$225

4 month 1 yr. 27 month 36 month lease. See dealer for details.

With \$3,159 customer cash due at signing.

Includes security deposit; excludes tax, title and license fee. Customer cash due at signing is net of all rebates.

THE RIGHT CHOICE

www.suburbanforddealers.com

OPEN SATURDAYS TO SERVE YOU BETTER

(1) Some payments higher, some lower. Not all Lessees will qualify for lowest payment. For special lease terms and RCL Cash \$1500 RCL cash on 2000 Windstar, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 3/31/2000. RCL Cash may be taken in cash but is used towards down payment in example shown. Lease renewal cash of \$500 on Taurus and Windstar, only available to customers terminating their new Ford Division Red Carpet Lease and re-lease for 24 months by 3/31/2000. Leases terminated early qualify if terminated within program dates. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. Residency restrictions apply. See dealer for complete details.

<h3>VARSIY FORD</h3> <p>3480 Jackson Rd. 1-800-875-FORD ANN ARBOR</p>	<h3>ATCHINSON FORD</h3> <p>9800 Belleville Rd. 734-697-9161 BELLEVILLE</p>	<h3>GENE BUTMAN</h3> <p>2105 Washtenaw 734-482-8581 YPSILANTI</p>
<h3>BRIARWOOD FORD</h3> <p>7070 Michigan Ave 734-429-5478 SALINE</p>	<h3>HINES PARK FORD</h3> <p>130 S. Milford Rd. 248-684-1715 MILFORD</p>	<h3>FRIENDLY FORD</h3> <p>1011 S. Monroe 734-243-6000 MONROE</p>

Moms, sons share moments



Family fun: Joel Stimmer, 6, a student at Patchin Elementary, reacts to the performance of Nelson Pearson at the mother-son banquet. Behind is his mother, Jeanette. Pearson will perform at Winterfest Sunday.

Moms and sons at Patchin Elementary School love each other — and their time together.

About 125 moms and sons gathered at the school last Thursday for a mother-son banquet. Gina Toarmina was chairwoman for the PTA-sponsored event.

Nelson Pearson's Wildlife Safaris brought wild animals to the event, said Sandy Sonak, PTA president at Patchin.

SCHOOLS

"It was wonderful. They were captivated," she said of the boys.

People attending brought a dish to pass, with the school PTA providing some food and drink. The school will hold a father-daughter banquet Feb. 17, Sonak said, and will flip-flop next year with father-son and mother-daughter banquets.

She knows people had a good time last Thursday at Patchin. "Oh, I think they did."



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

Critter: Chris Karaim (left) and Lisa McGillis (center) react to touching a red tail boa constrictor at the Patchin Elementary mother-son banquet. At right, Diane and Joshua Wilson, 9, hold onto the snake brought by Nelson Pearson.

Sale of Cooper Elementary School site imminent

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

A developer will pay Livonia Public Schools \$500,000 for the chance to clean up and develop 37 contaminated acres.

A school district attorney revealed the selling price for the former Cooper Elementary School site on Ann Arbor Trail during a school board study session Monday.

"I think under the circumstances that is a very good price for the school district to obtain," said Gene Smary, district attorney.

The district and Bloomfield Hills-based Jonna Ventures Realty are expected to sign a purchase agreement soon, perhaps by the end of the week. Some "fine tuning" remains, Smary said.

Actual transfer of the abandoned school property could take a year to 18 months.

The deal hinges on several contingencies. The developer has to get brownfield authority financing, Department of Environmental Quality and city of Westland

zoning approval. The developer also must see an "acceptable" financial return.

As part of a due diligence clause, Jonna promises to do everything to see the deal through. The developer, which is expected to form a limited liability corporation, has already invested substantial money in the project, a district official said.

"Those are the two hooks, we have to make sure they move forward," said Randy Liepa, assistant superintendent for business.

Frank Jonna told neighborhood residents he wants to build for-sale units on 11 acres of the site's east portion. The remaining land would be capped and used for some type of recreation, Jonna said.

In 1991, the district closed the former Cooper Elementary building after discovering the school stood on a former landfill site.

Landfill materials are buried 3 feet deep on the 11 acres where the developer wants to build housing, an environmen-

tal consultant said.

The soil embedded with cinders, paper, wood, brick and glass could be moved and the land regraded. The remaining 26 acres would have to be capped. The depth of the cap as well as engineering and geo-technical evaluations will drive cleanup costs.

"It would be safe to say ... the remediation will be five to six times the cost of the actual purchase price," said Curt Cramer of the Novi-based Arcadis Geraghty & Miller environmental firm. "It's going to cost a lot more to clean up the property than it did to purchase it."

Other purchase agreement terms appeal to district officials.

If Jonna backs out, the Livonia school district gets to keep any environmental work done. That could be used to remarket the property, a district official said.

Another key feature is that the district is protected from future claims, Smary said.

Trustee Kirsten Galka asked why the property wasn't put up for public bid.

Consumers Renaissance Development

LIVONIA SCHOOLS

Corp., a nonprofit group that specializes in negotiating sales of brownfield sites, sought out Jonna Realty Ventures.

On behalf of the district, CRDC has been negotiating with the developer since December 1998.

A CRDC spokesman said developers who want to invest in contaminated sites are hard to find. CRDC has helped broker more than 70 sales statewide.

"In every case where we've gone through the RFP (request for proposal) process, it has been very unsatisfactory," said Bruce Rasher, CRDC vice president.

Price wasn't the main issue in the deal, Superintendent Ken Watson said. The key is getting the site redeveloped.

Trustee Dan Lessard agreed.

"What's sitting there now is worthless," Lessard said. "All we do is cut the grass and store furniture there."

Vote's likely

Livonia voters should decide whether public schools need new fieldhouses and athletic facilities, board trustees say.

With that purpose, Livonia schools trustees will likely vote to put a \$30 million bond issue on the April 10 ballot. Two tax renewal questions — 0.75 mill for operations and 1 mill for building and site — will also be decided.

During a study session Monday, trustees looked at language for the three ballot proposals. Their decision only involved putting the matter on the agenda at the board's regular meeting Feb. 7.

Voters will be asked to approve a tax of 0.4-mill for 25 years to raise nearly \$30 million for fieldhouses at the three high schools and athletic facility upgrades for middle schools.

If passed, the owner of a \$150,000 home would pay an extra \$30 a year in taxes.

For a Delivery
That is
State-of-the-Heart

MIRACLE
OF LIFE MATERNITY CENTER

State-of-the-heart is St. Mary Hospital's unique combination of advanced medical technology and the attentive personal care you've come to expect from us.

Our Miracle of Life Maternity Center's labor, delivery, recovery, and postpartum rooms (LDRPs) are fully equipped to help you have a safe delivery. Afterward, the room changes to a home-like bedroom. You rest and recover in the same comfortable, cozy room. The Center also features:

- 24-hour Neonatology Coverage
- All Private Birthing Suites
- Education and Support
- Lactation Consultants

To find a highly-trained caring obstetrician who delivers at St. Mary Hospital, call our Physician Referral Service at 1-888-464-WELL.

St. Mary Hospital Miracle of Life Maternity Center. Where care is state-of-the-art and state-of-the-heart.

St. Mary Hospital
36475 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154
www.stmaryhospital.org

For a tour or class information, call the Marian Women's Center
1-800-494-1615

Physician Referral Service 1-888-464-WELL

Boyne USA

Ski & Snowboard Express Rental

Stop by any Boyne Country Sports store and have a Bavarian Village ski and snowboard specialist properly fit you for your special package. Express Rental is also available on-line at www.boyne.com. Reserve now for President's Week.

Our Boyne team member will then send your specific rental info directly to Boyne Mtn. or Boyne Highlands.

Upon arrival, your equipment will be ready and waiting at the Express Rental Desk. No waiting, simply sign the agreement form, put on your boots and have fun!

www.boyne.com

Bavarian Village
SKI & SNOWBOARD SPECIALISTS

Travel
Call 1-800-778-9963

Official Vehicle of the Bavarian Village Ski and Snowboard Team

Visit your Metro Detroit Ford Outfitter

<p>BLOOMFIELD HILLS 2540 Woodward Ave (248) 338-0801</p> <p>NOVI 41261 Crescent Blvd (248) 341-1123</p> <p>DEARBORN 26112 Ford Rd (313) 562-5500</p> <p>MT. CLEMENS 1216 Greater Ave (919) 461-3621</p> <p>GROSSE POINTE 19435 Mack Ave (313) 885-0300</p> <p>ANN ARBOR 3334 Washtenaw Ave (734) 975-0140</p>	<p>EAST LANSING 741 E. Saginaw (313) 337-2070</p> <p>TRAVERSE CITY 1900 S. M. 231-234-3131</p> <p>PETOKEY 1200 Bertram Rd. (231) 439-4906</p> <p>BOYNE MOUNTAIN Boyne Mountain Rd. 800-GO-BOYNE</p> <p>BOYNE HIGHLANDS 100 Highlands Dr. 800-GO-BOYNE</p>	<p>DISCOUNT Boyne USA LIFT TICKETS</p>
---	--	---

Wheelchair access bill passes committee

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecom.net

Legislation to apply penalties to those who block wheelchair access aisles, curb cuts and ramps for the handicapped won unanimous approval last week from the state House Transportation Committee.

That puts House Bill 4995, sponsored by Rep. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, on a fast track for approval by the Legislature.

The bill will make it a civil infraction, carrying a \$100 fine, to block wheelchair access. It will allow police to tow vehicles from handicapped parking areas if necessary to provide wheelchair users access to and from their vehicles.

An access aisle is the yellow- or blue-lined space next to a handicapped parking spot that allows room for the operation of a wheelchair lift.

According to Dearborn resident Chris Mageli, some of the worst offenders can be other drivers who have handicapped parking placards themselves but don't realize the purpose of the yellow- and blue-striped access areas.

"There currently are no penalties for people who block or park in wheelchair access aisles," said Toy. "Likewise, no penalties exist for those who block a wheelchair curb-cut or ramp with their vehicle. Blocking these access areas has been a



State Rep. Laura Toy

significant problem for disabled citizens."

Bud Kraft of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council would agree.

"As a person with a disability, I can give you my personal assurance that this bill will help many people with disabilities," he said. He noted he would have been unable to attend the committee meeting if it had been held when originally scheduled back in December. "I was stuck in a parking spot when an inconsiderate driver blocked off the access aisle and prevented me from re-entering my vehicle," he said.

Courtesy from page A8

time on Telegraph Road that he saw a nicely dressed woman driving a Cadillac STS stop at a light, open the door - and spit. When he pulled alongside, he saw she was brushing her teeth as she drove.

"One of the principal problems we have," he says, "is that we have built our cars so well and so comfortable that people are not aware of how fast they are going and what's going on around them."

To that, Goss adds all the conveniences that isolate drivers even more, such as stereos with concert sound and complicated controls and carphones that let you read the stock report. "It's become very easy for someone to be distracted," he says.

"People have just picked up these habits," he says, and the lack of attention is "an area we need to concentrate on."

"Yes, cars are getting safer," Goss acknowledges. "But we still have a long, long way to go."

Goss likes to quote a friend who's a bank loan officer, but who sounds more like a cop.

"He always says, 'When you are seated behind the steering wheel of a car, you have one and only one job to do, and that's driving the car. Everything else is immaterial,'" Goss quotes.

"You don't have time to do anything else," emphasizes Goss. "And if you're coming to work sleepy, don't even get behind the wheel."

In discussing the well-intentioned courteous driver who stops in traffic, Goss says the Farmington Road-Nine Mile Road intersection is where this can easily happen. The numerous commercial driveways there, plus the M-5 exit nearby, make it among his city's most frequent accident sites due to all the turning that goes on.

There's always "a lot of people pulling out of driveways," he says, and "a lot of opportunity for something to go wrong."

"There are too many driveways - it's like a video game," he says. "You have to have eyes in the back of your head in some of these circumstances."

Goss agrees it's good to be courteous and "we have some very

courteous people out there.

"But to have somebody yield (right-of-way) to let someone pull out of a driveway, well, they're backing up traffic behind them. They're really playing traffic cop, making other people stop."

And, he says, they're setting up the person leaving the parking lot "for a trap" because their vehicle is blocking the other person's view of vehicles coming up in the next lane.

"It's better off to pull forward and block that person in than to give them an opportunity to exit" with only a limited-sight opportunity, Goss says.

You may just be wanting to give them a break, he says, but remember: "No good deed goes unpunished."

Law from page A8

accidents then, Brokas said.

Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano said his deputies also will emphasize the education aspect.

"We know that seatbelts save lives, so we will want to educate drivers to that, as well as making sure the drivers and their passengers are buckled up," he said.

In Oakland County, police and sheriff's deputies also will do special enforcement Feb. 6-19, according to Farmington Hills Police Lt. Gary Hawald.

"It will be a countywide operation," said Hawald, director of the Hills' traffic bureau.



UM-Dearborn lecture focuses on Sweet case

The violence that ensued when an African-American physician moved into an all-white neighborhood on Detroit's east side in 1925 is the topic of a lecture to be hosted by the University of Michigan Dearborn on Wednesday, Feb. 16. Kevin G. Boyle, associate professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, will give a talk titled "Rages of Whiteness: Race, Class and Murder in 1925 Detroit" at 4:30 p.m. in Auditorium B in the UM Dearborn School of Management.

Boyle will discuss the events surrounding the murder trial of Dr. Ossian Sweet and 19 other people. When Sweet and his family moved into an all-white neighborhood on Detroit's east side, their home was the target of violent demonstrations, fomented by "a cowardly campaign" organized by the Ku Klux Klan, according to Detroit Mayor John W. Smith. On the night of Sept. 9, when the home was surrounded by a hostile crowd numbering in the thousands, accord-

ing to witnesses, shots were fired from the home, killing one man and wounding another. Sweet and the other occupants of the house were arrested and charged with murder. In a trial that attracted national attention, Clarence Darrow defended Sweet and his friends and they were acquitted in November 1925.

Boyle earned his master's and doctoral degrees in history at the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus and has written several books including "Organized Labor and American Politics, 1894-1994: The Labor-Liberal Alliance," "Muddy Boots and Ragged Aprons: Working Class Life in Detroit, 1900-1930" and "The UAW and the Heyday of American Liberalism, 1945-1968."

A reception in the UM-Dearborn School of Management lobby will follow Boyle's presentation. Classes and groups are welcome to attend. Call Karen Holland at 313-593-5330 to reserve seats for groups.

THINKING ABOUT
A NEW FURNACE
LENNOX
FREE ESTIMATES
734-525-1930
UNITED TEMPERATURE
4919 ARBIDLETT • LIVONIA

CORRECTION
In The Right at Home Sale circular inserted in today's paper, we advertise "Save on All Towels, Bathmats & Bath Accessories. Royal Velvet" towels and bathmats will not be on sale this week. We apologize for this error, and any inconvenience it may have caused.
JCPenney

9th Annual
DEARBORN
HISTORIC GUILD ANTIQUE
SHOW & SALE
Saturday February 5, 2000
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday February 6, 2000
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Midwest Exhibitors Featuring Quality Antiques
Furniture, Clocks, Jewelry, Pottery, Advertising
Vintage Quilts, Home Glass, Primitive, The Brass
Select Collectibles
University of Michigan - Dearborn Fieldhouse
4801 Evergreen, Dearborn, Michigan
\$5.00 Admission
For Information Call (313) 566-5000
Free Parking

Be Mine
15-30% Off
For Your Valentine
Selected Madame
Alexander Dolls
All Cuddly Animals
& Hundreds of Toys
The Toy Store
4411 W. 13 Mile Rd.
Dearborn, MI 48124
Tel: 313-593-1219

Clearance Sale
10 DAYS ONLY
Hours:
Mon.-Wed. 10-6,
Th.-Fri. 10-8, Sat. 10-5
20% to 60% off
on in-stock and discontinued items
• Table Lamps • Track Lighting
• Outdoor Lighting • Ceiling Fans
• Chandeliers • And More!!
FREE package of light bulbs with this ad (no purchase necessary)
MASTER LIGHTING INC.
"for a Brighter Tomorrow... See Us Today"
44125 Ford Road • Canton
734-981-3666

After consolidating your bills, what would you do with the extra money?
LOSE IN JULY
SNOWBLOWER
BIGGER HOUSE
GET COLLEGE DEGREE
SILK EVERYTHING
SKI VACATION
STAYS & SANDS
There's so much you can buy and do after consolidating your bills with a Huntington Home Equity Credit Line, Home Equity Loan or Personal Loan. In fact, deciding how to use all your extra money each month may become part of the fun.
Call toll-free 1-877-480-2345 or visit e-Bank® at www.huntington.com
7.99% APR **8.50% APR**
Huntington
Banking Investments Insurance

New program sends smoking teens to the 'dog house'

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

Some 21 teenagers from several Wayne County communities began learning this past week-end that "if you smoke, you might go to the dogs."

So says Sheriff Robert A. Ficano, whose department is conducting "Operation Dog House," a program aimed at reducing teen smoking by discouraging youths from buying cigarettes and thereby breaking the law.

Under the program, teens caught buying smokes by undercover deputies are given a choice: Go to court with their parents, pay a fine and possibly have a juvenile record, or attend

a smoking cessation program and do some community service with the Michigan Humane Society.

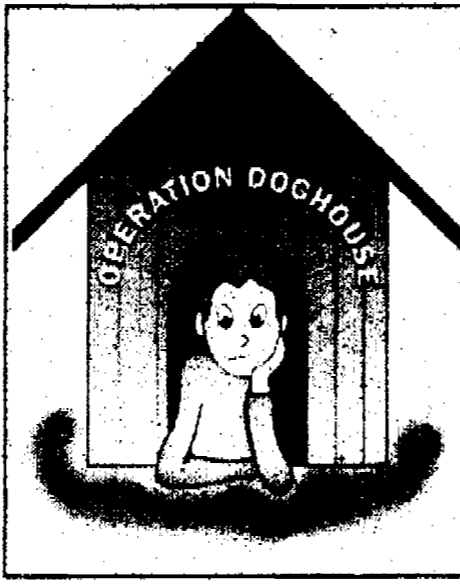
The 21 teens who chose the latter were among 25 from Livonia, Garden City, Plymouth, Redford Township and Taylor caught buying cigarettes since the undercover operation began Dec. 13, according to Ralph Kinney, sheriff's department deputy chief of staff.

They were caught by undercover deputies who were staking out retail stores near high schools five days a week, either Mondays through Fridays or Wednesdays through Sundays, Kinney said.

On Sunday, they began the Operation Dog House alternative, attending an eight-hour tobacco cessation program sponsored by the Wayne County Health Department and performing 16 hours of community service by cleaning the dog kennels at the Humane Society,



Robert Ficano



Ficano said.

"Parents love" Operation Dog House, said Kinney. "Most parents are shocked" to find out their child is smoking.

They also find out their offspring come up with some interesting excuses, Kinney said.

"One told officers he was given the cigarette by his parents, but

that he had to go outside to smoke," said Kinney. "His parents said that was not true."

"Another told his parents he was 'only holding the cigarette,' that it wasn't lit," Kinney related. "But when his parents asked, 'So why were you holding it?', he said he didn't know."

Some parents are even coming down with their kids for the community service portion "to emphasize the importance of it all," Kinney added.

The "parents are not happy to be having to do that on a Saturday," but they're doing it anyway, he said.

Operation Dog House is a pilot program by Ficano's department, which is the lead unit in a seven-county task force called Operation Nic-Net (Nicotine Net).

The task force, operating under a federally funded, state administered grant enabling sheriff's deputies from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lenawee,

Washtenaw, Monroe and Jackson counties to concentrate on retailers selling tobacco to minors, found retailers wanted the sheriffs to "look into youths smoking cigarettes, so we have been looking at places where kids are smoking cigarettes and try to get them into cessation programs," said Ficano.

"With children, (our intent is) to rehabilitate them and let them see how dangerous smoking is," the sheriff said.

Tobacco is "a legal product for adults and nobody is going to infringe on that," Ficano said. "But at the same time, it's a health issue for teens and eventually it becomes a health issue for insurance and everything else on down the line."

Although it's a \$50 misdemeanor for a minor to buy cigarettes, "We're not trying to build up (arrest) records, we're trying to educate youngsters, and this (Operation Dog House)

COUNTY NEWS

is a much more compelling way to do it," Ficano stated.

"Parents seem to be enthusiastic about" the alternative because "it doesn't create any (juvenile) record for youths, but at the same time it has a positive reinforcement of the consequences of their actions," the sheriff said. "If you smoke, you might go to the dogs."

Ficano added that one phase of Operation Nic-Net educates merchants about selling tobacco to minors while another phase covers enforcement, with undercover deputies going into stores with underage decoys who attempt purchases.

"At one time (non-compliance by merchants) was as high as 70 percent in Wayne County," the sheriff said. "Now it's close to 40 percent."

Program will answer questions about teaching programs

Persons interested in teaching as a career should plan to attend a meeting of the Future Teachers' Club at Schoolcraft College 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22.

Representatives from five area

colleges will explain their programs and answer questions. Students currently enrolled in the programs will share their perspectives.

The colleges are: Madonna University, Eastern Michigan

University, University of Michigan, Dearborn, Wayne State University and the University of Detroit Mercy.

The session will be held in McDowell Center, room 200 and light refreshments will be

served.

The meeting is free and open to anyone in the community interested in teaching. For information, call Sylvia Vukmirovich at (734) 462-4400, ext. 5203.

Golf outing set for June 26

The Sixth Annual St. Louis Center Celebrity Golf Outing will take place 1 p.m. Monday, June 26, at the Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth.

Golfers will play on the Golden Fox Championship Course. The

cost is \$350 per golfer or \$2,500 for hole sponsorship which includes 18 holes of golf for four people, lunch, dinner and prizes. For more information, call the St. Louis Center at (734) 475-8430.

All-wheel drive.
All-around luxury.



2000
mercury
mountaineer

Mercury Mountaineer V-8 AWD with Convenience group and Luxury group features include: 5.0L OHV V-8 engine • All-Wheel Drive • Power windows and door locks • Dual front airbags** • 4-wheel disc anti-lock brakes • Fingertip speed control with tap-up/tap-down feature • SecuriLock™ passive anti-theft system • Remote keyless entry • Electronic automatic temperature control

\$299 per mo.
cash due at signing
after \$1,500 cash back
\$3,499*
for returning lessees**
includes refundable security deposit
excludes tax, title and license fees

Mercury

Live life in your own lane

www.mercuryvehicles.com

Visit Your
Metro Detroit
Mercury Dealer

ANN ARBOR
Apollio
2100 W Stadium Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
734-556-6100

CLINTON TOWNSHIP
Stu Evans
17600 Hall Rd
Clinton Township, MI 48035
810-847-2000

DEARBORN
Krug
21531 Michigan Ave
Dearborn, MI 48124
313-276-8800

DETROIT
Bob Maxey
2691 Mack Ave
Detroit, MI 48216
313-885-4100

DETROIT
Park Motor
18100 Woodward Ave
Detroit, MI 48240
313-869-5000

FARMINGTON
Jack Demmer
33225 Grand River Ave
Farmington, MI 48334
248-474-3170

GARDEN CITY
Stu Evans
32000 Ford Rd
Garden City, MI 48135
734-475-4300

NOWI
Varsity
49251 Grand River
Nowi, MI 48463
800-850-NOWI-2664

PLYMOUTH
Hines Park
42601 Ann Arbor Rd
Plymouth, MI 48178
734-850-9000

ROCHESTER HILLS
Crisman
1185 South Rochester Rd
Rochester Hills, MI 48315
248-652-4200

ROSELLE
Arnold
28000 Great Rd
Roselle, MI 48067
810-445-6000

ROYAL OAK
Diamond
711 North Main Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067
248-541-8800

SOUTHFIELD
Star
14751 West 12 Mile Rd
Southfield, MI 48034
734-354-4900

SOUTHGATE
Stu Evans
16800 Fort Street
Southgate, MI 48068
734-285-8800

STERLING HEIGHTS
Crest
16200 Van Dyke
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
810-939-6000

TRIO
Bob Ernst
1310 West Maple
Trio, MI 48068
248-643-9900

WATERBURY
Mel Farr
4710 Highland Rd, M-19
Waterbury, MI 48329
248-881-9000

WESTLAND
See
11200 Westland
Westland, MI 48186
734-481-2000

*LEASE PAYMENT SUBJECT TO \$500 DEALER DISCOUNT AND VARIES BASED ON ACTUAL DEALER DISCOUNT. NOT ALL LESSEES WILL QUALIFY FOR THE LOWEST LEASE PAYMENT. SEE DEALER FOR QUALIFICATION DETAILS. Some payments higher, some lower. Residency restrictions apply. For special lease terms or cash back take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 3/31/2000. **Customers eligible for the \$750 lease renewal incentive must terminate their new or used Lincoln or Mercury by 3/31/2000. ***Always wear your safety belt and secure children in the rear seat.

ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS

Cheal-Ripperda

Robert Cheal and Sharon Barbara of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Gina Barbara, to Terence Vaughn Ripperda of Mountainview, Calif.

The bride-to-be is a University of Michigan senior majoring in cell and molecular biology. She works at the Kresge Hearing Research Institute in Ann Arbor.

Her fiancé, son of Christine Ripperda of Warren and Timothy Ripperda of Austin, Texas, is a 1998 graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in computer science. He works at Silicon Graphics Inc. in California.



A January wedding is planned in 2001.

Schwesing-Batchelder

Ron and Leslie Schwesing Jr. of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Joanne, to Jason Andrew Batchelder.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the Detroit College of Business and works as an area supervisor at Kohls Department Store.

Her fiancé, son of Margo Shields of Fort Wayne, Ind., has an associate of criminal justice degree from Schoolcraft Community College in Livonia. He works for GKN Center Metals in Romulus.



A June wedding is planned at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia.

Zarza-Puda

S. Ann Zarza of Livonia announces the marriage of her daughter, Teresea Ann, to Joseph K. Puda of Livonia.

The bride is a 1993 Madonna University graduate who is pursuing her master's degrees in nursing and business. She works as clinical manager at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit.

Her husband, son of Harry and Marie Puda of Olean, N.Y., graduated from Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y., in 1987, and from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. in 1989. He works as a mechanical engineer at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn.

The couple wed on Oct. 16 at St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia before the Rev. Gerald K. Flannery. Susan Platt was the matron of honor and bridesmaids included Kathryn Baughman, Margaret Hoban, Tammy Fox, and Flower Girl Alyssa Selasky. The bride's brother, Rob Zarza, escorted her down the aisle.



Tim Puda served as best man and groomsmen included John Puda, Gerry Candoloro, Greg Marcellin, ushers Ray Miller, Jr. and Sebastian Puda and ring bearer Matthew Puda. The couple received guests at the Italian American Banquet Center in Livonia and took a wedding trip to Australia. They are making their home in Livonia.

Kimmet-Zaske

Jim and Kate Kimmet of Ypsilanti announce the marriage of their daughter, Michele Christine, to Matthew Robert Zaske.

The bride is a 1997 graduate of Western Michigan University. She works at B.F. Goodrich Aerospace in Grand Rapids.

Her husband, son of Robert and Carolyn Zaske of Livonia, is a 1996 graduate of Western Michigan University and also works at B.F. Goodrich Aerospace in Grand Rapids.

A November wedding was held at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia before Pastor Luther Wirth. The matron of honor was Beth Seiler, and attendants included Charleen Long, Christine Coleman and Lilian DiGiacomo. The groom's brother, Todd Zaske, was best man and his attendants included Brian Kimmet, Scott Mackorcher and Michael Oleskcowitz.



A reception was held at the Meeting House in Plymouth. The couple took a trip to Los Cabos, Mexico and will make their home in Grand Rapids.

Stuebben-Hughes

Ronald and Margaret Stuebben of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Coleen Rita, to Thomas George Hughes.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Franklin High School and is employed at Comerica Bank.

Her fiancé, son of Burton Hughes of Westland and Janet Chapman of St. Clair Shores, graduated from Lutheran High North and Macomb Community College. He is employed at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

An October wedding is planned at Faith Lutheran Church.



Harrison-Levine

Gregory and Judy Harrison of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Louise, to Andrew Levine of Shingle Springs, Calif.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School. She obtained her bachelor's from Michigan State University and a master's degree in Anthropology from Kent State University.

Her fiancé, son of Roland and Nyla Levine of Scottsdale, Ariz., is a graduate of Fort Lewis College in Colorado and obtained a master's degree from the American Graduate School of International Management in Phoenix, Ariz.



An August wedding is planned at Weller's Carriage House in Saline.

Bargowski-Van Horn

Donna and Richard Bargowski of Canton announce the wedding of their daughter Jennifer Leigh Bargowski to Matthew John Van Horn, May 8, 1999 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia. The ceremony was officiated by the Reverend Dennis M. Bux.

The groom is the son of Ronald and Gail Van Horn of Petoskey and Clark and Cathy Keller of Northville.

The bride asked Cristi Blawieckens to serve as matron of honor and Carolyn Bill, Nicole Drake, Kendall Geeson, Sue Knight, Jill Mouton, Melissa Napolitano, Julie Oberhansly, Amanda Reuther and Amanda Van Horn as bridesmaids. Megan Reuther was the junior bridesmaid and Kelli Bargowski was the flower girl.

Brian Van Horn served as best man with Jim Anderson, Christopher Bargowski, Craig Bargowski, Dennis Bargowski,



Jeffrey Bargowski, Rich Bargowski, Greg Brown, Neil Carter, Steve Novak and Nate Southern as groomsmen. Richard Bargowski and Nicholas Bargowski were ring bearers. The couple received guests at a reception at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia before leaving on a honeymoon to Hawaii. They are making their home in Plymouth Township.

Knapp-Hebert

William A. and Susap Knapp of Grand Rapids announce the engagement of their daughter Laurie J. to Scott Patrick Hebert of Gladstone, Mich.

The bride-to-be is a 1993 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and a 1998 graduate of Grand Valley State University. She is currently working as a tournament assistant for the senior PGA Foremost Insurance Championship in Grand Rapids.

Her fiancé, son of Joe and Mary Hebert of Gladstone, is a 1987 graduate of Escanaba High School and earned his bachelor's degree from Ferris State University in 1992. He is a professional golfer employed by Fairways Only, Inc. in Gladstone.



An August wedding is planned in Leland, Mich.

GREAT IDEA!

Month 1

Maybe you're looking for a way to write the great American novel, or play cool games, or keep track of your inventory, or tackle some spread sheets.

So maybe it's time to expand your horizons.

Go global.

You know, hit the internet. Check out the news, information and entertainment in your own backyard and around the world. Shop your face off. Internet access through **Observer & Eccentric On-Line!** isn't going to cost you a bundle, either—just **\$15.95** per month and the first month is **FREE!** This includes **FREE** 24-hour, 7 day-a-week technical support and **FREE** software!

It's easy to sign up for O&E On-Line! In fact you can use your computer and log on to <http://oeonline.com/subscribe.html>

You'll hear from us with your new account within 48 hours after we hear from you.

Rather pick up a phone? That's cool.

Mention "On-Line 2000" when you call

734-591-0500 or 248-644-1100

Home Appliances

15-50% OFF

Regular retail prices. Excludes special purchases.

New shipments arriving every day!

Come in and see our great selection of home appliances, all at terrific low prices. You're sure to find just what you've been looking for, from washers and dryers to refrigerators and more!

Bring this ad in and get an **Additional \$20 off**

Purchase good through Sunday.

Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited by law. Any other use constitutes fraud. One coupon per purchase and applies to merchandise purchases only. Reduction taken off total purchase of \$100 or more. Offer valid in Sears Outlet Stores. Cash value .0001.

SEARS OUTLET STORE

SEARS WAREHOUSE OUTLET
12001 SEARS AVE
LIVONIA
1/2 MILE EAST OF MIDDLEBELL OFF PLYMOUTH RD
PHONE 422-5700
Now more ways to buy at Sears

Open 7 Days

PREVIOUSLY SELECTED MERCHANDISE NOT INCLUDED

Religious News from page B5

Church, 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia.

RELIEF EFFORT
The Archdiocese of Detroit, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services, is collecting monetary donations for the people of Venezuela, devastated by flooding that has left thousands dead or homeless. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-Venezuela Relief and sent to Christian Service Department, 305 Michigan Avenue (G5), Detroit, MI 48226-2605. For more information, call (313) 237-4689.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DAY
Church Women United of Suburban Detroit-West will host International Student Day, with a carry-in casserole luncheon 12:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia. International Students will speak about their homeland. The program is sponsored by the Livonia Rotary Club. Bring one casserole for each three persons attending and paper products for the First Step Program. Call (313) 537-5251.

BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN
This is a Bible Study for women who want to live holy lives and are always on the lookout for help to spiritual maturity. "Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People" will be offered from 7-8 p.m. for 10 weeks (started Feb. 2) at the Plymouth Church of Nazarene located at 45801 Ann Arbor Road. Each week we will explore down-to-earth answers for problems related to making things right with others, forgiving those who have hurt you, conquering impure thoughts, winning the battle with pride and selfish ambition, learning to be totally honest and transparent. Call the church office at 453-1525.

SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES
Talk It Over meets from 7:30-

9:30 p.m. on the second Friday of the month in Knox Hall in Ward Church. Ministries Showcase 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, Sanctuary at church. Hear Phillips, Craig and Dean, a free concert. Offerings accepted; Single Parenting Ministry meets 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the parlor, room C317 and C319, at the church. A free meal is served before the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Speakers or open discussion in a friendly, supportive and encouraging atmosphere. Free child care provided; Lighthouse Cafe, a coffee-house setting, is offered 7-10 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in Knox Hall. The cost is \$5; all events provided by Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile Road, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

BLOOD DRIVE
The Red Cross will be operating a blood drive 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6 at St. Edith's Parish, 15089 Newburgh Road in Livonia. Walk-ins welcome.

VEGAS NIGHTS
St. Edith Church will sponsor Las Vegas Nights, 7:30 p.m. to midnight, Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5 at the church, 15089 Newburgh road, Livonia. Admission is \$1 and maximum payout will be \$500, under license number F23263. Proceeds go to general fund. Call (734) 464-1222. St. Theodore Parish will host its Las Vegas Nights 6 p.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5 at the church, 8200 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Admission is \$2. Parking is free. Beer, food and refreshments available. The program is presented by St. Theodore Men's Club & Confraternity of Christian Women under the license number F23265. Play Black Jack, Easy Craps, Roulette, and the Money Wheel. Maximum win is \$500 per person. Call (734) 728-0607.

TAI CHI CLASSES
The Taoist Tai Chi Society, a

nonprofit organization, is forming new, beginner Tai Chi classes, at 38121 Ann Arbor Road, Livonia. St. Paul United Methodist Church in Bloomfield and Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. Observers welcome. For more information, call the Taoist Tai Chi Society at (248) 332-1281. Tai Chi is a complete and integrated exercise which works all of the body's systems deeply and gently, making it an exercise suitable for persons of all ages and conditions of health.

EVENING FOR ST. GENEVIEVE
St. Genevieve Church of Livonia will host "An Evening for St. Genevieve" from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, Feb. 18 at the Italian American Club (Five Mile west of Newburgh). The event will include dinner, raffle, dancing and silent auction. \$45 per person includes dinner, dancing and open bar. Tickets available after Mass and from the Rectory Office - Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Reservations and information can be provided by calling Dan Blasko (734) 525-3780 or Jack Farrow (734) 464-7843. St. Genevieve Church is located at 29015 Jami-sun Ave. in Livonia.

WOMEN'S RETREAT
Calvary Baptist Church will have a women's retreat, "Choosing to Be God's Woman," Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5, at the church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Sessions include "Choosing to Be God's Woman," "Choosing to Trust," "Choosing to Be What God Wants Me to Be" and "Sharing Christ in Familiar Places." The retreat will be held 7-9:15 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The \$20 ticket price includes all of the seminar sessions, snack, continental breakfast and a boxed lunch. To register, call (734) 455-0022.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY
Marriage and family will be

taught by Father George Shalhoub, pastor of St. Mary Orthodox Church in Livonia. The purpose of these series of classes is to take an in-depth look at the necessary characteristics that play vital roles in marriage and family life. They are available to both these couples either considering marriage or presently married. Single or divorced individuals are also encouraged to attend this 10-week class that meets from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, 18100 Merriman Road in Livonia. Call (734) 422-0010 to register. Topics include: The Institutional Family; The Process of Developing Healthy Relationships; What is Love?; Marriage: Why it is a Sacrament; and more. Series begins Feb. 3 and concludes March 30.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT
Miriam Jerris, M.A. and Rabbinic Candidate with the Birmingham Temple will lead a 1-2 hour session workshop and support group to celebrate and strengthen your relationship. The class is open to married couples (of any faith), newly married couples, couples married for many years or engaged couples who want to learn the skills necessary for a healthy and satisfying relationship. Cost is \$150 per couple. Classes begin Feb. 29. Call now to register, (248) 543-7496.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience for married couples to improve their communication skills, learn the value of intimacy and renew their love for each Feb. 11-Feb. 13 and March 10-12 at the St. John's Family Life Center, 44011 Five Mile, Plymouth Township. The registration fee is \$50. Call Bill and Carol at (248) 528-2512 or Dan and Debbie at (810) 286-5524 or visit this Web site: www.rc.net/detroit/wme. Listen for "The Marriage Journey" 8:30-9 a.m. Sundays on WCAR 1090 AM.

HEALING SERVICE
The Church of the Risen Lord presents a healing service at 7:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month at the church, 821 N. Newburgh Road, south of Ford Road, Westland. The service, led by the Rev. Gary Seymour, is part of the series of healing services, "Rise and Come Forward." For more information, call the church office at (734) 397-7132.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
Garden City Presbyterian Church is offering a contemporary worship service at 9:15 a.m. the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the church, 1841 Middlebelt Road, between Ford and Cherry Hill roads, Garden City. The contemporary service offers upbeat music and an informal atmosphere.

CHURCH FUND-RAISER
Clarenceville United Methodist Church is selling Entertainment passbooks to raise money for the church. The coupon books cost \$40 and are available by calling Jim Robinson at (248) 347-1535 or the church office at (248) 474-3444.

REMARIED GROUP
The Remarried Ministries of Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville offers an informal, drop-in support group for those struggling with the issues of a blended family. The group is hosted by the Rev. Paul Clough and meets 7-8:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month in Room C309 of the church, 40000 Six Mile Road at Haggerty Road. There is no cost and registration isn't necessary. For more information, call Stacy Cole at (248) 374-5912.

CONFIDENTIAL HELP
Have a problem? Need to talk? Life Care Ministries of Livonia offers a free, confidential and anonymous Christian telephone listening service 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call (734) 427-LIFE.

The Thrift Shop, sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, has opened a new location at 494 N. Mill St., one block north of Plymouth Road, Plymouth. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call the store at (734) 459-1250 or e-mail the church at fxp@juno.com.

RITE OF INITIATION
Adults interested in joining the Catholic church are invited to "inquire" at the ongoing Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at St. Theodore of Canterbury Church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The process is open to any interested adult including baptized Catholics who have not completed their initiation with First Communion and/or Confirmation. For more information, call Lorraine Short, pastoral minister, at (734) 425-4421.

EARLY CHILDHOOD
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church offers an early childhood program, a day care program for toddlers age 18 months to 3 years. The program is available full or half days Monday through Friday. Children have organized and spontaneous activities - all hands-on and interactive. The program is state-certified and offered at the church, Farmington Road, north of I-275. For more information, call (734) 513-8413.

HISPANIC CHURCH
The Hispanic Pentecostal Church holds worship 2 p.m. Sundays. Call (248) 471-5282.

LIFE CARE MINISTRIES
Have a problem? Need to talk? Call Life Care Ministries for a Christian perspective (734) 427-LIFE Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. excluding holidays. Anonymous Confidential Free.

Looking for a new home? Read the Observer real estate section every week

The people you need will be there, will you?

Observer & Eccentric
HOME TOWN
Newspapers
Job Fair 2000

Burton Manor Livonia Wednesday March 29 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

We continue to receive many positive comments about our first three Job Fairs and want you to experience personally how effective they are. If you've participated in the past, you've already discovered their value to your recruitment program. We're pleased to offer you this opportunity to be part of our fourth Job Fair and save at the same time!

OUR MARCH 29 JOB FAIR IS \$725 and includes:

- One quarter page ad in our official JOB FAIR supplement with distribution to more than 260,000 homes / An 8-foot skirted table and chairs (no booths please) / Box lunches for two (2) staffers (additional lunches available for \$12 each) / Inclusion in all Fair advertising and editorial in The Observer & Eccentric, HomeTown and Mirror Newspapers / Inclusion on our Web Sites promotion of the Job Fair / Radio promotion on 20 stations / An excellent opportunity to meet prospective employees

To reserve your space or for more information, call **734-953-2070**

NEW LOCATION!

We must receive your payment no later than March 1, 2000



Ugliest Bathroom Contest

Sponsored By 760 WJR, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Building Industry Association and Mathison Supply of Livonia, Garden City and Canton.

Win A \$10,000 Dream Bathroom!

Take a photo of your ugly bath room and bring it into any Mathison Supply store or mail it to WJR Ugliest Bathroom Contest, 2100 Fisher Building, Detroit, MI 48202. The winner's bathroom will be upgraded with new fixtures, tile, medicine cabinet and accessories with a value of up to \$10,000. And, be sure to visit the WJR and Mathison Supply booths at.

THE 2000 HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW
NOVI EXPO CENTER
FEBRUARY 3-6, 2000

- Air Massour Massage Bathtub by Jason
- Bath Cabinetry by Bertsch
- Faucets by Harden
- Ultra-Flush Toilet By Gerber
- The Tub Surround
- Installation by Complete Home Improvement
- And More!

HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW

All entries become the property of WJR. No cash equivalents. Judges' decisions final. Purchase necessary. Winner will be announced May 13, 2000.

Employees of WJR Radio, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, BIA and Mathison Supply are not eligible to enter.

Technology can be very useful in learning about different denominations

SPREAD THE WORD



PASTOR
CARLA
THOMPSON
POWELL

If you feel like you're missing something in your life these days, maybe you are. Many people describe their lives as endless repetition of the "same stuff - different day" or as a roller coaster that won't stop.

We all need to take time from the hustle and bustle and connect with a spiritual or religious center, worshipping God in whatever way we find meaningful. Today's technology has provided a unique opportunity to explore issues of religion, spirituality, and faith before we even step foot in a church, synagogue, mosque or temple.

One of the broadest religious sites available today is www.beliefnet.com. It includes information on all major religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. Although it's thorough, it might be a little overwhelming if you don't know what to look for.

Two sites could act as launching pads for a whole host of topics:

www.crosswalk.com ("Where faith intersects with life")

www.tbcl.com (The Best Christian Links - "a Christian directory to the best Christian Web sites")

Both offer e-mail, chat forums, movie guides and news. Crosswalk offers a web filtering program to screen you children's Internet experiences. TBCL features web hosting, free digital postcards and cartoons. Both offer channels for every aspect of Christian life and search engines for anything related to Christianity.

Another place to start is www.sharingfaith.org. This site

is hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (E.L.C.A.) and contains information for people seeking faith. Sharing Faith has answers to basic life questions, stories of faith from individuals, ways to get involved in exercising your faith, public bulletin boards for youth and young adults, daily devotions, Bible study and a link to ELCA's homepage.

The American Bible Society offers www.forministry.com "equipping the church online." It has a directory of congregations

and denominations in the United States. Not all congregations are listed, but all major denominations are itemized and most have congregation locator tools.

Wealth of resources

If you are looking for details about a particular Christian denomination, check out their official sites. Some examples include:

www.ecusa.org (Episcopal Church in the USA)
www.elca.org (E.L.C.A.)
www.lds.org (The Mormons)

www.pcusa.org (Presbyterian Church - USA)

www.umc.org (United Methodist Church). Most offer outlines of what they believe, directories of congregations, faith statements and links to official ministries.

Many congregations today have Web sites that outline their ministries, programs, mission statement and upcoming events. Most include information about the staff and frequently include upcoming or previous sermons. Some even offer general help or

spiritual inspiration. The Web site Timothy Lutheran Church in Livonia maintains can be found at

www.timothyivonia.com. You'll find all of these features plus weekly devotions, newsletter and a special section for families, kids and teens. What a congregation chooses to put on or leave off their Web site can tell you a lot about the atmosphere there.

Once you've done some online investigating, don't stop there. Faith and spirituality are meant to be shared and experienced in

community. Your personal religion can only take you so far. After exploring online, choose a place to attend and find out all you can to prepare yourself. Do some soul-searching on your own and then get out and try it. Your soul is worth it!

Pastor Carla Thompson Powell has been with Timothy Lutheran Church (E.L.C.A.) of Livonia since September 1996. She and her husband, Darryl, and their child make their home in Livonia. She can be reached via e-mail at tlivonia@netzero.com

Professor to speak on imaging God

Professor J. Richard Middleton of Colgate Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, N.Y., will present "Created in God's Image: A Biblical Perspective" at Trinity Church in Livonia. A professor of Old Testament Interpretation, Middleton will speak from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at Trinity Church.

Middleton will explore issues in three parts. The morning ses-

sion, "Imaging God ... in the World-view of Genesis 1," will be followed by an extended time for discussion. After lunch, the topics

"Imaging God ... in Exile" and "Imaging God ... as an Ethical Calling" will be considered.

Middleton will also preach on "The Feast of Fools" 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, at the church. The sermon is open to the public.

Middleton is currently working on a book titled "The Liberating Image" on humanity as the image of God. He and co-author Brian Walsh completed "The Transforming Vision: Shaping a Christian World View" (InterVarsity Press, 1984) and "Truth is Stranger Than It Used to Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age" (InterVarsity Press, 1995). The latter won a 1996 Book of the Year Award from *Christianity Today* magazine.

Tickets for the conference cost \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

Students and members receive a \$5 discount. Groups of 10 or more may purchase tickets in advance for \$12 each. Lunch is not included.

Trinity Church is an Evangelical Covenant Church located at 14800 Middlebelt Road, north of I-96 and south of Five Mile Road in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2800 for advance registration and information.



Middleton

— 15 MONTH CD —

6.15% APY

At this rate
you can really
grow your money.

\$10,000 minimum deposit. Limited time offer.

**And you may qualify for no monthly
maintenance fee checking.* Act now.**

Call toll-free 1-877-480-2345
or visit e-Bank® at www.huntington.com

Huntington

Banking. Investments. Insurance.

Member FDIC. Minimum balance to open and obtain Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is \$10,000 (\$2,000 for IRA CDs). A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. For personal accounts with less than \$10,000, there is no APY. Earnings on the account. Other yields available depending on maturity terms and amount of initial deposit. APY can vary and is subject to change without notice. Not available with any other bank. ©2000 Huntington Bank. *Minimum Total Relationship Balance requirements must be met. There is a \$25 minimum deposit required to open a checking account. Not applicable to Huntington Access Account. Huntington Bank is a member of the FDIC. All services provided by Huntington Bankshares Incorporated. ©2000 Huntington Bankshares Incorporated. Financial services provided by Huntington Bankshares Incorporated.

Observerland tournament from page C1

repeated as the 112-pound champ. "I was fairly confident I was going to win it. I wasn't sure I'd get MVP; that was an added bonus."

A year made a big difference for Gunterman, who came out of nowhere to win last year but was the obvious No. 1 seed this year.

"Last year it was a surprise," he said. "Last year I beat a few kids I wasn't supposed to beat and won it. This year (CC's Chris) O'Hara was the only one I hadn't wrestled."

Gunterman faced O'Hara, who knocked out No. 2-seeded Dan Tondreau of Clarenceville, in the final and won a 10-4 decision over the taller wrestler.

"It's hard to turn a kid like that, because you can't really get leverage on him," Gunterman said. "That's why it was tough riding him. I pinned the other two, but the final match was pretty tough."

Gunterman is 26-0 and hoping to repeat his state-meet success of a year ago. His Observerland victory was a springboard to an eventual state championship in 1999.

"I'd love to be an undefeated state champion," he said. "That's my plan, my goal. Last year, after I won (at Observerland), my confidence was way up. It really got me going. This was pretty much the spark last year."

The 152-pound final pitted defending champs Kharbush (29-2) and Churchill's Mike Carter (27-2) against each other, with Kharbush winning decisively on a 9-3 decision.

Kharbush, who won at 135 last year, had been anticipating the matchup ever since he learned he and Carter, who was the champion at 145 a year ago, would likely meet sometime.

"I'd been waiting for that match since the start of the season; I wanted to prove everybody wrong," said Kharbush, who was ranked and seeded second behind Carter.

"I was so pumped up for that match, because I've been waiting to wrestle him so long. I couldn't sleep last night. Even in my other matches I wasn't that focused. It was all geared toward my final match."

Kharbush, who pinned his first two opponents, was in control of the championship bout all the way and used his upper-body strength to his advantage.

"When I took a shot, I wanted to make sure I finished it solid and quick, because he has a nice defense," Kharbush said. "When he took a shot, I wanted to kick my legs out as fast as I could and get out as soon as I could, because I knew he could finish it."

"The key to beating him was to score off his shots and make sure he didn't. That was

my game plan."

Kharbush qualified for state last year but didn't place. His goal is to place as high as he can this year.

"This is definitely motivation," he said. "Whether I go 52 or 60, this definitely makes me feel closer and closer to that goal."

Stevenson and Salem had three champions apiece. Chris Cooperider also won for the Spartans at 145. The Salem winners were Ron Thompson (119), Rob Ash (125) and Josh Henderson (140).

Canton's Kyle Pitt (103) and Phil Rothwell (189) won titles as did Westland John Glenn's Jeff Albrecht (130) and Wayne Memorial's Nick Smith (215). Pitt improved his record to 30-0.

Henderson had a close match with Canton's John Pocock in the finals. A stalling point for Pocock put him within a point of Henderson, 5-4. The Chiefs thought Pocock should have been given takedown points, but the official ruled time had expired.

"I thought (CC) wrestled great and deserved to win. So did Stevenson, in finishing second," Canton coach John Demsick said. "I don't think we got seeded up to our ability, but we didn't wrestle to our ability, either."

"But having 10 guys who placed is still a solid performance."



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL


Locked In: Wayne's Jon Gregg (top) lost in overtime to Salem's Rob Ash, the eventual champ at 125 pounds.

Weight	Champion	Runner-up	Third Place	Fourth Place
103	Kyle Pitt (Canton)	Phil Rothwell (Westland)	John Glenn (Westland)	Jeff Albrecht (Westland)
112	Dan Tondreau (Clarenceville)	Chris O'Hara (Canton)	John Pocock (Canton)	John Henderson (Canton)
125	Rob Ash (Salem)	Josh Henderson (Salem)	Chris Cooperider (Spartans)	John Pocock (Spartans)
135	Mike Carter (Churchill)	Kyle Pitt (Canton)	John Pocock (Canton)	John Henderson (Canton)
145	Chris Cooperider (Spartans)	John Pocock (Spartans)	John Henderson (Spartans)	John Pocock (Spartans)
152	Mike Carter (Churchill)	Kyle Pitt (Canton)	John Pocock (Canton)	John Henderson (Canton)




STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Two to tango: Churchill's Kyle Malo (front) won this 103-pound semifinal match against CC's Adam Stacey.




DETROIT PISTONS

COME SEE GRANT AND STACK TAKE ON




SHAWN KEMP & THE CAVS
TOMORROW FEB 4 • 8 PM



248.377.0100

SUPER BOWL 5-KILOMETER RACE RESULTS

Year	Weight	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	
2000	Male 1-19	Edward Traynor	16:54	Doug Gibbons	17:48	Eric Mink	18:54
	Male 20-24	Matthew Fecht	19:34	Michael Walker	21:04		
1999	Male 1-19	Stephanie Early	23:48	Daniell Smith	24:57	Ann Germaine	
	Male 20-24	Kurt Brinker	16:44	Mark Hoffman	17:00	Matt Hoffman	
1998	Male 1-19	Edward Traynor	16:54	Doug Gibbons	17:48	Eric Mink	
	Male 20-24	Matthew Fecht	19:34	Michael Walker	21:04		
1997	Male 1-19	Stephanie Early	23:48	Daniell Smith	24:57	Ann Germaine	
	Male 20-24	Kurt Brinker	16:44	Mark Hoffman	17:00	Matt Hoffman	



AFFORDABLE FAMILY FUN!

Saturday February 5th vs. 98-99 Midwest Division Champion Guelph Storm

***Tuesday February 8th vs. Division Rival Sarnia Sting**

Games start at 7:30

COMPUWARE SPORTS ARENA
14900 Beck Rd. • Plymouth
(Just North of M-14)
(734) 453-8400
www.plymouthwhalers.com



BURTON'S

BATH and KITCHEN REMODELING

- Licensed Master Plumber
- Ceramic Tile Installed
- Quality Materials and Workmanship

FREE ESTIMATES
Visit Our Full Kitchen and Bath Showroom

(Same location since 1978)
34234 Michigan Avenue
Wayne, Michigan 48184
(734) 722-4170

Stevenson duo bound for Western Michigan

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemon@oe.homecomm.net

SOCCER

Sounds like a familiar song, but two more girls are headed to Kalamazoo — the Western Michigan University women's soccer program to be exact.

Two mainstays on the Livonia Stevenson girls soccer team, defender Cheryl Fox and forward Megan Urbats, will sign NCAA letters-of-intent this week with the Lady Broncos.

Observerland has become quite a pipeline for WMU.

Two other area players — Abi Morrell (Plymouth Canton) and Jamie Coyle (Plymouth Salem) — are also reportedly signing this week with WMU.

Fox, considered one of the top marking defenders in the state, was a first-team All-Observer selection in 1999. She will be entering her fourth varsity season and has been a part of two state championship runs (1997 and 1998) along with one runner-up finish (1999). Last year she scored six goals and had nine assists.

Urbats, a second-team All-Area pick, was the Spartans' second leading scorer (behind Lindsay Gusic) with 17 goals and 12 assists. Urbats, who also considered Oakland University and Aurora College (Ill.) will be entering her third season on the Stevenson varsity.

The two have been close friends since the ninth grade when they played basketball together.

Fox was also a member of the Stevenson varsity basket-

ball team, while Urbats is currently a member of the school's varsity volleyball team.

"I knew Cheryl was going all along and we really didn't plan to go together, but it makes it better that she's going to be there," said Urbats, whose brother Jeff played one season for the Broncos' men's soccer team. "I really liked the campus and I like the coach (Mike Haines)."

Fox felt comfortable going to Kalamazoo because her sister, Teri, a Stevenson grad, plays softball at K-College.

Fox plans to major in business, while Urbats has aspirations of going into the nursing or medical field.

WMU, in its fifth year of varsity women's soccer, just completed a 10-8-1 campaign under second-year coach Mike Haines. The Lady Broncos finished sixth in the Mid-American Conference with a 5-5-1 record.

The Broncos' roster is loaded heavily with Observerland players including leading scorer Kersten Conklin, a freshman forward from Livonia Churchill; Mary Gignac, a freshman forward from Farmington Hills Mercy; and Shawn Chipelewski, a junior defender-midfielder from Garden City.

Graduating seniors Angela Pandoff (Stevenson) and Kerri Verardi (Churchill) each recently earned their fourth varsity letters.

Table of sports schedules for various teams including Stevenson, Farmington Hills, and others, listing dates and times.

Schoolcraft's depth difference in lopsided victory vs. Macomb

Schoolcraft College used its depth to earn its 10th straight men's basketball victory Saturday with a 99-65 triumph at home over Macomb CC.

SC is 16-4 overall and 9-0 in the Eastern Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

Macomb fell to 4-14 overall, 2-8 in the conference.

Nine players scored in the first half and 11 of 12 in the game for the Ocelots, who have not lost since Dec. 18.

Quentin Mitchell and Chris Colley each scored eight points in the first half and Nick Evola netted seven as SC opened up a 42-23 lead by the intermission.

After that, it was just a matter of how much the final margin of victory would be.

Evola led five Ocelots who scored in double figures with 17 points. Mike Williams added 16 (14 in the second half), Robert Brown and Colley scored 13 apiece, and Mitchell finished with 10.

Macomb got a game-high 23 points from Reno Thompson — 18 in the second half, when the outcome was no longer in doubt — and 18 from Joe

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

Kohl. The Ocelots made a season-best 27-of-32 free throws for the game (84.4 percent).

•CONCORDIA 92, MADONNA 75: Concordia College (7-17, 4-4), behind Brandon Beikus' sharpshooting from three-point range, defeated Madonna University (3-21, 1-7) in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference game on Saturday.

Beikus lit it up from three-point land against visiting Madonna, nailing 10-of-15 triples to finish with a game-high 36 points. Teammate Dave Benke collected 28 points and 11 rebounds for the Cards, who led 54-37 at the half.

Madonna was paced by Mike Massey with 27 points. Chad Putnam (Redford Thurston) had 20 points and six rebounds, while Dan Kurtinartis added nine points and four assists.

The Cards attempted an incredible 46 three-pointers, making 16 (34.8 percent). The Crusaders were 7-of-21 from three-point range (33.3 percent).

Madonna hit 52.8 percent of its shots (28-of-53) compared to Concordia's 46.5 percent (33-of-71), but 17 Crusader turnovers (the Cards had nine) led to a 23-8 Cardinal advantage in points off turnovers.

Madonna trumps Cards, 62-47

Madonna University's women's basketball team certainly knew how to finish Saturday against Concordia College.

On Saturday, the Crusaders capped a superb defensive effort with an 8-3 run over the last seven minutes of the first half, then ended the Cardinals' hopes for a comeback by scoring the game's final 11 points over a four-minute span in a 62-47 victory.

The win improved Madonna's record to 9-11 overall, 3-5 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Concordia is 11-9 overall, 3-5 in the WHAC.

Defense was the difference for the Lady Crusaders.

They limited the Cardinals to 15-of-54 shooting from the field (27.6 percent), including a paltry 5-of-21 in the first half (23.8 percent). Madonna made 23-of-53 from the floor (43.4 percent).

Concordia also committed six more turnovers, resulting in a 17-8 Crusader advantage in points off turnovers.

Michelle Miela was red-hot for Madonna, mak-

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

ing 7-of-9 floor shots, including 3-of-4 three-point tries. She finished with a game high 22 points.

Chris Dietrich added 11 points, six rebounds and two blocked shots; Kristi Fiorenzi (from Plymouth Canton HS) had 10 points and 10 boards.

Kristy Bilbie topped Concordia with 18 points, nine rebounds and three blocks.

•SCHOOLCRAFT 59, MACOMB CC 40: A solid first half, followed by a 10-2 run midway through the final 20 minutes Tuesday, allowed Schoolcraft College (6-9, 5-3) to subdue visiting Macomb CC (3-6, 4-13).

SC pulled away from a 32-27 halftime tie by limiting the Monarchs to 13 second-half points. Janelle Olson led the Ocelots, who had 11 three-pointers in the game, with 19 points, including four triples. She also had five assists.

Antone' Watson contributed 17 points, five threes, nine assists and five rebounds. Carla Saxton had 20 points and six boards, and Carly Wright (Garden City) gathered nine rebounds.

INTERNET ADDRESS DIRECTORY

Find these sites on the World Wide Web • Brought to you by the services of O&E On-Line!

Table listing various services under the heading 'ON-LINE!' including Accounting, Advertising, Art Galleries, etc.

Table listing various services including Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, Children's Services, Community Organizations, etc.

Table listing various services including Flooring, Frozen Desserts, Galleries, Government, Health Care, etc.

Table listing various services including American Classic Realty, Real Estate Agents, Real Estate Appraisal, etc.

Put your business On-Line!, call 734-953-2038



GRAND OPENING

CONTINUES

MADISON HEIGHTS!



OUR PRICE GUARANTEE

If you should find a lower price on an identical item we stock from any other local retailer we'll not only meet that price

WE'LL BEAT IT BY 10%

on the spot just for bringing it to our attention.
Excludes closeouts and liquidations.



Prices starting at:

\$4.87

Tropicals

- 10" pot size
- Come see our great selection
- Many varieties to choose from
- Black pots (673872)

\$5.94

SUNCAST

18" x 13" Snow Shovel

- Steel core® handle
- D-grip handle
- Navy blue blade

SN1000600 (678275)

3M

\$14.87

Indoor Window Insulation Kit

- Includes film & tape to cover (5) 3' x 5' windows
- Installs with scissors and a hair dryer

2141 (340014)

GE

\$3.75

10.1 OZ.

Silicone Rubber Door and Window Sealant

- Clear or white
- Permanently flexible

GE012 (502030)

Diamond Crystal

\$5.57

25 lbs.

Jiffy Melt Ice Melter

03110 (541363)

Glidden

\$14.47

Gal.

Ultimate Flat Latex Interior Wash 'N' Wear Wall Paint

- Hides surface imperfections
- 15 year warranty

HD0000 (121841)

METALUX

\$42.81

4-Light 2' x 4' Troffer Kit

- Includes (4) 40-watt F40 bulbs
- 6' fixture whip (280890)

Armstrong

\$1.21

sq. ft.

Themes Sheet Vinyl Flooring

- Urethane no-wax wear layer
- Resists household stains (686262)

\$8.59

7/16" 4' x 8' Oriented Strand Board

- 7/16" Span rated maximum 24" on center
- Can be used for roof and corner support sheathing (68881)

Attention Lumber Customers: Prices in this ad may be different at the time of purchase. We adjust our prices daily to the lumber commodity market.

WE CUT PIPE!

Copper Pipe

Size	Type M Red	Type L Blue
1/2"	\$3.40	\$4.90
3/4"	\$6.10	\$9.90

\$44

Sahara White Toilet

- Round front 12" rough in
- Concealed trap design
- Seat sold separately (101000, 101050)

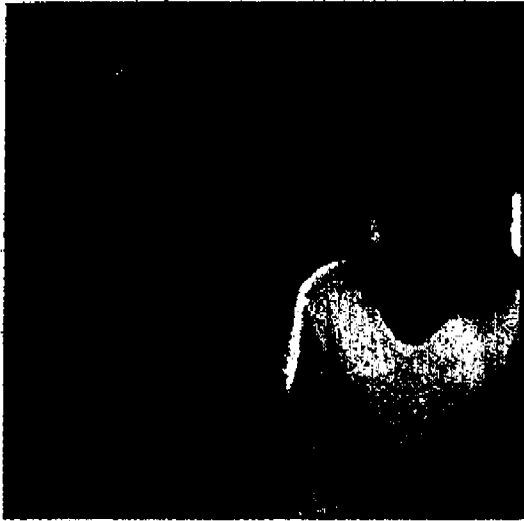
PRICES MAY VARY AFTER FEBRUARY 13, 2000, IF THERE ARE MARKET VARIATIONS.

<p>ATLANTA</p> <p>ROSWELL (678-4100)</p> <p>SMYRNA (770-439-8888)</p> <p>CONYERS (770-439-8888)</p> <p>UTICA (770-439-8888)</p> <p>WORTHVILLE (770-439-8888)</p> <p>DECATUR HEIGHTS (770-439-8888)</p> <p>DOUGLASSVILLE (770-439-8888)</p>	<p>2849 888-8888</p> <p>0110 010-0000</p> <p>787-8888</p> <p>944-7300</p> <p>907-1011</p> <p>947-0000</p> <p>300-0000</p> <p>400-0000</p>	<p>TAYLOR (678-4100)</p> <p>NORTHLAND (678-4100)</p> <p>ROSFORD (678-4100)</p> <p>CONYERS (678-4100)</p> <p>HARSHAM WOODS (678-4100)</p> <p>BRANTON (678-4100)</p> <p>WEST LANSING (678-4100)</p> <p>MARIETTA TOWNSHIP (678-4100)</p>	<p>(770) 874-1001</p> <p>(249) 400-7777</p> <p>(249) 927-0001</p> <p>(249) 924-0100</p> <p>(249) 924-0110</p> <p>(249) 924-0120</p> <p>(249) 924-0130</p> <p>(249) 924-0140</p> <p>(249) 924-0150</p>	<p>PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP (678-4100)</p> <p>WEST LANE TOWNSHIP (678-4100)</p> <p>ROCKY HILLS (678-4100)</p> <p>WINDHAM (678-4100)</p> <p>STYLING HEIGHTS (678-4100)</p> <p>MADISON HEIGHTS (678-4100)</p>	<p>(770) 875-1000</p> <p>(249) 924-0100</p> <p>(249) 924-0110</p> <p>(249) 924-0120</p> <p>(249) 924-0130</p> <p>(249) 924-0140</p> <p>(249) 924-0150</p>
---	---	---	--	--	--

We reserve the right to limit quantities to the amount reasonable for homeowners and our regular contractor customers. It is our policy to run truthful, accurate advertising. In the event of an error, we will make every reasonable effort to accommodate our customers. Details on any product warranties available at the store. Key Credit Terms: For purchases made with your Home Depot Consumer Charge Card, the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is 21% (18% in IA). Payments will not be required for 3 months, with no interest, by all purchases of \$2,000 or greater that qualify for the Money Purchase Feature of your Home Depot Consumer Charge Card account. APR will be 15.99%. Minimum monthly finance charge is \$1.00 (\$1.50 in IA and WI). Offer subject to credit approval by Monogram Credit Card Bank of Georgia. Check store for additional details. Any minimum monthly payment shown is an estimate based on purchase price only. Does not include sales tax, insurance charges, or finance charges and may be higher if you have an existing balance or make additional purchases on your account. Installation provided by independent licensed contractors. License numbers available upon request. ©2000 Home Depot, Inc.

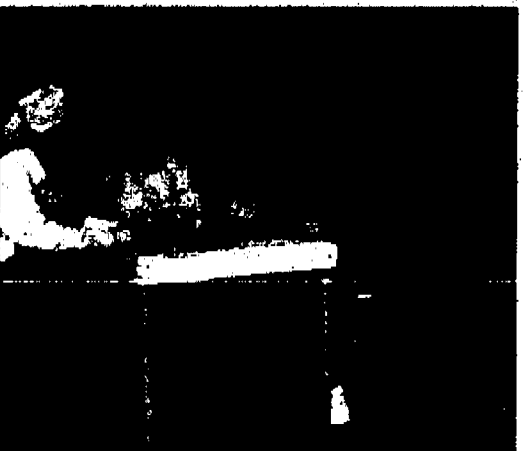
THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Charlie (Liam Neeson, left) an undercover DEA agent, is suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome and finds relief with Judy Tipp (Sandra Bullock, right) in "Gun Shy," a dark comedy opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

SATURDAY



Phil Hadley (left to right), Jim Jernigan, Mike Carraway, Jim Snideman and Missy (the dog) are featured in "Of Mice and Men," presented by the Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Curtain 8 p.m., tickets \$12, call (248) 553-2955.

SUNDAY



Howard Paige serves up samples of delicious food noon to 4 p.m. at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn during the museum's celebration of Black History Month, weekends through Sunday, Feb. 27. Call (313) 271-1620 for information, or visit the Web site, www.hfmgv.org

Never reaching the end:

Rock band continues successful journey

Graeme Edge's quick British wit comes as a surprise. The Moody Blues drummer lost his father in early January, and has been caring for his mother who has Alzheimer's.

It's the ability to balance personal lives with their musical career and write songs about those experiences that have made the Moody Blues popular with generations for the last 35 years.

"I'm not really sure why we've continued to be popular," said Edge during a phone interview from his Florida home. "We've never been arrested for anything and we've always sung in tune."

With "Strange Times" the Moody Blues will continue as one of the best-selling recording groups of all times. The new CD goes back to the roots of Moody Blues sound blending orchestral, spoken word and rock. It marks several firsts for the group, including the fact that it was recorded at Studio Mulinetti in Genoa, Italy.

On Sunday, concert goes at Hill Auditorium will be treated to tunes from "Strange Times."

Please see MOODY BLUES, E2

THE Moody Blues

STORY BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN



On tour...

POPULAR MUSIC

Olupus aims arrows at Valentine's Day

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecomm.net

Beneath the bronze glow of Xhedos Cafe's luminescent sign, with left-over holiday icicle lights dangling above their heads, four musicians take the small coffee shop stage before a crowd of fans and friends who've huddled into the cozy space. What brings them all to the Ferndale hang-out on this night isn't the cappuccino, it's the music.

Olupus, an alternative folk-pop quartet whose members live in Wayne and Oakland Counties, knows how to evoke a response from their audience. The

WHO: Olupus, with special guests Psyfunk

WHERE: 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11

WHERE: 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac

TICKETS: \$10

Call the Cupid's Night Out Hotline at (248) 848-0366 for more information.

Tim Berlinghoff, in high school. By 1996, bassist P.J. Jacokes had joined in and the newly-named Olupus wrote and recorded their first CD "Passing Ships."

Almost four years later, there's one thing to expect from an Olupus show — unpredictability. That might have something to do with Jacokes' experience with improvisational comedy on the Second City stage in Detroit. The Farmington Hills native's sense of humor translates into randomly cracking jokes and imitating Muppet voices in song. But he said, it's the band's stage presence that keeps the audience entertained. "I've been told that we really seem to know how to relate to the audience as a whole. We are up there to play our music, but we try and make sure that everyone enjoys themselves. I think a lot of bands have solid music, but they get into trouble expressing it live.

"Plus we write pop gems, which is helpful."

"Romance is going out of your way, for really simple things. Like picking out a bouquet, rather than buying what Meijer's already had prepared ... It's honest. Real feelings. It's time alone — spent together. It's catching the other person off guard with an "I love you" or a gift. Any fool can buy flowers February 14th, but buying them June 10th, that's romantic."

— P.J. Jacokes
Bassist, Olupus

Those gems will convert into a virtual shower of musical valentines during the second annual Cupid's Night Out, a festival featuring Olupus and guests Psyfunk Friday, Feb. 11. All it took was one song, "My Favorite Valentine," to spur the idea. "We wrote the Valentine's song and we decided we wanted to do a huge show on Valentine's Day for the song," said Davidson, a Redford resident and Bloomfield Township native.

Miller, also a Redford resident, added "Every other holiday had songs to go with it. We wanted to do something to go with ours." And so they have succeeded. It's a night out for cupids and anti-cupids alike, set to a soundtrack of love-healing love songs.

Please see OLUPUS, E2

Baritone makes music come alive

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Erik Chalfant chats nonstop about his recital on Sunday at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills as if it were the most important one of his career.

The New York baritone likes to fuse a variety of musical styles into his programs to expose audiences to as many cultures and life experiences as possible.

During his recital on Sunday, Feb. 6, the audience will hear everything from Brahms' "Lower Rhine Folk Song" in German to

Please see BARTONE, E3

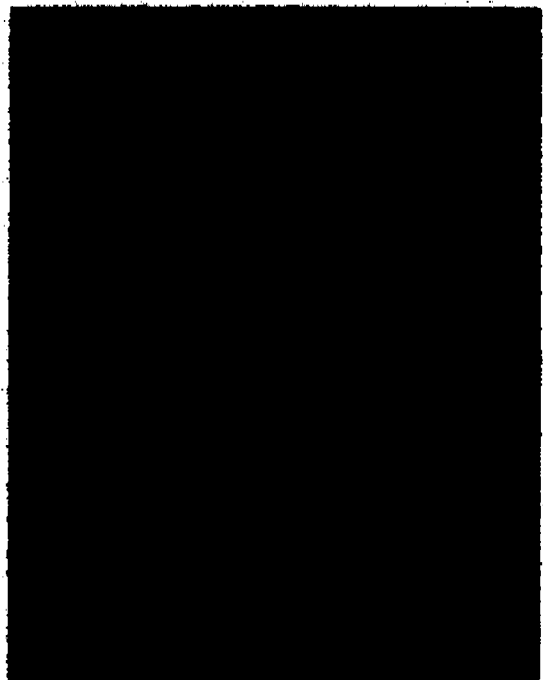


Erik Chalfant

"Songs of Night & Day"
WHAT: Erik Chalfant sings works by composers ranging from Faure to Southern. Admission is free.
WHERE: 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6. A light reception precedes the concert at 2:15 p.m. in the lounge, 5th floor.
WHERE: Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 20887 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 476-4444 for more info.

HOT

Hot Jazz from Seneca Black, and other members of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Society, will perform music ranging from Ellington to Monk and Jelly Roll Morton 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, and 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5 at the Michigan Theater, 503 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. \$18-\$38 for the Feb. 4 concert; \$20 adults, \$10 children for the family performance on Feb. 5. Call (734) 764-2538 or visit the Web site at www.ams.org.



Olupus

Moody Blues from page E1

the Moody Blues' first new recording since 1991, and classics such as "Nights in White Satin" and "I'm Just a Singer (In a Rock n' Roll Band)." The Ann Arbor concert is part of a tour that takes the Moody Blues through the U.S. and England until the end of April. A legend in pop history, the group is in much demand. Members will be lucky to have one day off a week during stops in the Midwest.

"None of us really live in England anymore though we maintain homes there," said Edge. "We were turning up in Soho (London) and making albums like a bunch of Troglodytes when one of us went to do some work on someone else's album at Studio Mulinetti. It was set on a cliff and (studio engineer) Danilo Madonia's mother made us great Italian food."

Like the old days

"It was more like the old days. And it was the first time we produced ourselves. We were conscious of not putting strains on the bands. We worked in two to three week stretches of time over the last two years with regards to our waistlines. For our last album we went in and worked three months straight. Another first was whoever wrote the song got to produce it. The rest of us could throw in ideas and they were used or not. It didn't bother us if they weren't because you

realized when it was your song, you'd get to produce it."

Nothing changes

The Hill Auditorium audience will hear Edge's poem "Nothing Changes" in the second half of the program along with oldies like "Your Wildest Dreams." Edge had been carrying the poem around for some time before he arriving at Studio Mulinetti in Italy. Ominous lyrics speak of winter's war and a dark future if we do not change.

"We've got the toys now to screw things up," said Edge. "We're standing at the crossroads. I have an optimistic heart, but a pessimistic brain. The Internet is breaking down the barriers. The positive side is we'll be a mono-culture."

Musical family

Born in Birmingham, England, Edge grew up listening to everything from Chopin to Caruso so it came as no surprise to his parents when he chose a musical career.

"My father was an untrained opera singer who used to sing in Music Hall as it's called in England. You know it as Vaudeville here in the States," said Edge. "Mom was a pianist, mostly for silent movies. At age 11, I heard Bill Haley and the Comets play "10 Little Indian Boys" and got interested in rock n' roll from there. In my early days, I played

'I know what it's like to be a fan. I went to see Elton John six or seven years ago and was disappointed because he didn't do any of the old material, only the new. That's why I like doing the old material. I never get fed up performing on stage and watching people enjoy themselves.'

Graeme Edge
Drummer, Moody Blues

snare in a marching band (at church) then my parents bought me a drum kit and put up with it."

Edge moved to London at age 22 to play with the R & B Preachers, and the Silhouettes until joining with Ray Thomas and Mike Pinder to form the Moody Blues. Justin Hayward and John Lodge joined them shortly thereafter. Released in 1966 their ground-breaking album, "Days of Future Passed," remained on Billboard charts for more than two years. Recorded in stereo and with a symphony orchestra, it was one of the very first concept albums.

"I started playing for \$25," said Edge, who during the Moody Blues' four-year sabbatical in the mid 1970s recorded two solo albums - "Kick Off Your Muddy Boots" and "Paradise Ballroom." "You don't gradually work your way up. You get a break or not. I've been with the Moody Blues 35 years, but worked as a profes-

sional drummer for 38 years. My dad's definition of a professional musician is somebody who would rather play than starve."

Intense schedule

Edge is looking forward to returning to Ann Arbor even though he's only been home nine days since Aug. 13 due to his intense touring schedule and family illness. He's always liked playing in Ann Arbor, at Pine Knob and other places in metro Detroit with the Moody Blues. As a thank you to their fans, the group will do two one-hour sets that will include many oldies. Edge never tires of playing the songs from "In Search of the Lost Chord," "On the Threshold of a Dream" and "Seventh Sojourn," to name a few of the Moody Blues' top-selling albums.

"I know what it's like to be a fan. I went to see Elton John six or seven years ago and was disappointed because he didn't do any of the old material, only the new," said Edge. "That's why I like doing the old material. I never get fed up performing on stage and watching people enjoy themselves."

Olupus from page E1

Olupus-style.

"We try and make Cupid's night out a very interactive experience," said Jacokes. "Most of our shows have interaction, but not as grand as C.N.O." Those still Valentine-less need not worry. Just enter Olupus' "Favorite Valentine Contest" by writing 49 to 51 explaining why you should be the band's Valentine. Expect a barrage of surprises, including a handful of new songs to the set list -- a mix of covers and originals.

"This year we are debuting at least three brand new songs," Jacokes added. "They become Valentines for the fans who know our stuff well. We stick to the relationship songs for this show, the boy-meets-girl songs. Some of them are love songs. But we also realize that, for some people, Valentine's day is a good

'We try and make Cupid's night out a very interactive experience.'

P.J. Jacokes
Bassist, Olupus

day to be bitter about defunct relationships, so we play a fair share of love-gone-wrong songs."

There's something for everyone. But those who dare sit in the front row, better be fans of Barry White-style crooning and close contact; Davidson draws his energy from the audience, giving those off-stage a chance at the limelight. "I love our audience," he said. "I love fans. There, that's the performance high," he said, pointing off-stage as the lights fade.

Express your love with a song on Valentine's Day

Even if you can't carry a tune, you can send your Valentine a song from your heart.

The Renaissance Chorus, a barbershop quartet, will serenade your sweetheart at home, work or anywhere else you choose in the Wayne, Westland, Garden City, or Livonia area.

Your thoughtfulness will be remembered, too. In addition to a Valentine serenade, the person of your choosing will receive a red rose and personalized Valentine's Day card. The vocalists will even

deliver your special personal gift.

The cost for a Singing Valentine is \$40. Call now to schedule the singers between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14.

To make your reservation, or for more information, leave a message at (313) 438-2364.

Be specific about the time (within a 4-hour window), location, directions, spelling and pronunciation. Also leave your name, phone number and best time to contact you.

If You Like the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Then You'll Love...

Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra

Neeme Järvi, conductor Yuri Bashmet, viola
Saturday, February 5, 8 P.M.
Hill Auditorium • Ann Arbor

For many years, beloved conductor Neeme Järvi has jettied back and forth between his two posts as music director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra in Sweden. This season, UMS is proud to present Maestro Järvi with his "other" orchestra as Sweden's National Orchestra makes its UMS and regional debut. Maestro Järvi's interpretation of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13 wowed local audiences in October, in this concert, he conducts Shostakovich's monumental Symphony No. 6 as well as Arvo Pärt's Symphony No. 3, dedicated to the conductor

The concert is made possible by a gift from David and Martha Krieger. To honor the memory of Martha and David Krieger, for whom music was life.
Additional support is provided by SAS Scandinavian Airlines, Consul General Johnson and Karen Johnson Bengt and Elvira Swamin and The Swedish Royal Table Organization.
MEDIA SPONSOR: WOLFE H&J PH

Make Your Destination: Cranbrook and Cranbrook Institute of Science for February Fun!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

AFRICA
This temporary display showcases a portion of the museum's African objects used for daily activities as well as those intended for special occasions. *Through Memory*
SUNDAY BRUNCH AND SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES
Descendants of an African Tradition: Examining Ethnographic Pottery from West and African-American Art Production
Sunday, February 13
Guest Speaker: Jon O. Lockard, Adjunct Lecturer, The University of Michigan Studies. Lockard introduces the basic principles of Yoruba art, a product of the past and present, and its relationship to contemporary African-American art. 11am brunch and registration. call 248 645.3210.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SCIENTISTS WEEK
Monday, February 14-Friday, February 18, 11am-4pm
Hands-on activities and take-home projects based on the work of African scientists of the past and present. For elementary age students; free with museum admission.

GOSPEL CONCERT
Saturday, February 19, 6-8pm
The Institute and the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum present a special concert. Tickets are \$10 per person and include museum admission and strolling light show. call 248 645.3210.

OTHER EXHIBITS & EVENTS
New long-term exhibits: *Every Rock Has a Story*, *The Motion Gallery*, *Reading the Rocks*, and *The Earth's Story*.
New traveling exhibit: *Tell My Picture Please: A Festival of Cultural Imagination*.

PLANETARIUM PROGRAMS
Young Stargazers Sky Journey
Planet Alignment 2000! Begins February 4
Lunar Spring

SPECIAL PLANETARIUM PROGRAMS
February 14-18

STARRY NIGHTS
The Institute and Observatory remain open until 10pm with Planetarium and Skyline.

FOSSILS OF PREHISTORIC MICHIGAN
Adult Science Class
February 7, 14, 21 & 28

HOOT OUT
Friday, February 11, 7-9pm

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL
Saturday, February 26 and Sunday, February 27; 1-4pm

MAPLE SYRUP BREAKFAST
Sunday, February 27

CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
221 N. WOODLAND AVENUE • BIRMINGHAM HILLS, MI 48303-0001
700,000 SQUARE FEET OF EXHIBITION SPACE
CALL (TOLL FREE) 1-877-GO-CRANBROOK (1-877-462-7221)

Prepare to find your spirit. Meet an epiphany. Get in touch with your soul at the Inn's most elegant spa retreat.

Relax. Rejuvenate. Fall in love all over again. Exclusive spa treatments on the shores of Lake Michigan. Find it all at The Spa at The Inn at Bay Harbor, the grandest lakefront resort in over one-hundred years. Opening February 11, 2000, just in time for Valentine's Day.

Romance Spa Weekend

- Two nights luxurious accommodations
- Champagne upon arrival
- Therapeutic massage for two
- Dinner one evening

\$349 per couple, tax & gratuity extra offer valid through 04/30/00

The Spa at The Inn at Bay Harbor
1-800-GO-BOYNE • 231-439-4046
www.innatbayharbor.com
Bay Harbor, Michigan

GIBRALTAR TRADE CENTER & WXYT RADIO PRESENTS

PET EXTRAVAGANZA

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY FEB. 4-5-6 PETTING ZOO FOR THE KIDS
FRI 5-9 • SAT 10-9 • SUN 10-6

ENTERTAINMENT GALORE!

ROCK-N-ROLL CANINES

FLYBALL • GRAND PRIX • HIGH JUMP • OBSTACLE COURSE
SHOW TIMES: 11AM, 2PM, 5PM (SAT. & SUN.)

BRING YOUR PET AND COMPETE IN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- MEET MARK AND BRIAN OF WXYT'S "ANIMAL TALK" APPEARING LIVE TO ANSWER YOUR PET QUESTIONS
- MEET A CITY OF DETROIT PET
- FREE PUPPY TRAINING CLASSES

SHOW SPONSORS: Fresh Step SCOOD, Reddy, whiskas

Gibraltar

FREE PUPPY ADOPTION
WITH THIS COUPON
FRIDAY FEB 4TH ONLY

Baritone from page E1

Stephen Sondheim's "Tomorrow" from "Annie." Midway through the first half of the program, Chalfant will follow an evening prayer by Charles Gonoud with Charles Ives' dissonant "Sunrise." The audience will receive translations for the songs sung in Italian, German and French.

"Ives may sound strange after hearing Gounod, a 19th century French romantic," said Chalfant. "Ives is an American 20th century rough and tough, angular sound."

The title of the program, "Songs of Night and Day," comes from the theme of the repertoire and from Chalfant's approach to recital singing.

"I want to invite someone familiar with classical and art songs to hear musical theater and to those who like musical theater, to reveal to them poems about night and day in art songs. To my mind, the musical theater I'm singing is much more suited

to a classical singer. Porter and Rodgers and Hammerstein were written for piano and voice and have the same kind of impulse as an art song - a poem and a lyrical melody."

Ties to metro Detroit

This is Chalfant's second recital at the church. He first appeared there in June after his aunt, Martha Chalfant, suggested he perform in the church's music series. Erik visited metro Detroit often as a boy.

"My aunt was instrumental in my early development," said Chalfant. "We always went to Cranbrook and to see productions in Detroit. We visited the museums. I loved it."

Linette Popoff-Park will accompany Chalfant on piano for a second time at the church. Violinist Veklda Kelly is also joining them for the recital.

"One of Erik's many talents is to design a varied program from

arts songs to Broadway," said Popoff-Park, chairman of the music department at Madonna University in Livonia.

The son of a Protestant preacher, Chalfant had plenty of opportunity to sing in church and church theater. He learned to sing and play piano at a young age. His mother was a pianist who began instructing her son at age five.

"My father was in front of people all the time," he said. "I learned from him to communicate to an audience."

Childhood

A native of Chicago, Chalfant grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was a piano major in college until attending Tanglewood Institute where he met noted American soprano Phyllis Curtin. Chalfant moved to New York four years after completing graduate studies with Curtin at Boston University. It was

Curtin's prompting that led him to New York from Boston, where he'd been teaching voice and had a faculty appointment at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Mass.

"She told me if he wanted to perform, I'd have to move to New York to find opportunities for recitals," said Chalfant. "She also told me that while she enjoyed her career making a living off dead composers, we have a responsibility to give the composers of this day their voice."

Chalfant's followed both pieces of advice. He has premiered songs of Boston composer Brian Cobb at the Berklee School of Music, and Sara Doncaster's six "Biblical Sonnets" with orchestra on the New Music at Brandeis University Concert Series.

Recital singing

Chalfant prides himself on being a recital singer, equating it to the "big art form of opera but

instead of all the flamboyant costumes and props there's one person standing there in the curve of the piano."

"An audience member may be more familiar with a Beethoven Sonata and not as familiar with a Brahms song or Gabriel Faure. You have to have the ability to be involved with the poetic essence and have an honesty with the material at hand and be familiar with the music and literature. That's what brought me to recital singing. Well-performed music is something not being done by rote. You have to put intention and meaning into what you're singing. You have to make music come alive to people."

Honesty is the reason Chalfant traveled to the Paris Conservatory for private diction coaching and to refine those aspects of his singing that would be detected by a Parisian ear.

"It all goes back to my theme of honesty. I have to be as profi-

cient as possible with the language and that includes not only French but Italian and German.

I have a fascination with French culture but it goes back to maintaining an honesty in my singing," said Chalfant, who also has a degree in French literature. "When I sing a recital I have to be polished. When we go to another country, we don't expect to ask for the bathroom in English. You have to make an effort. It involves active listening. That's part of the joy. It's like going to France and Germany with these three or four poems. The more they travel, the richer the experience. By exploring something different, you learn humanity is all the same. Listening to a love song in German or English. It's all about a boy and girl finding each other and falling in love."

In the future, let's remember artists who tell our story

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

Are you one of the many who received the gift of a millennium time capsule over the holidays? If so, it's likely storing a fruitcake or some other item that you haven't figured out what to do with yet.

The intent, of course, is to gather items that reflect your family experience at the turn of the century. The hitch is that if the item is practical, you're still using it and probably don't wish to tuck it away now. If trendy, you don't consider it significant enough to be preserved. I'm not sure I want to saddle my ancestors with the responsibility of trying to figure out Pokemon when I don't understand the craze myself.

As we face the challenge of assembling our personal or family history, we realize the innate flaws of any chronicle of people, culture, and events. George

Washington and Abraham Lincoln will be remembered this month, but we aren't getting the full story unless we gain a perspective of the people and issues of their times. Imagine the obstacles in developing an accurate history of African Americans.

Against the backdrop of centuries of oppression and poverty, we wonder how many stories of achievement and courage have not been told.

The whole story

Walter Allen Bailey has devoted much of his life to research of the black experience, from the pre-Revolutionary War period to the present. Although the depth of his studies could fill many textbooks, it is the power of Bailey's art that effectively tells the whole story.

On the next edition of Detroit Public TV's BACKSTAGE PASS series, to be aired 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, producer Alex Kimbrough takes viewers to the African Heritage Cultural Center and Museum, where Bailey's permanent exhibit of thirty

mural depicts the experiences of African Americans through the centuries.

His work, entitled "The Whole Story: A Teaching, Learning Concept of African American History," consists of the collection of his art and is accompanied by text. It is emerging as an imaginative and engrossing education-

al tool, with over one hundred schools throughout the Detroit area and the nation using it as a curriculum supplement.

The challenge of gaining historical perspective is to reach beyond the biographical. George Washington and Abraham Lincoln reflect just a snapshot of our young nation. A generation ago,

much of our studies during Black History Month involved the noteworthy achievements of men such as George Washington Carver and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The research, talent and passion of Walter Allen Bailey is now making the whole story available, not just for students,

but for us all.

A Detroit area turn-of-the-century time capsule might include corporate headquarters, a new stadium of two, and even a casino.

Let's make sure it also makes space for the work of Walter Bailey and other artists who vividly tell our story.

DINING EVENTS

Send dinner specials, menu changes, restaurant renovations, and other items for consideration in the Entertainment section to: Keely Wygonik, Assistant Managing Editor, Features Group, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax, (734) 591-7279 or e-mail kwygonik@oe.homecom.net

Chinese New Year Celebration — Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 7-9 at New Peking Chinese Restaurant, in Garden City.

New Peking will have a dancing dragon the first night of celebration. Entertainment also features fan dancing.

The 12-course new year dinner features seafood, meat and vegetables.

New Peking is at 29105 Ford Road, Garden City. Call (734) 425-2230 for reservations and information about the Chinese New Year feast.

A Taste of France Feast — 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Feb. 10-11 at Morels, A Michigan Bistro, 30100 Telegraph, just north of 12 Mile Road, Bingham Farms. The cost is \$45 per person, plus tax and gratuity.

Call (248) 642-1094. Ext. 3 for reservations.

URC Corporate Chef Jim Barnett celebrates Valentine's Day with a menu of authentic French favorites and an array of French wines hand-selected by URC Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon.

Valentine's Day Dinner Dance — Saturday, Feb. 12, Waterman Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. The evening begins 7 p.m. with dinner — tomato bisque, salad, rock Cornish game hen, twice baked sweet potato and asparagus, and Bavarian apple cheesecake for dessert. Then dance the night away to the music of Johnny Trudell. Tickets are \$37.50 per person, call (734) 462-4417 for reservations.

Old Country Buffet — is offering a free lunch or dinner to couples who have been 50 years or more on Monday, Feb. 14. Bring your marriage license to redeem your free meal. You can also pose with your loved one for a free photo, which can be picked up later.

Visit Old Country Buffet in Canton Township at 5854 N. Sheldon Road, (734) 207-8737 or in Westland at 6539 N. Wayne Road, (734) 595-8201.

Mardi Gras Brewers Dinner — 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27 at Bonfire Bistro & Brewery, 39550 Seven Mile Road, Northville. The cost is \$50 per person, all tables reserved, call (734) 735-4570.

Chef David Platzer and brewer Ron Jeffries are teaming up to present a five course meal and a pre-selected beer per course. The entree is Rotisserie Cornish Game Hen served with andouille sausage and crawfish corn bread stuffing over red and yellow pepper coulis.

Ways to win \$1,000,000

300,000 Sit-Ups

3,000 Kidney Blows

1,500 Uppercuts

125 Prize Fights

5 Concussions


4 False Teeth

1 Coin

We've got millions for you to win. And with a little luck, you could be one of the new MotorCity Millionaires.

Some people put years into making their first million, you can make yours in just a few seconds. Introducing MotorCity Millionaires, the biggest, most exciting slot promotion to rev up the MotorCity. With just one lucky coin in any of our 2,600 slots, you could be the newest MotorCity Millionaire. That "lucky coin" could be a token in your slot cup, ten dollar bill in your pocket, or one of the remaining credits on your machine. So, no matter how you like to play your favorite slots, maybe just maybe, the next coin you play will start your \$1,000,000 celebration!

MotorCity Millionaires. One Coin ... One Million Dollars. Play Today!



NOVI EXPO CENTER
Thursday, February 3, 2pm-10pm
Friday, February 4, 2pm-10pm
Saturday, February 5, 10am-10pm
Sunday, February 6, 10am-7pm

The 2000 Home Improvement Show at the Novi Expo Center promises to be more exciting than ever. It's the first show of the new year, where you'll find new ideas, products and services for your home as well as new featured attractions, demonstrations and events.

ADMISSION:
Adults - \$6.50, Seniors - \$4.50, Children 6-12 - \$3.50
Children under 6 - FREE

2000

HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW

OVER 300 EXHIBITORS... PLUS:

- Beautifully decorated homes from FOX, HomeLife and The Home Depot.
- Live demonstrations from over 100 exhibitors.
- Workshops, seminars and more!
- Live music and entertainment throughout the show.
- Win a \$1,000 cash prize!
- Win a \$1,000 cash prize!
- Win a \$1,000 cash prize!
- Win a \$1,000 cash prize!
- Win a \$1,000 cash prize!
- Win a \$1,000 cash prize!

NOVI EXPO CENTER
1-96 & NOVI RD.
FEBRUARY 3-6, 2000
www.builders.org

The Push Stars bring sparkle back to 7th House

For anything that Chris Trapper can't conjure up in his mind, he has songs. For all he's dreamt about while gazing out of his window, he has music.

'I'm an escapist at heart. All people are. All people wish they could be richer ... making the most of their daily life and personal relationships.'

*Chris Trapper
Push Stars*



Stellar: Chris Trapper, Dan McLoughlin and Ryan MacMillan are pushing for the stars.

The singer-songwriter and guitarist of Boston-based trio, the Push Stars, writes expressive lyrics and music draped in vivid imagery. Complemented by the creativity of Ryan MacMillan on drums and Dan McLoughlin on bass and keyboards, the Push Stars are beaming with praise of music industry moguls, critics and fans alike.

last November. "It was a casual night as I recall," said Trapper. "I had no idea what to expect. People actually came out."

Those humble words come from a man whose music has matriculated from the dressing rooms of Gap stores, to George Clooney's final episode of "ER" on prime time television, to the mega-successful film "There's Something About Mary."

Perhaps the Push Stars sound finds its way into popular culture so easily because it speaks to the common person. But it does so with a certain elegance. Lyrics like "So smash all your mirrors/And look into me/Cause you're the most beautiful thing/I'll never see" ("Too Much Pride") reveal the delicate beauty in the band's music.

To think it all started in Trapper's New York home. He began writing songs at age 14. His brother taught him how to play the "Batman" theme song on his sister's acoustic, which she hardly played. He was first inspired to write his own song after being picked on in school. Many songs and a college degree later, Trapper moved to Boston seeking

stardom with another band. "There was a big scene. We crumbled very quickly."

So he took a job at a hotel, but continued to write songs — sometimes on wine boxes in the storage room of the hotel. With the encouragement of his parents, Trapper decided to give music one more shot and began performing at coffee houses, open mike nights and poetry readings. At one of those gigs, he met MacMillan. All it took was one promise from the drummer — "If I play with you, I'll get you a major label (deal) in two weeks" — and they were a team.

Enter Dan McLoughlin, whom Trapper met through a college friend. McLoughlin worked at Dreamland Studio and agreed to fill in on bass for a few songs on a recording. The result came to be known as the Push Stars.

The name itself alludes to the bandmates' perseverance in pushing to attain their dream. While Trapper said he feels they are three "nice guys in a cut-throat business," the Push Stars music reflects his sentiment of "choosing a dream and dreaming about where it's going."

Most songs on "After the Party" were written before Trapper had ever toured, written while sitting in his room fantasizing about the lives of different people. "I'm an escapist at heart," he mentioned. "All people are. All people wish they could be richer ... making the most of their daily life and personal relationships."

"Every song captures a major realization, a point in my life," he added. A writer, he said, is some-

one who "sits in the corner and watches the party go on." "After the Party" flaunts that polished insight with evocative style.

That sensitive, story-like songwriting deserves to be showcased on stage, where the band emanates an approachable style — something like watching your friends perform. And what a stellar performance it will be.

Listen for The Push Stars single "Drunk is Better Than Dead," during the opening credits of

"Gun Shy," a film starring Sandra Bullock opening Friday.

Catch them shine as they open for The Samples 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, 7th House, Pontiac. 18 and older. \$15. (248) 645-6666. Check out www.pushstars.com.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2130 or e-mail at scasola@oe.homecomm.net. To send a fax, dial (734) 591-7279.

STAY TUNED

Calling all metal-heads: Hip-O Records remembers how much those '80s power ballads meant to the listening public. That's why they've released a collection "Heart of Metal" containing 12 selections that will make sentimental fans bang their heads once again. The collection includes Cinderella's "Don't Know What You Got (Till it's Gone)," L.A. Guns "Ballad of Jayne," Extreme's "More than Words," and Meat Loaf's "I'd Do Anything For Love (But I Won't Do That)." Rock away.

Big Fish fans until they begin the follow-up to the 1998 release "Why Do They Rock So Hard."

Just in time for Valentine's Day Hip-O Records has released "Heart of Soul: Classics" with songs like Montell Jordan's "Let's Chill," Brian McKnight "Your Love's Supreme," and Boyz II Men's "50 Candles." Grab a copy, light some candles and find out what it means to be romanced on the most lovable holiday of the year.

Moonshine Music has a lot to talk about these days. The label will release progressive trance albums for DJ Micro and Christopher Lawrence. DJ Dara and Dieselboy will release new drum n' bass CDs. And DJ Dan is set to give fans a follow-up CD titled "Another Late Night" in March. For more about Moonshine check their site at www.moonshine.com.

Online film, music festival reaches industry moguls

PRNewswire — A diversity of prominent entertainment industry managers, producers, directors, actors, agents and entrepreneurs will serve on the Advisory Board for the StreamSearch.com Internet Film and Music Festival, Sunday, Feb. 20-Monday, March 20, 2000.

The first-of-its-kind online festival will allow participants worldwide to view and vote on a combination of full-length feature films, short films; animated features and music titles from new and established artists.

The Advisory Board appointments signify powerful support from prominent film and music industry leaders for StreamSearch.com's objective of creating unparalleled entertainment events to demonstrate the potential of audio and video streaming.

Each member will help guide the launch and implementation of the Internet Film and Music Festival, serve on the primary Selection Committee for video and audio entries, participate in informative consumer-oriented

online chats during the event, and recommend future improvements.

The StreamSearch.com Internet Film and Music Festival Advisory Board members include: Steve Collins, Vice President, Film & Music, Chrysalis Music; Dan Cox, Journalist, Variety; John Fitzgerald, American Film Institute and

Kevin Foxe, Producer, "The Blair Witch Project."

"The board will add tremendous legitimacy to the StreamSearch.com vision of maximizing the Internet's potential as a powerful entertainment medium," says Robert Shambro, CEO of StreamSearch.com.

"A MAGICAL, MUSICAL, ANIMATED MASTERPIECE!"

Disney Studios • CBS-TV

"IMAX" IS THE WAY TO SEE IT — NOT JUST AS A FILM, BUT AS AN EVENT.

YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES OR EARS. THE NEW 'FANTASIA 2000' IS ARGUABLY THE GREATEST DISNEY FILM EVER.

"FANTASIA 2000" INTRODUCES SEVEN NEW MUSICAL MOVEMENTS WHILE KEEPING THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE! TWO THUMBS UP!

FANTASIA 2000

THE IMAX EXPERIENCE

IMAX THEATRE HENRY FORD MUSEUM & GREENFIELD VILLAGE

20900 Oakwood Blvd • Dearborn, MI • (313) 271-1570 or 1-(800) 747-IMAX

DAILY SHOWTIMES: 10:00 11:50 1:40 3:30 5:20 7:10 9:00

ONE OF THE TOP TEN FILMS OF 1999

NBC-TV, Jeffrey Lyons • THE NEW YORK OBSERVER, Rex Reed
USA TODAY, Mike Clark • CBS-TV, Dennis Cunningham
TRIBUNE MEDIA, Marlin Beck & Stacy Jewel Smith
THE STAR-LEDGER, Stephen Whitty

EMILY WATSON ROBERT CARLYLE

ANGELA'S ASHES

www.angelasashes.com

NOW PLAYING	AMC FORUM 30	AMC LIVONIA 20
BIRMINGHAM 8	MJR SOUTHGATE 20	SHOWCASE 20/22
SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR COMMERCE TWP 14

Welcome to the final act

SCREAM 3

AMC BEL AIR	STARTS FRIDAY!	AMC FORUM 40
AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20	AMC SOUTHFIELD
AMC WONDERLAND	BEACON EAST	CANTON CINEMA
MJR SOUTHGATE 20	NORWEST	NOVI TOWN CTR 8
QUO VADIS	RENAISSANCE	SHOWCASE 20/22
SHOWCASE 20/22	SHOWCASE 20/22	SHOWCASE 20/22
STAR GRATIOT	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR JOHN R
STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	STAR COMMERCE TWP	STAR WEST RIVER

GREAT IDEA!

Maybe you've always wanted to write the great American novel, or play cool games, or keep track of your inventory, or tackle some spread sheets. So maybe it's time to expand your horizons. Go global. You know, hit the internet. Check out the news, information and entertainment in your own backyard and around the world. Shop your face off. Internet access through **Observer & Eccentric On-Line!** isn't going to cost you a bundle, either — just **\$15.95** per month and the first month is **FREE!** This includes **FREE** 24 hour, 7 day-a-week technical support and **FREE** software!

It's easy to sign up for O&E On-Line! In fact you can use your computer and log on to <http://oeonline.com.subscribe.html>

You'll hear from us with your new account within 48 hours after we hear from you.

Rather pick up a phone? That's cool. Mention "On-Line 2000" when you call.

734 591-0500 or 248 644-1100

Romantic restaurants

Play Cupid, woo your Valentine with a lovely dinner

BY RENÉE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet... but not as sweet as dining with you!

We've spared no expense (yours) to find the most romantic, fine-dining spots in town to wine and woo your favorite Valentine. If the atmosphere doesn't seduce you, the food will. All you have to do is make reservations quicker than a heartbeat.

■ **Cafe Bon Homme** - 844 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 453-6260. **Cost:** Four-course pre-fixed dinner, \$45 per person. **Dinner hour:** Begins 5 p.m. (last reservation 9 p.m.)

Owner Greg Goodman promises to "pull out all the stops" for Valentine couples dining in his comfortably elegant little restaurant, which he describes as a "chic, upscale, Left Bank bistro."

Goodman doesn't know all the delights Chef Jeff Condit will prepare for the Valentine Day weekend, but they will have a French influence with lots of "shoot-from-the-hip" American imagination. Dessert will definitely be chocolate enough to cause heart palpitations.

■ **Cafe Cortina**, 30715, W. 10 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 474-3033. **Cost:** About \$100, excluding wine. **Dinner hour:** Begins 5 p.m.

Good cooking is like love, simple yet divine, said Adrian Tonon, who co-owns the restaurant with his mother, Rina.

Since 1976, lovers have wined and dined at Cafe Cortina, especially in the fireplace room. "It's very cozy, warm and welcoming.

There's something in the air that's so romantic," says Tonon.

Tonon suggests starting with an antipasti of bruchetta, a portabella mushroom au poivre, and sliced zucchini with fresh mozzarella and tomato. For pasta, maybe something with fresh tomato, cream and a hint of goat cheese. For the main entree, why not a braised leg of lamb sliced at your table? Dessert, of course, will be chocolate.

■ **Emily's** - 505 N. Center, Northville, (248) 349-0505. **Cost:** Appetizers, \$7-\$18; dinners, \$19-\$35. **Dinner hour:** Begins 5:30 p.m.

Small and intimate, Emily's is in a Victorian-style house. There's room for just 50 diners, some of whom will be lucky enough to sit by the fireplace. "We're a romantic restaurant with really, really wonderful French-inspired cuisine," said owner and chef Rick Halberg.

Suggestions: An appetizer of champagne lobster ravioli with butter-poached scallops, an arugula salad with cured foie gras, and an entree of roast duck with vanilla-flavored sweet potatoes. For dessert? A chocolate truffle tart with macadamia praline and a port wine caramel.

■ **La Bistecca Italian Grille** - 39405 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 254-0400. **Cost:** About \$100 for two, excluding wine.

Dinner hour: Begins 5 p.m.

"The atmosphere is really conducive to a special evening because of the food and our extreme attention to detail and service," said owner Jerry Costanza. La Bistecca specializes in Piedmontese beef, considered by many chefs to be the most tender.

Suggestions: Gamberi con Asparago (a shrimp-and-asparagus appetizer for two) followed by a sampling of homemade ravioli and an entree of fillet mignon, lobster or a surf 'n turf. Dessert must be tiramisu, made from the chef's own heart-throbbing recipe. Top it off with a cappuccino.

■ **Marco's** - 32748 Grand River, downtown Farmington, (248) 477-7777. **Cost:** Entrees \$15-\$27. **Dinner hour:** Begins 3 p.m. Monday-Friday, 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Marco's is small, just 20 tables for up to 80 lucky diners. "It's a very romantic place - candlelight, white linen tablecloths and fresh flowers all over the place. It's very intimate, dimly lit, with soft music in the background," says owner and chef Marco Conte.

Conte suggests teasing your appetite with pan-sautéed calamari tossed with lemon. Next, try the Fillet a la Gargonzola or Cherry Hazelnut Chicken, a succulent breast sautéed with Michigan dried cherries and a splash of Frangelico. For dessert, it's definitely the heart-shaped creme brulee with fresh strawberries.

■ **MacKinnon's** - 126 E. Main, Northville, (248) 348-1991. **Cost:** \$100 for two. **Dinner hour:** 5-10 p.m.

For 20 years, the restaurant's brick walls, lace curtains and Tiffany lamps have charmed countless diners. "We are a small, romantic family-owned restaurant in a quaint Victorian town," says owner Tom MacKinnon.

Suggestions: The appetizer



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUBERMAN

Irresistible: Bon Homme chef and owner Greg Goodman (right) and chef de cuisine Jeff Condit present the perfect dinner for two - crown rack of lamb with pistachio crust and golden chanterelle mushroom risotto.

platter for two, which includes crab pasta, French tacos, escargot, the house pate, shrimp cocktail, oysters and crab-stuffed mushrooms. Next, an entree of rack of lamb with black currant sauce. For dessert, there are choices: A towering chocolate mousse with fresh strawberries, chocolate sauce and a chocolate roof or Banana Wellington, a puffed pastry with caramel sauce, walnuts, brown sugar, and

rum.
■ **Fonte D'Amore** - 32020 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 422-0770. **Dinner hour:** 4-10 p.m. **Cost:** \$12-\$25, regular menu.

Could lovers go wrong at a place whose name means "fountain of love"? Impossible, said owner Luciano Delsignore. The setting is dark and soft-colored with cozy booths and a fireplace.

"We kind of theme on romance," Del Signore suggests a shrimp scampi appetizer, followed by Fillet Marino, a pan-roasted center-cut tenderloin with shallots, mushrooms, Marsala, brandy and cream. You might also try a little rigatoni with fresh tomatoes in a basil sauce with fresh mozzarella. For dessert, nothing other than a house-made tiramisu.

Mama Mia
DINNER FOR 2 \$13.99
BANQUET ACCOMMODATIONS UP TO 300 GUESTS • LIVONIA ONLY
LIVONIA • FARMINGTON HILLS • FARMINGTON HILLS
7770 Plymouth • 1855 Beech • 1855 Southwood
734-457-0900 • 734-457-0900 • 734-457-0900

Sposita's Ristorante
FINE ITALIAN CUISINE
Specializing In Steaks, Veal, Chicken and Pasta
10% OFF Any Lunch Entree
Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 11am - 10pm
Fri. 11am - 11pm • Sat. 4pm - 7pm
Sun 4pm - 9pm • Closed Monday

PRIME RIB DINNER \$14.95
Includes Salad, Potatoes, Applesauce and Hot Bread
NOW EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY DAVE The DJ
Formerly at Vickie's Steakhouse
OPEN DAILY MON-SAT AT 11:00 AM
DINNERS from 1 p.m.
BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHEONS from \$5.95
DINNERS from \$6.95
28500 Schoolcraft In the Super 8 Motel Complex LIVONIA (734) 425-5520
AMPLE LIGHTED PARKING • BANQUET FACILITIES AVAILABLE

Chamber Music Society OF DETROIT
Presents the **BORROMEO STRING QUARTET**
with **JAMES DUNHAM, Viola**
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2000, 8 P.M.
DETROIT COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
SELIGMAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Beethoven: Quartet in B-Flat Major, Op. 18, No. 6, "La Malinconia"
Prokofiev: Quartet No. 1 in B minor, Op. 50
Dvořák: Viola Quintet in E-Flat Major, Op. 97
CLEVELAND QUARTET AWARD CONCERT
SPONSORED BY EFPI AND DAVID WEINBERG
"The Borromeo String Quartet is simply the best there is on the planet..."
-The Boston Globe
Ticket prices from \$18 to \$65, students \$15.
Tickets are available at all ticket centers, including Hudson's and Harmony House stores.
To charge tickets by phone, call (248) 645-6666
For additional information, call the Chamber Music Society of Detroit at (248) 747-9980 or visit www.ComeHearCMSD.org

2300 Featherstone Road Auburn Hills, MI 48326 248-334-2222
Hilton Suites
Romance your Valentine
Take your pick of romantic weekend escapes. Each includes a luxurious two-room suite, evening beverage reception, free prepared-to-order breakfast, use of indoor pool, whirlpool and fitness center - plus extras as described below
Romance Package includes a bottle of champagne, chocolates, bubble bath and use of terry robes \$119
BounceBack Weekend Our low BounceBack rate starts as early as Thursday with a Saturday night stay \$109
For reservations visit www.hilton.com. Or call your professional travel agent, 1-800-HILTONS, or the Hilton Suites Auburn Hills at 248-334-2222.
It happens

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE
searing family drama
FEB 9 THROUGH MAR 5
Everyday decisions can have life and death consequences set against the backdrop of World War II money versus morals tear apart the Keller and Creever families. Fortunes are made lives are lost and more than just secrets are tucked away. This gripping tale of a father's sin visited upon his sons is one of the most intense dramas you'll see on this or any stage.
Written in 1947 before Death of a Salesman - this is the work that established Arthur Miller as one of America's greatest playwrights.
ALL MY SONS BY ARTHUR MILLER
MRT BOX OFFICE (248) 377-3300
GROUP SALES (248) 370-3316
www.mbtheatre.com
Made possible by **LEAR CORPORATION**
Observer & Eccentric
switch your life

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD **ArtCenter**
VISIT OUR GALLERY SHOP FOR **VALENTINE'S DAY**
PURCHASE ARTISTIC VALENTINE GIFTS FOR THE IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE.
BLOWN GLASS HEARTS \$15 each
JEWELRY, SILK SCARVES, BLOWN GLASS VASES, PERFUME BOTTLES, CERAMICS, AND MANY MORE FINE GIFTS AVAILABLE
BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD ART CENTER
1818 SOUTH CRANBROOK ROAD
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48008
(NORTHWEST CORNER OF 14 MILE & CRANBROOK RD.)
WWW.BBARTCENTER.ORG
(248)644-0866
SPONSORED BY THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS