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SUNDAY  
December 16, 2007

# WESTLAND Observer

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## Longtime city retailer T.J. Maxx to close

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Westland department store T.J. Maxx will close in mid-January, ending a 28-year run as the city faces another business loss amid a lingering economic slump.

Annamarie Farretta, spokeswoman for Framington, Mass.-based parent company TJX Inc., confirmed Thursday that stores in Westland and Warren will likely be shuttered early

next year.

"We can confirm that we expect to close our T.J. Maxx locations in Westland and Warren sometime in mid-January; approximately 65 (workers) are affected, mostly part time," she said in a company statement.

Westland's store is located in the West Ridge Shopping Center on Warren east of Wayne.

The latest closing deals another blow to the city's core retail district,

although Westland Shopping Center has weathered the economic storm.

T.J. Maxx will be added to a list of mall-area vacancies including Service Merchandise, Sam's Club, Quo Vadis theater, Denny's restaurant and the old Best Buy. Mayor William Wild has pledged that his administration will step up efforts to try to lure new tenants.

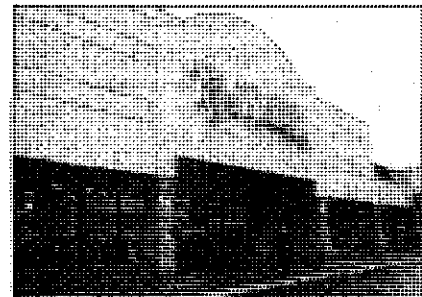
T.J. Maxx will work "diligently" to try to transfer as many Westland and Warren workers as possible to other

store locations in Livonia, Novi, Troy and Bloomfield Hills, Farretta said.

Other options, depending on years of service, may include severance packages and "outplacement services" designed to help laid-off employees find other jobs, she said.

"We look forward to continuing to service the metro Detroit market and at this time are not expecting to close other T.J. Maxx locations in the area," Farretta said.

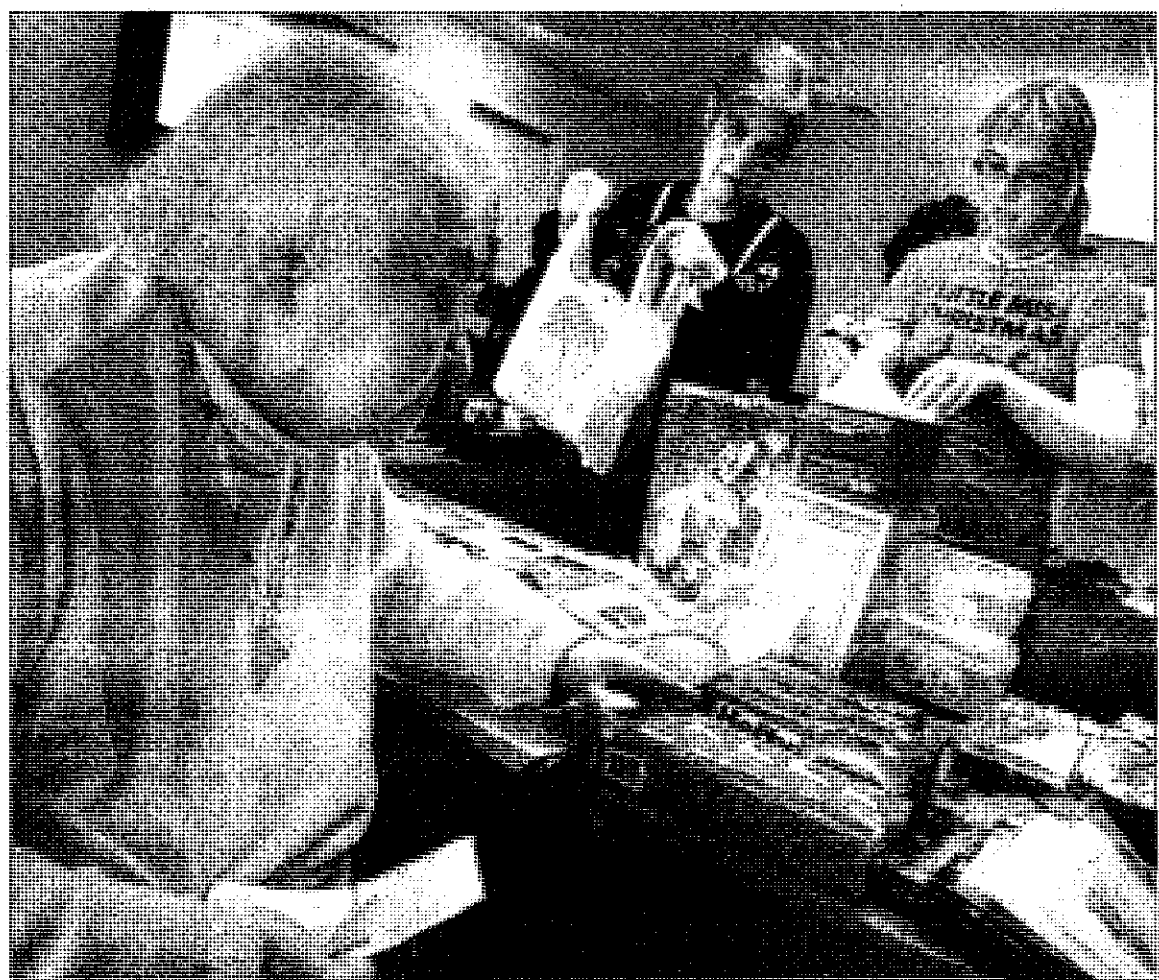
TJX Companies Inc. is encourag-



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Framington, Mass.-based parent company TJX Inc. has confirmed its T.J. Maxx store in Westland will close by early next year.

ing T.J. Maxx customers to shop at its other Detroit-area stores, Farretta said.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vivian Cadreau looks at items provided by the Dollar Tree store in the Westland Crossings shopping center as cashier Vicki Cummins (left) and Amanda Coffey take care of another customer.

## Store brings merchandise to customers

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

The Dollar Tree at Westland Crossings has a new motto when it comes to residents at the Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center: Have merchandise, will travel.

The store at Warren and Central City Parkway brought selected merchandise to the center last week, letting residents like Esther Alexander do some holiday shopping.

"I like it," she said, "especially since I cannot get out."

"Honestly, it was amazing," said assistant store manager Amanda Coffey who worked the sale with her mother, Vicki Cummins, who also is a Dollar Tree cashier. "The residents were so happy. One lady told me she hadn't been out shopping in five years."

Bring the store to the residents was the idea of the center's events planning committee. Member Cathy Horton and Judy Bianchi, the center's marketing manager, visited the store and selected items suitable for the elderly shoppers.



Westland Convalescent and Rehab Center resident Esther Alexander buys Christmas presents from items brought to the center by the Dollar Tree.

"We had two huge carts full of items — socks, scarves, note cards, greeting cards, crayons, pencils, pens, coloring books, children's toys, stuffed animals," said Bianchi. "It was nice because it allowed the residents to purchase

gifts for their families."

"They picked so much stuff that we couldn't fit it all on the tables, we had to sell down and then restock," Coffey said.

Please see STORE, A3

## Career Tech named center of excellence in engineering, science

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland's William D. Ford Career Technical Center is flying high after learning that it's one of seven "educational communities" to be honored by the Convergence Education Foundation as a 2007 Center of Science and Engineering Excellence.

"Isn't that just the coolest thing," said Center Principal Ginny Kowalski. "I always knew we were good. I always knew we did cool and great things here."

The award "celebrates the success of projects, focused on engineering, science or math, implemented within local educational communities" and was presented to the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, Garfield Elementary School in Flint, Huron County Intermediate School District, Macomb

Academy of Arts and Sciences in Armada, Regina High School in South Euclid, Ohio, Traverse City Central High School and University High School in Ferndale.

"The seven educational communities we are recognizing have each demonstrated their dedication to bringing unique, project-based learning opportunities to the hundreds of youth they serve," said Karl Klimek, the foundation's vice chairman and project orchestrator.

The foundation board of directors came up with the award after tests results from the Program for International Student Assessment showed that U.S. students are lagging behind their peers in other countries in science and math.

Please see CENTER, A3

## Meals on Wheels seeks volunteers

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A Wayne County program that delivers hot meals to homebound seniors urgently needs volunteers, particularly in Westland and Redford.

"In Westland, we actually have six people waiting for service because we don't have anybody to deliver to them," said Carol Scott, Wayne County Senior Services manager.

To volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program, call (734) 727-7357.

The county provides 2,800 hot meals a day to homebound seniors 60 and older who can't fix their own meals due to physical or mental disabilities, Scott said.

Seniors may make donations to the program to offset costs. Volunteers, including one 90-year-old Redford man, use their own transportation to deliver hot meals between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. In some cases, cold lunches are brought along for weekends.

The county has a kitchen staff that works overnight to prepare the meals, which are distributed through 41 nutrition sites throughout Wayne County.

"Westland and Redford are the areas where we really need volunteers right now," Scott said, "but we could use them everywhere."

Volunteers in Westland deliver meals

from the senior Friendship Center on Newburgh near Ford, the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue near Merriman and St. Bernardine of Siena Church on Ann Arbor Trail near Merriman.

In particular, the county needs volunteers to deliver meals from St. Bernardine, Scott said.

Redford meals are delivered from the Redford Community Center on Hemingway.

In all, Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver 260 meals a day in Westland and 130 in Redford, Scott said.

Aside from providing hot meals, the program also provides a safety net by having volunteers check up on homebound seniors.

"It means that somebody checks on them every day," Scott said.

Volunteers have to pass a background check, have a good driving record and "just have a good heart," she said. "It is a lot of work, especially in the winter when it's snowing."

Volunteers also have to agree to help out one day a week, delivering meals to 15 to 20 seniors. They get paid 36 cents a mile.

Some volunteers have complained that their mileage expenses haven't increased along with rising fuel costs.

"If we paid more for mileage," Scott said, "we'd have to serve less meals."

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# Franklin focuses on reading, writing skills

BY REBECCA JONES  
STAFF WRITER

Under the new graduation requirements, there's no room to fall behind, said Franklin High School principal Dan Willenborg.

Parents of ninth-graders who failed one or more class this fall were invited to learn about "a fight worth fighting." "This is serious stuff right now in ninth-grade," Willenborg said in a report to the school board Monday, during a presentation about the school's improvement plans.

More than 100 parents and students in attendance were given homework tips and taught how to use the Parent Internet Viewer to keep track of grades between progress reports and report cards. It was the first time the program was offered.

Freshmen are also paired with upperclassmen through the Patriot Relate program to help make their transition to high school smooth, Willenborg explained.

Those are just two programs he highlighted at the school board's committee meeting, held at Franklin. It was the first of three school improvement presentations that the board will hear this year.

The 1,863-student high school recently received its second straight "C" under Michigan's school report card system.

Franklin's goals, under the North Central Accreditation process are to improve students' writing abilities and reading comprehension, said David Bjorklund, chairman of the school improvement team.

To that end, and to help standardized test scores, teachers in all classes have students read passages, charts and graphs, and summarize what they read. Twice a year, all students are also assigned to write timed essays that not only argue a point, but refute a counterargument.

Tests in other departments give students regular exposure to the types of questions that

are asked on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program, Michigan Merit Exam and assessments like EXPLORE and PLAN, which are precursors to the ACT college entrance exam.

Franklin's scores have come in near state averages, but recent reports show the school posting passing rates that surpass the state's in social studies, math and language arts.

"Our performance goal is to score consistently above state averages on standardized tests," Willenborg said.

A higher percentage of advanced placement students are passing AP exams (54 percent last year compared to 43 percent the previous year), said Spanish teacher Lynn Massucci, a member of the school improvement team. In addition, the makeup of the study body is changing. The number of minority students increased from 6 percent two years ago to 13 percent last year.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Getting prepared for the annual Christmas Day dinner hosted by St. Dunstan Catholic Church are Susan Massey (left), director of Christian Service, Judy and Bruce Larry, coordinators of the dinner. For many years, the church has hosted a Christmas Day dinner for people who would otherwise be alone on the holiday. The dinner is free but advance registration is required.

# A 'home' for the holiday

## St. Dunstan serves dinner for those alone on Christmas Day

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
STAFF WRITER

Judy Larry is working hard to get out the word that St. Dunstan Catholic Church is hosting their usual Christmas Day dinner for people who would otherwise be alone on the holiday.

A volunteer at the dinner for more than a decade, this is the first year Larry and her husband, Bruce, Westland residents, are coordinators for the Christmas dinner.

"We get elderly folks who call and say they are so happy that we're doing this even with all the troubles we've had — they are just so gratified," said Judy Larry, a member of the parish since the church was built in 1958.

"I don't get too emotional with the elderly people but this lady called and went on and on about how she appreciated it so much," added Bruce Larry.

The troubles are the June removal of longtime St. Dunstan pastor the Rev. Donald Demmer amid what the Archdiocese of Detroit called financial irregularities at the parish. That has triggered protests by parishioners seeking Demmer's return. Garden City Police have sought a warrant against a former employee over more than \$100,000 missing from the parish. Additionally, \$1.4 million is owed due to employee federal withholding being

unpaid for five years.

Despite all the turmoil at the parish this year, there really wasn't any question about continuing the holiday tradition that draws 150 or more people for food and holiday companionship.

"With all the trials and tribulations since June, we tried for some normalcy. We love doing it (the dinner)," said Judy Larry, adding parishioners are fielding a full slate of volunteers to cook and serve the meal.

"We have to continue our ministry. It's our faith and our beliefs that keep us going," added Susan Massey, St. Dunstan Christian Service director, whose program helps provide food and students to help at the dinner. "There was no hesitation about continuing the dinner with all the turmoil. It's such a wonderful project to have here. It is such a welcoming day."

Since the dinner is for people who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day, the guests are predominantly senior citizens. Along with notices in bulletins at area churches, Judy Larry said she has also faxed fliers to area senior housing complexes.

"Some of them will come decked out like New Year's Eve and others will be casual. People come from all over the place," said Judy Larry. "People come and stay for the duration to socialize."

Each year, parish members

Al and Donna Spiteri spend weeks thawing, cooking, slicing and refreezing the many donated turkeys needed for the Christmas dinner. Individuals and businesses donate items for the dinner, which is served by members of the parish, as well as provide cash contributions.

"We never say no to a donation," said Judy Larry, adding some donors wish to remain anonymous while others ask where their names will be listed.

The Larrys took over the dinner coordination duties from Mary and John Shurge, who had been in charge for a number of years.

"They retired after many years. We really thank them for their dedication," said Judy Larry. "A lot of people volunteer year after year."

Over the years, Judy Larry recalled making a lot of mashed potatoes for the Christmas dinner working with kitchen supervisor Monica Dubiel.

"She's our kitchen angel," Judy Larry said.

There is no cost for the Christmas Dinner, but advance reservations are required by calling (734) 595-3049. St. Dunstan is located on Belton, the second street west of Inkster Road. Take Belton south from Ford and it will dead end at the church.

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# Oakwood throws party for students, families

There will be a party going on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at Lincoln Elementary School in Westland as Oakwood Healthcare stages its sixth annual Caring for Our Kids holiday party.

Once again Oakwood is focusing their efforts on the Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns Schools Healthcare Clinic families. During the celebration, children will have the opportunity to share their wish lists with Santa, enjoy a magic show, holiday crafts and face paint-

ing. More than 70 families will receive a

food basket with 30 items to take home and share with their loved ones. Gifts for the more than children will include a hand-made fleece blanket, pajamas, mittens, hats, socks, slippers, underwear, towels, books and toys.

The Caring for Our Kids program is funded by contributions from Oakwood employees through the Combined Giving Campaign and the Oakwood

Foundation. Last year, Oakwood employees "adopted" 96 families of the Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns community and provided gifts to 219 children.

Since the program's inception five years ago, Oakwood employees have donated more than \$150,000 in food and gifts, 15,500 volunteer hours and \$39,000 in cash to assist nearly 800 children and their families who are in need of assistance.

one who would otherwise be alone on the holiday. The doors open at 1 p.m. and dinner is served at 1:30 p.m. The dinner is free but advance reservations are required by calling (734) 595-3049.

### Holiday closings

The hours at Westland city buildings will change during the holidays.

The Bailey Center will be open on 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, noon to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31. All City offices as well as the 18th District Court will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. The 18th District Court also will be closed on Friday, Dec. 28.

There also will be no rubbish pickup on Christmas Day, delaying pickup one day for the rest of the week.

### AROUND WESTLAND

#### Surplus food

The City of Westland will distribute surplus federal food 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, south of Palmer, to eligible residents living north of Michigan Avenue.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will collect their food at Taylor Towers and should contact the building manager about the distribution day. Greenwood Villa residents pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

The December distribution will include frozen beef, noodles and tomato sauce. This program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services. All food allocations, distribution sites, and dates of distribution are determined by that agency.

Further more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

#### Christmas dinner

St. Dunstan Catholic Church is hosting their annual Christmas Day Dinner for any-

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There also will be no rubbish pickup on Christmas Day, delaying pickup one day for the rest of the week.

### CORRECTION

A story in the Dec. 13 *Observer* should have said Dave and Kim Blackwood were at the Compassionate Friends Candlelight Vigil in

Plymouth Sunday to honor Dave's sister, Amy Louise Blackwood. The family was mis-identified as Blackwell.

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# Community rallies around injured shop owner

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

"Phenomenal." That's the word Jill Gaudet is using to describe the response from the Wayne community to a call for help the a gift shop owner who was stabbed numerous times during a robbery Dec. 11.

"Kim (Loveless) called to express how overwhelmed she is with the outpouring of support from the community," said Gaudet, the Wayne Chamber of Commerce executive director in an interview Friday. "She wants to express her heartfelt thanks."

The chamber is serving as a collection point for the names of business and community

members willing to volunteer their time at the shop once it reopens, quite possibly next week. It's been closed since last Tuesday evening when Loveless was attacked by a man as she was closing the shop on Wayne Road just south of Glenwood.

Loveless was forced back into the shop by the man who stabbed her and took her purse before fleeing the store. She was treated at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne before being transferred to University Hospital in Ann Arbor.

According to Gaudet, the life-long Wayne resident "is doing very well," but will remain hospitalized a few more weeks.

"This very definitely hurts

being closed at this time of the year," said Gaudet.

Gaudet said the names will be given to Loveless and her husband, Brad, who will determine who will work at the shop. Those people will be contacted, but Gaudet isn't sure who will handle that.

A fund-raiser also is planned for Wednesday, Dec. 19, to show support for the couple and collect donations for the Kim Loveless Fund. The event, which includes food, starts at noon and runs through the evening at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe.

The money will go toward a reward being put together by the business community. People

with information can call the Wayne police at (734) 721-1414 or through Crimestoppers at (800) SPEAK-UP.

Gaudet added that donations to the Kim Loveless Fund can be dropped off at the chamber office at 34844 W. Michigan Ave.

"The community is outraged by this," Gaudet said. "We're trying to get the word out that

this isn't tolerated here. We're also coming together to show support for the Lovelesses."

For more information or to volunteer, call the chamber at (734) 721-0100.

## CENTER

FROM PAGE A1

The honorees have to be current or formerly funded by the foundation, demonstrate a clear focus on engineering, science and/or math, have the support from school staff and administration and have measurable, positive academic and social growth of students and staff as a result of this program. They also had to clearly communicate the foundation's primary mission of fostering cutting-edge of engineering in education.

The William D. Ford Career Technical Center is a long-time Convergence Education Foundation partner. It was a participant in the foundation's innovative design vehicle program and won several awards — the Convergence Education Foundation's Vehicle Performance Award and Ambassadorship Award

and the 2007 Excellence in Practice Award from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth's Bureau of Career Education Programs for the student-built Thunderbolt II IVD.

The designation honors the center for its creation of an engineering curriculum with hands-on projects ranging from rocket development to participation in the IVD program as well as the Ambassadorship program, which sends high school students to middle schools to inspire kids to attend college and pursue a career in engineering.

Kowalski credits school social worker Sue Wilk with initiating the partnership with the Convergence Education Foundation and the IVD program. Wilk wanted "another way to connect with the students." She worked with teachers J.C. Irvine, Oracle Academy, Zach MacLean, electronics, and Jim Schirmer,

auto technology, on the two-year project.

"We owe this all to them, they were the core group, and Sue was my cheerleader," said Kowalski. "She coordinated the whole money piece. She's the heartbeat of the group."

The center is already started working on its second IVD car which will be built on a golf cart frame and will be powered by a hydrogen cell, she added.

"We are doing some amazing things here," said Kowalski. "I wasn't surprised we, but I'm pleased because it gives us more visibility."

The foundation will present the award to the center at the Wayne-Westland school board's Jan. 14 meeting.

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## STORE

FROM PAGE A1

The "store" was tables set up in a square in the center's dining room. Shoppers lined up early hoping to be the first one. The hottest items were crayons and coloring books, so much so that they had to go back to the store for more crayons, Coffey said. Many residents came back several times, she added.

Bianchi estimates that 50 residents, family members and members of the staff took advantage of the shopping.

Coffey said snacks were popular with the staff.

"I run the school Santa shops, but working with the seniors is different, but seeing the smiles on their face made it all worthwhile," she said. "It was wonderful. It was a great experience. We had one resident asked if we'd be back again before Christmas."

Bianchi would like to do it twice a year — in the spring and before the holidays.

"Absolutely, we'll be doing it again," she said. "We weren't sure what to expect, but it turned out nice. It was quite successful."

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# Grad, 76, realizes nursing degree dream

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

It's never too late to pursue a dream. Just ask Lillian Anderson.

The 76-year-old Coldwater resident joined 47 other Madonna University nursing graduates Thursday at a pinning ceremony at Laurel Manor. Anderson delivered the keynote/inspirational speech and was honored with the writing award and the O'Neill Award for Humanistic Nursing for her compassion and caring.

"She was an inspiration to her fellow students," said Karen Sanborn, Madonna's

marketing director. "There wasn't a dry eye in the room after she told her story."

It hasn't come easily. "Ever since I was a kid I wanted to be a nurse, but life got in the way," she said Friday. "When I turned 70, I needed a new direction and some friends sat me down and asked what had I always wanted to do and I said I wanted to be a nurse."

Anderson worked 48 years as a secretary, 20 years at Ford Motor Co., retiring in 1995. She already had a degree from Madonna.

"I had graduated from Madonna with a bachelor's degree in business manage-

ment. I decided to take business because it tied into my work at Ford Motor Co.," she said. "I thought I was too old to be a nurse, but I guess I'm not."

She actually began her business degree studies in the 1960s but had to put them on hold when her son, Kevin Giedre, was diagnosed with bone cancer. She cared for him until his death at 18 in 1973. She finally earned that first bachelor's degree in 1989.

She registered for Madonna's hospice program in 1991 but never attended classes because her second husband became ill and she cared for him until he died in 2000.

She began the nursing program in 2002 but her daugh-

ter, Judy Zammit, had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She died earlier this year at age 54.

"She was a 10-year survivor," Anderson said. "She was a fantastic example for so many of us."

Next week, Anderson will be making the long drive from Coldwater to Troy to take Kaplan classes to prepare for the state board exam.

"It's like taking the bar exam, you want to get it right the first time," she said.

Anderson admits she might be too old to become hospital floor nurse but she is interested in working in hospice care.

"For my emergence, I worked at Angela Hospice, a wonderful place," she said.



Lillian Anderson (left) with Madonna University Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Teresa Thompson.

At Madonna an "emergence" is a real workplace experience allowing students to emerge into the real work world. "I worked with a preceptor, Paula Bending, who is the epitome of what a nurse should be," Anderson said. She is looking into doing some home hospice care when

she passes her boards. "What an inspiration, she is," said Teresa Thompson, dean of the College of Nursing and Health. "It's been a pleasure to watch her grow, and care, and give to so many. She's become part of who we are at Madonna."

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# HFCC Federal Depository Library celebrates 50 years

The Henry Ford Community College Eshleman Library celebrated 50 years as a designated Federal Depository Library last week with a recognition ceremony and reception in the library.

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) was established by Congress to ensure that the American public has access to government information. The Eshleman library is one of 44 libraries in the state and 1,200 in the country to be part of the FDLP. Libraries that have been designated as federal depositories receive government information free of charge and maintain these information products as part of their existing collections.

These libraries also are responsible for providing professional assistance to patrons and assuring that the public has free access to the material. The libraries must offer the FDLP services for free to all taxpayers of the district in which the library is located. At HFCC, the public also is welcomed to use other resources in the Eshleman library except for the Media Center, which is for students only.

"We are able to provide government information to those who are on campus, Dearborn residents, and those in the surrounding communities," said Victoria Morris, HFCC's government documents librarian. Morris, of Redford, has been working part time for the FDLP program at HFCC for 15 years. She obtained a bachelor's degree in history and anthropology, a master's degree in library science and a certificate in archival administration from Wayne State University. She believes that public access to government documents is a vital part of the freedom that Americans experience.

"To have access to the day-to-day workings of the Congress and the President are extremely important to a free and democratic society," Morris said.

Ann Marie Sanders, head of government documents for the Library of Michigan, presented



Left to right, Henry Ford Community College's government documents librarian Victoria Morris of Redford, the head of government documents for the Library of Michigan Ann Marie Sanders and the HFCC library's director Barb Lukasiewicz of Westland hold a plaque and certificate celebrating the HFCC Eshleman Library on its 50th anniversary as a Federal Depository Library.

a plaque and certificate from the U.S. Government Printing Office to Barb Lukasiewicz, director of HFCC's Eshleman Library, and Morris.

The ceremony was held in the library's Irene Vogt Seminar Room, named in honor of HFCC's first librarian, who was responsible for acquiring the Eshleman library's designation as a Federal Depository Library in 1957. Vogt died in 2004 at the age of 100. Four years prior to her death, the seminar room in the library was dedicated to her.

Lukasiewicz spoke fondly of Vogt, saying she "was an absolute charming and vibrant woman."

Lukasiewicz, who lives in Westland, has been the Eshleman Library's director for 17 years. She previously worked at the University of Michigan-Dearborn for 11 years and Oakland University for two years as a librarian. She received a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in library science from Wayne State University.

The Eshleman Library is a selective depository, choosing to accept some, but not all of the government documents available, according to Morris. The library receives government information documents

on a wide variety of topics, such as education, health, law, government, arts, history, the environment, careers and occupational data, the space program and criminal justice.

The library also receives such major publications as the Congressional Record, the Federal Register, the Code of Federal Regulations, the U.S. Code, which describes all laws and their revisions and the Statutes at Large, which is a record of all laws and resolutions passed by Congress.

The library also provides access to online government information. Some older information is offered on microfilm and microfiche. The library has approximately 80,000 government documents, according to Morris.

According to Morris, some of the more interesting documents available at the Eshleman Library include reports of the Hurricane Katrina hearings, Congressional records, the 9/11 report, President Richard Nixon's pardon, the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster report and foreign country profiles written by the CIA.

The Eshleman Library is located on Henry Ford Community College's main campus at 5101 Evergreen Road in Dearborn.

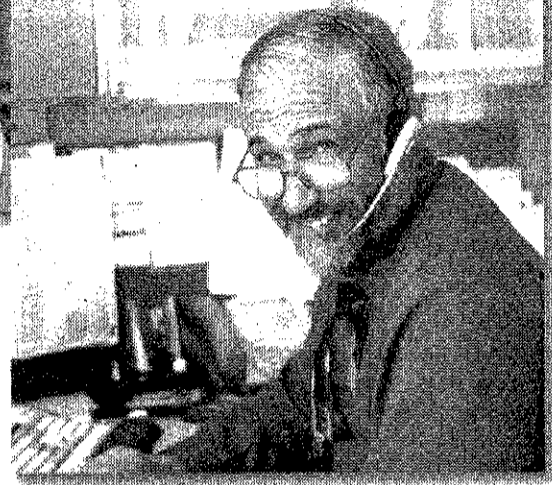
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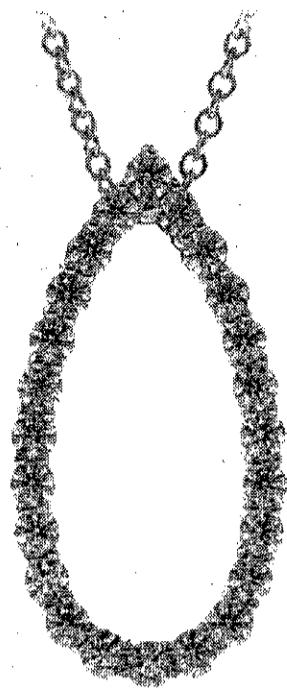


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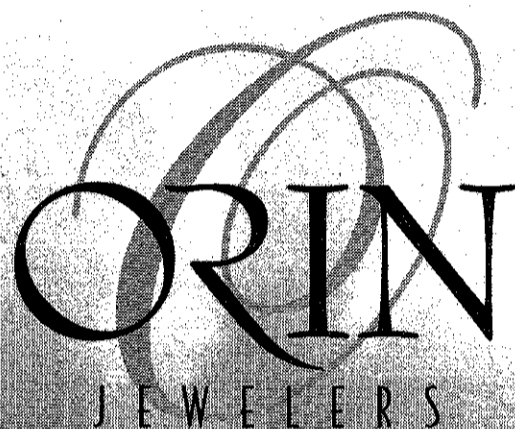


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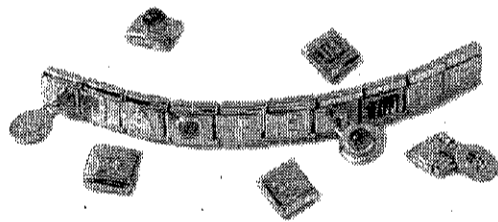
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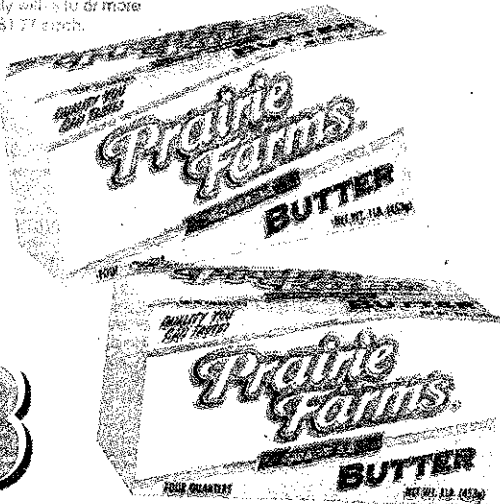
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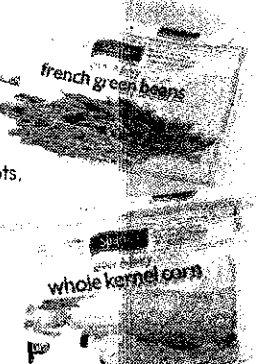
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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com). They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or faxed to her attention at fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wrestling Club**  
Westland Bottie Rockets is a wrestling club for ages 5-14. The club meets on Monday and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Gym 4 of John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan. The club runs from November through March and costs \$20. For questions or more information, contact Judy at [judyawl122@yahoo.com](mailto:judyawl122@yahoo.com) or calling (734) 634-4595.

**New Year's Eve parties**  
Ring in the New Year at a party, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday, Dec. 31, at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The festivities include live performances by Neil Diamond, Rod Stewart and Blues Brothers impersonators. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$85 per couple, or reserve a table of eight for just \$320. The ticket package includes an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner, open bar with a champagne toast at midnight while watch the ball drop at Times Square in New York City. Designated Drivers will be available to ensure a safe beginning to the New Year. For tickets or more information, contact Laurie at (734) 637-5553 or by e-mail at [ibarra@comcast.net](mailto:ibarra@comcast.net) or the hall staff at by calling (734) 728-5010 or by e-mail to [vbarra@comcast.net](mailto:vbarra@comcast.net).

■ A New Year's Eve party will be held Monday, Dec. 31, at AMVETS Post 171 Hall, 1217 Merriman, Westland. Tickets are \$25 each and include dinner, open bar and dancing. For tickets, call (734) 721-9440.

■ Ring in the New Year with Jimmy Howard & Company at a New Year's Party at the Livonia Elks, 31117 Plymouth Road in Livonia Monday, Dec. 30. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; party goes until 1 a.m. Dinner (oven-baked chicken and port tenderloin) served at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person. Due to the Christmas holiday, tickets must be purchased by Dec. 19. For more information, call Linda at (734) 507-9173 or Mary Ann at (734) 654-0115, or e-mail parties.2go2@yahoo.com

**Free health class**  
Are you or your children suffering from allergies, digestive problems, headaches, personality changes, or any other unexplained health problems? These problems may be caused from the foods you are eating. Attend a workshop to find out which foods in

your cupboard have been "genetically modified." Learn what the long-term implications are from "genetic modification" to your DNA, why buying organic food whenever possible will make a big difference, and why you should think twice before buying the most common snack foods. Dr. William H. Kar, a certified wellness doctor and nutritional expert, will share secrets about genetically modified foods, and provide insights on how they affect your health, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19. This workshop will be held at the Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. It is co-sponsored by The Foundation for Wellness Professionals, a non-profit organization. Call (734) 425-8588 for more information and to reserve a seat.

**Higher Rock Cafe**  
The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 8 p.m. Check it out on the Web at [www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com](http://www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com) or call (734) 722-3660.

**Fish Dial-A-Ride**  
One-day-a-month volunteer drivers are needed to transport seniors and disabled who are unable to drive to medical appointments. Phone messenger volunteers are also needed to help set up rides to the medical appointments. This is also a one-day-a-month opportunity that can be done right from home. People interested in helping can call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or contact him by e-mail at [GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com](mailto:GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com).

## FOR SENIORS

**Friendship Center**  
The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site [www.ci.westland.mi.us](http://www.ci.westland.mi.us) offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

**Dyer Center**  
The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m.; bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

**Senior fitness**  
Seniors can get in shape through some programs offered at the Maplewood Center. The Senior Fitness Room is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Annual membership is \$50 per year or \$1 for a daily pass. Aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

## FOR YOUR HEALTH

## Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. Call (734) 362-8825.

## Substance abuse support

A SAFE PLACE meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program. For more information, call Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995.

## Menopause &amp; More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. Call (734) 655-1100.

## Fibromyalgia

The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. Call Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

## Counterpoint

Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families. For more information, call (734) 563-5005.

## Toughlove

A Toughlove support group meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at North West Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington roads. Newcomers welcome. Call (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748.

## VOLUNTEERS

## Karmanos Institute

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute needs volunteers to transport cancer patients to mammogram and doctor appointments in metropolitan Detroit. Drivers are needed for Macomb and Oakland counties, Dearborn and Detroit. Volunteers must be at least 18. Mileage reimbursement is provided. Call (800) KARMANOS to volunteer.

## First Step

First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program. Call (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223.

## Traditions make holidays magical

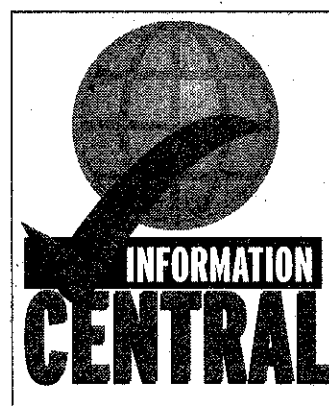
What makes a holiday tradition more special than any other? Traditions are passed down from generation to generation and the holidays seem to be filled with special people, ideas, meals and customs. These may vary from culture to culture or from person to person, but it's what makes the holiday time even more magical.

Traditions can be as simple as going to the Thanksgiving Parade, no matter what the weather, or at least watching it on television and waiting for Santa to arrive. There are the traditional Christmas photos that are taken to be used as the annual card to be sent to friends and relatives near and far. And don't forget that visit to Santa or the Christmas Eve church service.

Even shopping can be considered a tradition. Look at all of the people who get up early in the morning the day after Thanksgiving to try to get that great bargain and then go out again the day after Christmas to hit more sales.

Many people have special ornaments to put on their Christmas tree that remind them of special times and people in their lives. And does it really feel like the holidays until you hear that favorite carol of yours or watch your favorite holiday special on television?

Even what is served as the family meal can be considered traditional. Green bean casseroles, yams, ham,



and yes, even fruitcake, are served every year in many homes and it wouldn't be the holidays without them.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland can help you continue your traditions or maybe start new ones. Check out the library's holiday music collection for that special carol or maybe some new versions. We have many books on Christmas crafts and holiday meals. There even is a section (394.266) devoted to Christmas and the winter holidays, such as Kwanzaa and Hanukkah, which include how holidays are celebrated around the world.

Have you ever wondered why decorating your house with lights is such a big deal? Take a look at Georja Skinner's "The Christmas House: How One Man's Dream Changed the Way We Celebrate Christmas."

The William P. Faust Public

Library is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. The Library will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Dec. 24-25, and Jan. 1-4.

## Highlighted Activities

**Internet 101:** 7 p.m. Dec. 17. A beginner's guide to the Internet - how do I get around a Web site, what is a Web site. No registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome.

**Teen Gift Wrapping:** 6 p.m. Dec. 18.

Bring the gifts you bought for your family and friends and wrap them with us. We'll have paper, ribbons, tags and snacks. All you need to bring is yourself and your presents to wrap. You may come and go as you like between 6 and 8 p.m. This is a teen program only.

**Microsoft Word for Beginners:** 7 p.m. Dec. 19.

Learn the basics of Microsoft Word, a word processing program that lets you create a variety of documents, including letters and resumes. Learn how to set margins, change font style, check spelling and print. No registration required.

Information Central is compiled by reference librarian Susan Hanson. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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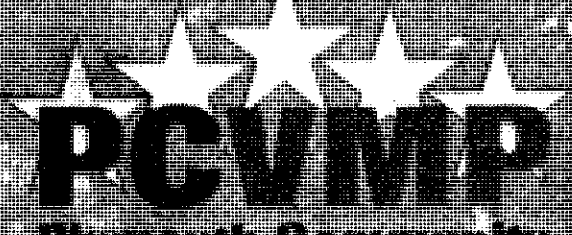
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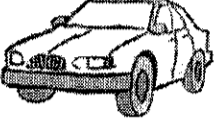
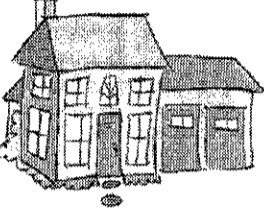
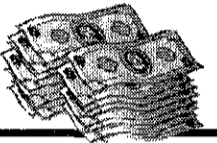
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Tim Roth, 17, and his mother, Tammy, were helped by The Arc.

## Arc eases way for developmentally disabled

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI  
CORRESPONDENT

Wondering how to steer your children down the right path is agonizing enough and when you add mental disabilities to the mix, the quagmire thickens.

But, for Tammy Roth, a Redford resident with an autistic son, The Arc of Northwest Wayne County helped her find a way through. In fact, more than half the staff members at The Arc have children with mental disabilities.

"We weren't sure where to turn," Roth said.

Her son, Tim Roth, 17, was in the eighth grade and was removed from Hilbert Middle School for behavior problems when she was referred to The Arc. He was being taught at home by a visiting teacher, but Tammy Roth wanted help for Tim to make the transition back to the school.

Tim Roth is extremely high functioning and you likely wouldn't recognize a problem when you first meet him. But, he has difficulty with socialization and reading, said Roth, explaining that Tim is now in 11th grade and earning A's and B's.

"We got together as a team at the school to see what support he would need to make that transition and how we could help him overcome his behavior issues," Roth said.

The Arc helps around 2,000 people annually and most often provides information about how to access programs in schools and mental health services, as well as entitlements like Social Security benefits and Medicaid, according to Christine Lerchen, The Arc executive director, who is also

the mother of a 27-year-old daughter who is severely multiply impaired as the result of birth defects. Lerchen's daughter isn't verbal, but has managed to hold a job for 7½ years and is living in her own condo.

"Our purpose at The Arc is to help them receive services they need to live in the community," Lerchen said. "One of the most important things is providing self-determination to purchase services. They can hire their own staff, pick their own food and people who can help them. Being self determined and having control in their life is important to us."

The Arc has five full-time and three part-time staff. "And three of us are parents with sons and daughters with disabilities," Lerchen said. "We're professional and experienced, because we've walked in the shoes of the people we help. Because our staff is knowledgeable and connected, parents really get relief when they call here. They get information they need, they're connected to sources and there's support from our staff."

The Arc serves residents from infants to adults with developmental disabilities in Redford, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Canton and Northville and is located on Five Mile in Redford.

"In the past people with developmental disabilities were sent off to institutions and their parents were told to just forget about them and there was nothing you could do," Lerchen said. "As time has gone on parents didn't like that decision. Many parents kept children at home and they realized they really needed more help."

The Arc was initiated in 1961 by a group of parents who called themselves the Redford Association for Retarded Children. Over the years that group evolved into The Arc. There are state and national branches, as well.

A lot of programs are offered, including the Just Fun Club, which offers adult social activities.

"It's a wonderful committee of parents who put together a calendar of social events for people and arrange all the outings and dances," Lerchen said. "They can do things in the community like anyone else in their age groups."

The Arc also has an athletic program with 100 volunteers and 200 athletes who compete in the local Special Olympics events.

Lekotek, a program provided by The Arc, is for infants to children 12 years old who meet monthly with their families for play sessions. Families meet with play leaders, who introduce specialized and regular toys. They're also invited to borrow toys they like best. Lekotek also provides free sign language classes.

Another program "After I'm Gone" helps parents and their developmentally disabled child plan for their future. It addresses wills, trusts, housing options and other needs the developmentally disabled people need when their parents die.

"We all need to be self-actualized and self-determined to learn and grow and be the best they can be just like anyone else," Lerchen said.

For more information about these and many more programs offered at the The Arc, call (313) 532-7915.

## Plan preserves funds for local 9-1-1 centers

A Westland lawmaker joined the Michigan House in passing a plan that preserves funding for local 9-1-1 centers. The plan would ensure that first responders throughout Michigan can act quickly to help residents in life-threatening situations and protect rural communities.

"As lawmakers, we have a responsibility to keep our communities safe," said Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, chair of the State Police and Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. "Michigan's 911 call centers must be functioning and reliable and our first

responders must be able to act swiftly and appropriately. Oftentimes, a 9-1-1 call is the difference between life and death."

The plan passed by the House last Thursday protects the state funding that helps establish, maintain and operate 911 systems throughout Michigan.

Under the plan, users of any 9-1-1-enabled device - landlines, cell phones and Internet phones - will pay the same user charge of just 19 cents a month. The money will help ensure that counties can operate their life-saving 9-1-1 systems.

The plan requires that counties use all of the funding solely for the purpose of implementing, maintaining and operating their 9-1-1 centers.

"All sorts of emergency situations arise, from crime to health emergencies, and no matter what the circumstance, Michigan's residents must be able to count on getting a quick response when calling 9-1-1," LeBlanc said. "Maintaining the necessary resources to support our 9-1-1 call centers ensures that Michigan families receive the emergency services they need to keep them safe."

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## It's time to get into holiday spirit despite noxious fumes

It's time to become enthused with the holiday spirit.

I am running late this year because I have been swamped with other issues both at the office and at home. For some inexplicable reason I decided to renovate my bedroom in the shack that I call a home.

The house is nearly 80 years old and has been virtually untouched for most of that time. So I have such charming amenities as crumbling walls and 30 coats of paint on the baseboards. That is especially troubling because the baseboards are the finest thing in the house, as they are large and made up of beautiful old oak.

For the last month I have been stripping them back to their original state and refinishing them. As a result I am now infused with a different type of spirit — chemical paint stripper and vapors from a heat gun.

My goal is to have the job done by Christmas, which is a key reason I will be off next week, and thoroughly immersed in the world of do-it-yourself home repair. And then I will set up my tiny Christmas tree on the dining room table. At least I have that down to a science. I keep the 2-foot artificial tree in a box in the attic until Christmas when I pull it out, already fully decorated, and pop it on the table.

This is very different experience from when I was growing up and each Christmas and we had a giant, allegedly alive, Christmas tree in the living room.

That was mainly due to my father, who loved Christmas. He loved it so much he kept a Christmas tree fully decorated in the basement all year-round. It

would start off alive, but by July the needles would become as brittle as glass and the slightest touch would send them falling like raindrops.

The living room Christmas tree only stayed up until Three Kings Day, a week or so after Christmas. But by then it too had been ravaged by dryness and suffered invasions by our cats, which liked to climb into the branches.

It was weird. You would sit on the sofa and get the feeling that someone was watching you. Then you would look to the tree and see a pair of eyes peering at you from among the branches. The cats loved the Christmas tree too. They would often knock it down. My dad would swear at them. They were unimpressed.

My dad tied a ribbon around the top of tree and nailed it to the wall to keep it from falling. It fell over anyway. My two brothers and my sister usually left the house in the care of my ever-patient mother while my dad set up the Christmas tree or did any plumbing around the house.

Every job he did was measured in the amount of God damns. The Christmas tree usually rated four or five. But installing the garbage disposal, whew, that was a whole litany. Yet the disposal was installed and the tree did get set into place, although sometimes a bit precariously.

If all this sounds a little like the movie *A Christmas Story*, I'm not surprised. I grew up in a house and neighborhood very similar to what was depicted in that movie.

I get nostalgic every time I see it, so much of it hits so close to home. My dad did not have a table lamp shaped like a woman's leg. But he sure would have liked one.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the Birmingham Eccentric. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@hometownlife.com.



Greg Kowalski

## Truth about aborigines

An *Observer* letter writer wrote, "Personally, I find it a great irony that aboriginal people of North America are being labeled immigrants to this country."

Now I agree with this statement, unfortunately, you received and printed an opinion letter that believed native Americans, aborigines of North America are "not Mexicans, Central Americans ... or even Canadians ..." This is misleading and inaccurate.

Historical facts do identify Indians as the first inhabitants of the North American region and they have occupied it for at least 20,000 years, roaming freely throughout North America for centuries, relocating when the need arose before European settlers came. Many native Americans were nomadic and came from Canadian or Mexican territories to U.S. territories and many native Americans now in present-day Canada and Mexico came from what are now U.S. territories.

Further more *The World Book Encyclopedia* Volume 4 printed in the United States of America, Library of Congress catalog number 64-7000, defined the following fact: "When Europeans first settled in North America, the largest number of native Americans (aborigines) lived in present-day Mexico and Central America." It also states: "Today many people in these regions have pure Indian ancestry, and even larger numbers are mestizos of mixed Indian and European descent."

These are native Americans, aborigines but because they are born outside of U.S. territories they are labeled immigrants to our country. This is the irony I see that aboriginal people, people of Indian ancestry in North America are now labeled immigrants in lands their ancestors roamed freely for centuries.

Carlos Manzo  
Westland

## Ron Paul is good choice

As you know, the 2008 presidential election is coming up in a year. I believe that electing our next president is a very important decision to make. There are many candidates running, but only two are widely known. I have asked more than 100 students and people of my community who they believe would be the top choice. Every single one of them drew a blank. Their only response was "I don't think it

## LETTERS

would be Clinton or Obama." I also asked if they could name a few candidates and only a few could. Others named were Mitt Romney, John Edwards, "that mayor of New York," and to my surprise, John Kerry.

This is a problem. The only known candidates are two unacceptable choices in my opinion. It's not that I feel Clinton or Obama are bad people, but I feel Obama's lack of political experience and Clinton's past as first lady could get in the way of important decision making.

My vote in 2008 is going to a man named Ron Paul. This is my choice through many hours of research. I am not trying to force my opinion of Ron Paul for president on people, but I do feel the lesser known candidates deserve more news coverage. The media is turning a critical election into a popularity contest. This election is for leadership, responsibility and honesty for the future of our country. If you give less attention to the nonsense and more to the candidates, people will be able to make an educated choice. This is a very important subject and I want society to be more aware of it.

I am just 17, soon to be an 18-year-old student who has not yet had to face the harsh realities of the world, but I am concerned for my future. When the time comes for me to face life, I want to be sure it's a world of order and what's right.

I have a message and I will make sure it gets heard. I only ask for your cooperation.

Michael Joseph Van Cott  
Westland

## Don't believe them

With all the job losses and foreclosures in Michigan, most of the mortgage companies are offering to help customers. They say just call and we will work something out. Well, let me tell you, if the rest are anything like ours, don't you believe for a minute that they really care or want to help you.

First you have to give them a complete financial report of all income and expenses, all of it documented, of course, which is understandable. But if your income doesn't meet or exceed your expenses, you are not eligible for any of their help programs. If we had income to cover all of our expenses, we would not need any help, this is totally absurd.

All we were asking for was a three-month forbearance and add those three months on the end of the loan with any

appropriate interest, which would be no skin off their noses, if they weren't so greedy. When I get my lump sum payment from SSDI, I will pay everything up to date and never be late, as it was before my disability.

But no, they won't do that because we do not qualify for their program, so now we stand to lose our home of 27 years because my wife who is presently our only source of income has to have surgery. Also, after nine months on the market, we could not sell it either.

So if you're having trouble paying your mortgage, don't believe them when they say they want to help.

Ronald Ross  
Westland

## Tired of Quicken talk

I don't know Dan Gilbert, owner of Quicken Loans personally, nor do I know if he was actually contemplating moving his mortgage company out of Michigan. I have never talked to him about it. I don't believe most of the people that have an opinion about who is responsible for letting him move from Livonia to Detroit have talked to him either. I do know that I'm tired of hearing about it.

Most of the employees will stay with the company because it's a good place to work. I know quite a few that work in the Livonia office and they come from Livonia, Detroit, Canton, Westland, South Lyon, Taylor, etc. Some will be driving a little farther and some will have a shorter drive. Most of them probably stayed on the premises for lunch because it was inconvenient to give up a parking space for that short hour, so nearby restaurants probably didn't get a lot of their business and won't lose much.

The buildings will remain in Livonia, so someone will still have to pay property taxes on them and eventually another business will move in. The decision to relocate was done on Mayor Engebretson's watch and I'm also sure Mr. Kirksey read about the possibility long before it happened just like the rest of us. Why didn't either of them stop it then? The fact remains that Dan Gilbert is moving his company to another Michigan city in three or four years and may have planned on doing that all along. Maybe he was just playing a game with everyone.

Enough already!

Marlene Kafafias  
Livonia

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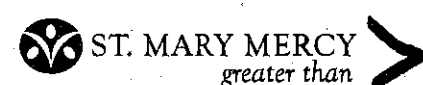
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# Fee-only financial advisers avoid conflicts of interest

Dear Rick: I was approached by a financial adviser. He told me that I pay nothing for his services and that he is paid by the different mutual funds to help people like me. I am somewhat suspicious. Should I be?



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

whether it is because of pressure from employers or a lack of understanding, they are only concerned about selling products.

Unfortunately, there are too few good commissioned financial advisers.

My firm employees and I recommend fee-only advisers who charge for their services and make no compensation from any product they recommend. When advisers are not burdened by conflicts of interest that commissions create, they can operate for the benefit of the most important person — the client.

On the other hand, there are commissioned salespeople who are up front about commissions and have no problem informing the client how they are compensated. The best commissioned salespeople I know of never worry about commissions. They worry only about taking care of their clients.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [money matters@hometownlife.com](mailto:money matters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). You can hear him noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

Your instincts are correct and you have every right to be suspicious. You were really dealing with a financial salesperson not a financial adviser.

All too often, financial salespeople who work on commission do not want to disclose how they are compensated. Mutual funds and other investment companies make it easy for them to hide what the consumer is paying. It appears the person who you are dealing with is a commission-based salesperson. When you invest in one of the mutual funds that he/she is selling, the money comes off the top and goes directly to the salesperson.

When you purchase a commissioned mutual fund, there are two components of the investment, the commission and the amount actually going into the investment. For example, if you invest \$10,000 in a 7 percent commission (loaded) mutual fund, \$700 goes to the salesperson and only \$9,300 of your money is actually invested.

In addition, some mutual funds have 12b-1 fees, additional sales charges assessed on a year-by-year basis through higher management fees. Money comes out of your account in the form of higher management fees and goes directly to the salesperson as additional compensation.

My problem with commissions and 12b-1 fees is they are typically very difficult for the individual consumer to know what they are paying. The mutual fund companies and the financial salespeople do their best to hide these fees from you.

Anyone who has listened to my radio show or read my columns over the years knows I am not a fan of commissions. I believe commissions create a conflict of interest. After all, why do you think companies that work on commissions such as mutual fund companies and variable annuities offer their salespersons sales incentives such as free trips to sell their products? Obviously, they want the salesperson to concentrate on the sale not on proper planning for the individual.

As far as I am concerned, when someone deals with someone in the financial world, they shouldn't be dealing with a salesperson. They shouldn't be dealing with someone whose loyalty is to the investment company instead of to the client.

Over the years, I have seen many commissioned people in the financial world. Unfortunately, all too often

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# SPORTS

B (LW)

Sunday, December 16, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor . (734) 953-2123 . bemons@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

## Spartans post 9th straight win vs. Patriots

### Stevenson likely to be No. 1

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

The unbeaten Livonia Stevenson hockey team completed an impressive three-day, three-game sweep Friday by earning its ninth straight victory with a 3-0 win Friday over Livonia Franklin at Edgar Arena.

The Spartans, carried 1-0 lead into the third period before senior captain Mike Voran tallied a power-play goal from R.J. Kierdorf and Cole Rochowiak with 5:43 to play to give Stevenson some breathing room. Voran then scored again on assists from Ian Curran and Sean Lerg just two minutes later to put the game away.

Curran, a senior forward, scored what proved to be the game-winner on a four-on-four situation at 6:45 of the second period with Kierdorf and Voran adding assists.

"It's not only tough physically, but mentally as well, but that can't be an excuse," said Stevenson first-year coach David Mitchell, whose team defeated Lake Orion (3-1) and Plymouth (5-0) on the previous two nights. "We like the challenge that it presents, and hopefully it will help us later on in the season."

Stevenson netminder Pat McHugh had to make only 10 saves to record his eighth win of the year. It was also the senior's fourth shutout.

His counterpart on the other end of the ice, Franklin senior goalie Austin Mesler, made several key saves throughout the first two periods to keep it close.

"Austin's a solid four-year goalie no doubt," Mitchell said. "We had our chance to score, but he played very well as he usually does. He's a top-notch goalie."

Stevenson peppered Mesler with a total of 26 shots.

"Our goalie is excellent every night," said Franklin first-year coach Scott Wirgau, whose Patriots stand 3-3 overall. "I'm never concerned how my goalie plays. He surprises everyone, including me, every night."

The Spartans did a good job limiting Franklin's scoring opportunities as McHugh made a nice first-period save on Jordan Chisholm in the first period and robbed Erik Volk on a breakaway early in the second period.

The Patriots opened the game with a 5-on-3 opportunity, but couldn't cash in.

"It seems like we start slow and build momentum," Wirgau said. "But I'm proud that we played hard until the end. I cannot feel good about the score, but I feel good about the effort."

Franklin tried a different forecheck system in order to slow down the state's No. 2-

Please see SPARTANS, B2



Franklin's Tyler Barnes tries to push the puck past Stevenson's Zach Roberts (left) and Ian Curran (right) during Friday night's game at Edgar Arena.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Sidelines

### Clasgens honored

Olivet College sophomore running back Pat Clasgens (Livonia Stevenson) was named to the 2007 NCAA Division III All-North Region football team after finishing with 995 yards on 173 carries and nine touchdowns for the 6-5 Comets, who fell 38-17 to host Central (Ia.) on Nov. 17 in the first round of the NCAA Division III.

### Cards sign Gooding

Dearborn Divine Child right-handed pitcher and second baseman Jeremy Gooding (Livonia) recently signed a NCAA Division II letter-of-intent to play baseball next year at Saginaw Valley State.

In seven starts and six relief appearances last spring with the Falcons, Gooding posted a 4-2 record with an earned run average of 1.24.

In 50.2 innings, the former Livonia Lookouts and Michigan Muskrats summer league player struck out 68 (9.4 average per seven innings) while allowing 34 walks and 26 hits.

Gooding, who batted .326, also considered Madonna, Xavier University (Ohio) and the University of Cincinnati. He spent two years at Livonia Franklin H.S. before transferring to DC and attended St. Michael's Grade School in Livonia.

### Pauza makes cut

Grand Valley State University freshman Jeff Pauza (Livonia Stevenson) earned a NCAA Division II National B cut recently in the 1,650-yard freestyle with a time of 16 minutes, 25.39 seconds at the Wheaton College (Ill.) Invitational.

Pauza also set a Laker freshman record in the 500 freestyle (4:43.33) at the same meet (Nov. 30-Dec. 1).

### MU softball camp

Madonna University softball coach Al White is hosting a hitting camp 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, Dec. 22.

Prospective participants can also register for Madonna's softball fundamentals camp, which includes two sessions.

The first session is from 9-11:30 a.m. on Saturdays beginning Jan. 5 through Jan. 26; the second is set for while 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays beginning Jan. 13 through Feb. 3.

The fundamentals camp sessions will focus on all aspects of fast-pitch softball, according to White.

For more information, call White (734-432-5783).

## Barbee on fire

### Zebras' guard nets 34 in victory

Trenia Barbee was virtually unstoppable Friday night.

The 5-foot-8 senior guard from Wayne Memorial poured in 14 of her game-high 34 points in the decisive fourth quarter to lead the visiting Zebras to a 51-38 Western Lakes Activities Association crossover girls basketball win at Livonia Stevenson.

"She'd drive it to the paint and make that fadeaway jumper," said Stevenson first-year coach Pat Cannon, whose team was outscored 18-8 in the fourth quarter. "We gave up only 10 transition points and I thought Rebecca Bartek did a heck of a job on her."

Wayne, 1-20 a year ago, is now 3-2 overall.

Nastassia Goines chipped in with 10 points for the Zebras, who rallied after trailing by six points in the fourth quarter. Bre'Ana Sims grabbed eight rebounds.

### GIRLS HOOPS

Wayne shot 10-of-23 from the free throw line.

Kaylee McGrath scored 13 and Sarah Smith added 10 for the Spartans, who couldn't overcome 9-of-21 foul shooting and 29 turnovers.

"There was some pressure, but a lot of those turnovers were unforgotten," Cannon said. "We have to do a better job of taking care of the basketball."

FRANKLIN 45, CHURCHILL 39: Brianna Taylor netted 20 points and pulled down 10 rebounds Friday as Livonia Franklin (5-1) defeated host Livonia Churchill (2-4) for the second time this season in a WLA Association crossover.

Ashley Price chipped in with six points, while Brittany Taylor added eight rebounds and four steals for the Patriots, who outscored Churchill 16-9 in the final period.

Kia Griffin and Lindsey Graciak each tallied 10 points for

the Chargers, who shot 12-of-21 from the foul line.

Franklin made 15-of-23 free throws.

CHURCHILL 45, GARDEN CITY 26: Darcy DeRoo scored 16 points and added eight steals Thursday to lead Livonia Churchill (2-3) past the host Cougars (1-5) in a non-league encounter.

Churchill bolted out to a 12-5 first-quarter advantage and led 26-11 at halftime before coasting home.

Karen Grecicz scored 16 points for the Cougars, who committed a total of 30 turnovers.

NORTHVILLE 43, JOHN GLENN 31: Chelsea Atsinger scored 11 points and teammate Sarah Stern chipped in with 10 Thursday as the visiting Mustangs (2-2) downed cold-shooting Westland John Glenn in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover.

"We played hard, but we must have shot 10 percent from the field," Glenn coach Mike Schuette said.

Nyah McReynolds scored 10 for the Rockets, who couldn't overcome a 25-17 halftime deficit and scored just 12 second-half points.

## Wayne clips Bulldogs, earns 66-54 triumph

Wayne Memorial tuned up for Monday's big inter-district boys basketball clash with rival Westland John Glenn by scoring a 66-54 non-conference victory Friday at home over Brighton.

Junior guard Robert Woodson paced the Zebras (3-1) with 20 points.

Mike Lee chipped in with 16 points, while John Glenn added 10 points and eight rebounds.

Bryan Bollin, a 6-foot-6 sophomore center, led the Bulldogs (2-2) with 17 points. Sophomore guard Jackson Armstrong added 11. Brock Armstrong and Kyle Bollin added eight and seven, respectively.

Wayne led 31-24 at intermission and took control with a 19-12 third-quarter run.

Brighton was 7-of-13 from the foul line, while Wayne was 3-of-10.

On Monday, Wayne hosts 2-0 Glenn in a battle of pre-season top 25 teams. Game time is 7 p.m.

GABRIEL RICHARD 50, STEVENSON 41: Josh Herbeck's 15 points sparked a balanced scoring attack Friday as host Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard (2-2) downed under-

### BOYS HOOPS

manned Livonia Stevenson (2-2).

Eso Akunne (13), Jeff Lemanski (12) and Dan Gasco (10) also scored in double figures for the Fighting Irish, who pulled away in the second half with quarter runs of 13-7 and 19-13 after leading 26-21 at intermission.

Junior guard Brian Rowe scored a team-high 14 for the Spartans, who made only 13-of-26 free throws while missing six front-ends of a one-and-one. Sophomore Jordan El-Sabeh added 10.

The Spartans, who dressed only nine players, went without starter Gary Cobb (thumb injury) and lost junior center Kendall Snow (fouled out) in the third period.

INTER-CITY 51, LUTH. WESTLAND 42: On Friday, Nick Packwood netted 21 points and Garret Daniel chipped in with 17 as host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (3-1) turned back Lutheran High Westland (1-3) in a non-conference game.

Josh Kruger led the Warriors with 14 points, while Sam Ahlersmeyer contributed nine for the Warriors, who shot just 7-of-21 from three-point range.

"Our effort was there, but we did not shoot the ball well," Lutheran Westland first-year coach Brandon Bekius said.

## Livonia gymnasts eye statewide attention

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Even after last year's MHSAA mandated break-up of unified girls gymnastics in Livonia, there wasn't much of a drop-off following a runner-up finish in 2006 state finals.

Livonia Blue, made up primarily of gymnasts from Stevenson and Franklin, took fifth place overall in the 2007 state finals with a score of 143.900 points.

Meanwhile, Livonia Red, made up girls from Churchill, was right behind in sixth place with a mark of 143.330.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Emily Quint is one of four first-team All-Observer returnees for the Livonia Blue girls gymnastics team.

The two teams still practice and travel together to meets as the season gets underway Monday night at Brighton.

Livonia Blue coach Lisa Fierk has maintained strong team

with the return of first-team All-Observer selections Emily Quint, Laura Nomura, Meghan Powers and Kelly Tapella.

They were a major part of last year's third-place regional fin-

ish and 10-1 overall dual-meet record en route to a divisional championship. The only notable loss to graduation was Laura Ambers.

Quint, the Blue's MVP as a

### PREVIEW

freshman, was seventh in the all-around for Division 1, including a tie for second on floor exercise. She was also all-around and uneven parallel bars regional champion, as well as Western Lakes champion on vault and bars.

Nomura, a junior, competed in Division 2 where she took sixth in the all-around, including a fifth on floor.

Powers, also a junior, is coming off a 10th-place finish in Division 1 floor exercise (9.25) and recorded a pair of season-high 9.5 scores on the balance beam.

Tapella, a junior, placed seventh on the Division 2 uneven bars and was 16th overall.

Please see GYMNASTS, B2



# Yankee, Refenes spur Warriors to 67-47 win

The oldest play in the book worked to perfection Friday in Lutheran High Westland's 67-47 Metro Conference girls basketball victory at Harper Woods.

The one-two punch of Allyson Yankee and Becca Refenes combined for 48 points as the Warriors improved to 5-1 overall and 3-0 in the Metro.

Yankee, a 5-foot-9 junior guard, scored 24 and dished out three assists.

Refenes, a 6-2 junior center, also scored 24 and grabbed 12 rebounds.

The Warriors led 30-26 at halftime, but gained some breathing room with an 18-12 run sparked by Sam Terranella's defense in the third quarter.

Rachel Storck and Abi Gieschen chipped in with six and five points, respectively, for the Warriors, who shot 21-of-29 from the foul line.

Sara Deramo scored 18 for the Pioneers (0-4, 0-2).

**LADYWOOD 40, DIVINE CHILD 30:** Livonia Ladywood (3-2, 1-0), behind senior forward Jenna Anastos' 15 points and eight rebounds, opened Catholic League Central Division play Friday night with a victory at Dearborn Divine Child (5-1, 0-1).

Alex Serowoky, despite first-half foul trouble, scored six of her eight

## GIRLS CAGE ROUNDUP

points in the third quarter as the Blazers opened a 28-20 lead.

Lauren Malinowski led the Falcons with 11 points.

Ladywood shot poorly from the floor (12-of-41 for 29 percent), but hits 16-of-21 free throws (76 percent).

Divine Child was 11-of-39 from the floor (28 percent) and 6-of-11 from the free throw stripe (54 percent).

**LUTHERAN H'WEST 49, CLARENCEVILLE 28:** Cayla Van Gordon and Sarah McCourtney tallied 14 and 13 points, respectively, leading Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (2-4, 2-0) to a Metro Conference triumph Friday at home over Livonia Clarenceville (3-3, 1-1).

The Trojans, who couldn't recover from a 30-10 halftime deficit, played without leading rebounder Cheney Kemp (out with the floor).

Clarenceville committed 41 turnovers and shot only 4-of-17 from the foul line (23.5 percent).

Amber O'Halloran scored eight in the setback for Clarenceville.

**HURON VALLEY 38, LUTHERAN SOUTH 18:** Nicole Schaffer and Katie Kipfmiller each tallied eight points Thursday to lead Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (4-3) past host Newport Lutheran South (0-6) in a non-conference game.

The Hawks, who led 26-6 at halftime, also got nine rebounds from Sammy Barber.

Lutheran South, only 2-of-16 from the foul line, got six points apiece from Lasi Taylor and Gerry Guereh.



## Perfect season

Team Red captured the Western Suburban Soccer League's under-10 boys division with an 8-0 record while extending its unbeaten string to 51 dating back to the 2005 spring season. Members of Team Red, which outscored its opponents this fall 40-9, include (from left): Lucas Dorazio, Joey Lajcaj, Emilio Garza, Justin Barr, Kelton Quint, Brandon Gabrielson, Justin McChristian, Sean Pastor, Nick Joseph, Justin Hovermale and Josh Kornaga. Team Red is coached by Steve King (back). Not pictured is assistant coach Greg Hovermale and team manager Diane Kornaga.

## BOYS SWIM RESULTS

**BERKLEY 100 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 78**  
Dec. 11 at Churchill

**200-yard medley relay:** 1. Berkley (Patrick Cooney, Peter Dolnick, Jeremy Raisky, Jacob Donnelly), 1:53.39; 2. Churchill, 2:04.62.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Destry Newton (B), 2:00.49; 2. Greg Van Corp (LC), 2:07.32.

**200 individual medley:** 1. Raisky (B), 2:15.61; 2. Steve Jones (LC), 2:24.98.

**50 freestyle:** 1. Benjamin Duchan (B), 24.49.

**1-meter diving:** 1. Matt Hope (LC), 177.80 points; 2. Travis Holt (LC), 157.40.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Newton (B), 1:00.56; 2. Matt Castelli (LC), 1:17.1.

**100 freestyle:** 1. George Yanin (B), 53.96.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Raisky (B), 5:38.61; 2. Van Corp (LC), 6:02.2.

**200 freestyle relay:** 1. Berkley (Newton, Donnelly, Duchan, Yanin), 1:37.99; 2. Churchill, 1:47.08.

**100 backstroke:** 1. Steve Jones (LC), 1:07.4; 2. Ricky Scully (LC), 1:14.94; 3. Jacob Rimatzki (LC), 1:16.26.

**100 breaststroke:** 1. John Yurgil (LC), 1:22.24; 2. Nathan Larsen (LC), 1:26.11; 3. Lance Kortesoja (LC), 1:30.52.

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Churchill (Larsen, Scully, Jeff Stevens, Yurgil), 4:36.98; 2. Churchill, 4:50.77; 3. Churchill, 5:35.09.

**Churchill's dual meet record:** 0-1 overall.

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## MU men's cagers gain final

Madonna University's men's basketball team survived a late surge Friday by Northwestern Ohio, earning a 74-71 victory and advancing to Saturday's Crusader Classic championship game against Albion.

The Crusaders (7-6) led 43-34 at halftime, but nearly saw that lead evaporate by shooting just 40 percent (10-of-25) from the field in the second half.

Leading MU to the win were senior forward D. J. Bridges

(Canton) and senior guard Jon Battle, who both tallied 18 points. Chipping in with 13 points and six rebounds was senior forward Mike Rashad (Wayne Memorial) while senior point guard Charlie Henry (Canton Agape Christian) contributed 12 points along with five assists.

Josh Vorst and Kyle Gillette netted 15 and 14 points, respectively, for Northwestern Ohio (2-10).

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## Holiday hassles

### Experts offer tips on sailing through the season stress-free

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
 STAFF WRITER

It's no wonder Dr. Jackie Odom is seeing more patients under stress. All of the shopping, parties and family gatherings leave little time to sleep, eat properly and exercise. According to the Beaumont Hospital psychologist, healthy living is essential to balance the demands of the holidays.

"You have to look at the sources of stress, the increased commitments and responsibilities. The other big source of stress is financial. As much as you might want to give, there might be restrictions. People can't afford to give as they used to given the economy in Michigan. They're getting themselves into debt by buying more than they can afford," said Odom, a licensed marriage and family psychologist. "If there's family conflict they're having to confront that. Dealing with loss at a time when you're supposed to be happy creates stress. If you already have depression when you're supposed to be happy that creates a stress."

As director of psychology for Beaumont Weight Center, Odom helps patients reduce their intake of food and alcohol. That's especially difficult when holiday parties offer calorie-laden beverages and trays of goodies.

"Stress eating is the worst thing you can do," said Odom of Bloomfield Hills. "They need to identify the sources

of stress, the issue of loneliness for people who don't have families. The second step is to develop strategies to try to minimize stress. It's important to develop a support system, if not your family, make a family of choice. Surround yourself with friends who are caring, a church group, volunteer to serve at a soup kitchen, deliver gifts to a children's unit of a hospital, just wrap packages at a store to get yourself out."

#### STRESS FACTOR

According to Odom, stress is related to 80 to 90 percent of illnesses.

"Stress decreases immune system functioning making us susceptible to colds, etc. There's a whole list of symptoms like headaches, pain syndromes, digestive problems that may be exasperated with stress," said Odom. "It also increases cholesterol, hypertension. Studies have shown that fat building up in the abdomen can be related to stress. The body is designed to deal with chronic stress as if there's a food shortage so a lot of this make sense."

Odom says it helps to raise spirits by focusing on what you have to be grateful for and writing it down.

"I suggest to patients during the holidays to look at the year that's just passed, look at the goals you've accomplished and what goals you still need to work on for 2008, all the different areas of your life. Look at trying to balance yourself as



best as you can," said Odom, who is challenged by gift buying for her 9-year-old daughter's teachers and preparing to visit relatives in Florida with her daughter and husband.

"I exercise, walk a lot on an indoor track every day and eat healthfully," said Odom. "I enjoy spending time with my daughter. We have two puppies who I love walking and I enjoy helping the Michigan Humane Society to support

cancer research and trying to raise funds."

Sandra Finkel meditates early in her day and then again later in the evening. Throughout the year, she shares stress relieving techniques in prevention and rehabilitation classes for the cardiovascular medicine division at University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

"There are a lot of links between stress and heart

disease. The stress alone can increase risk factors," said Finkel, a stress management specialist and manager of stress management services at the University of Michigan Hospital. "The first thing is to recognize how much we increase our stress through our thoughts. We need to have more of an awareness that we're creating more stress by worrying, holding onto the past."

#### WAYS TO COPE

Finkel suggests practicing techniques such as relaxation, deep breathing, meditation, journaling and imagery, and to eat more fruits, vegetables and whole grains, lean protein sources like legumes, and drink plenty of water. Finkel exercises during her lunch hour in the fitness center at work.

"Plan activities according to your values. That may mean saying no to going to the party you hate if you want more family time, more time to yourself," said Finkel, who celebrated Hanukkah with her husband's family in Chicago. Finkel works full time and is the mother of two children, ages 10 and 14. "And let whatever actually happens be fine. You make your plans but you have to let go and recognize what the reality is. Find aspects in every situation to savor and enjoy. Young children have this wonderment that we can adopt. There are a lot of strategies I teach people that don't actually take a whole lot of their time like breathing for five minutes with your eyes closed."

Finkel teaches a six-week stress management class beginning 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16. The cost is \$118.

Martha Kimball teaches beginning meditation 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays starting Jan. 23 for four weeks (\$82). For information about either class, call (734) 998-5679.

lchomin@hometownlife.com  
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#### MEDICAL DATEBOOK

##### December

**Flu shot clinics**  
 University of Michigan Health System's Michigan Visiting Nurses offers flu clinics throughout the area in December. Flu shots \$33, pneumonia shots \$84. Clinics open to public, most limited to age 12 and older. Call 888-547-7295 or visit www.umvn.org.

**Flu shot clinics**  
 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Livonia Urgent Care, 37595 Seven Mile, (734) 542-6100, and Western Wayne Urgent Care, 2050 Haggerty, Suite 140, Canton, (734) 259-0500. The cost is \$25, but covered for those with Medicare.

**Flu shots**  
 Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan is providing flu shots (\$25) and pneumonia shots (\$40) at Oakland and Wayne County locations. For weekly listings, call (800) 296-8660 or visit www.vna.org. Homebound service also available. \$40 service fee applies that is not covered by insurance. Must have a physician's prescription. Call (800) 882-5720, Ext. 8752.

**Holiday cards**  
 The American Lung Association of Michigan is selling holiday cards to support lung health research, education and advocacy. To see samples, visit www.buyholiday-cards.com. For details, call (248) 784-2030 or (800) 543-5864.

#### UPCOMING

**CHADD meeting**  
 Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit Disorder meet Monday, Jan. 7, at Way Elementary on W. Long Lake Rd. east of Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. Registration begins at 7 p.m. for the meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. The Parent Group will have Fran Parker PhD, Mary Jo Schuster and Kevin Roberts moderating a panel of college students who have been successful in college managing their AD/HD. This session is open for parents to bring teens or pre-teens. There will be a simultaneous Adult informal support group in a different room. Free to CHADD members, \$5 donation per non-member families. If school is closed due to inclement weather, the phone line at (248) 988-6716 will indicate if meeting is cancelled. The Web site is www.chadd.net/527.

**Fibromyalgia support**  
 The Metro Fibromyalgia and CFS

Support Group features speaker Dr. Michael Hsu 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Merriman Road Baptist Church on 2055 Merriman, south of Ford road. Hsu, a clinical lecturer and research fellow in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Michigan, is part of Healing Through Affective Self-Awareness in Fibromyalgia, a randomized control trial with Providence internist Dr. Howard Schubiner. Donations are accepted. The group meets monthly on the second Thursday. For more information, call Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

**Joint replacement seminars**  
 To educate community about joint replacement options Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. No charge. To register or for information, call (734) 655-2400.

**CARE House of Oakland County**  
 Circle of Friends holds its annual fund-raising luncheon Tuesday, Jan. 29, begins at noon, preceded by a jewelry show from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. by designer Sharon Meyer, at The Townsend Hotel, Birmingham. A portion of proceeds will be donated to CARE House. Speaker is Naomi Griffith, a consultant on child welfare issues, a storyteller and author of Red Clay and Vinegar: Looking at Family Through the Eyes of a Southern Child. She uses humor and her own experiences to challenge and inspire audiences in business, education, juvenile justice, mental health, child abuse prevention and family violence systems. Circle of Friends patron level tickets are \$150, luncheon tickets \$75. Call (248) 332-7173.

#### ONGOING

**New parents support group**  
 Meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For details, call (248) 858-7766.

**H.U.G.S. support group**  
 Help, Understanding and Grief Support Group and counseling for parents who have suffered a pregnancy or newborn loss, meet 7-9 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For information, call (248) 937-4847. There is no pre-registration required.

**Hospice volunteers needed**  
 Looking for caring volunteers to pro-

vide in-home companionship visits to patients with life-limiting illnesses and/or respite support for their caregivers and families. Weekday availability preferred. St. John Hospice provides services in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties. Mileage reimbursement available. For information, call (800) 248-2298 or visit www.stjohn.org/Hospice.

**AA support group**  
 Alcoholics Anonymous and the Al-Anon (for family and friends) groups meet 10 a.m. every Sunday, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For information, call (248) 706-1020. No pre-registration required.

**Volunteer training**  
 Heartland Hospice Services is looking for caring and compassionate individuals for hospice volunteer training to provide companionship, support and friendly visits for patients and their caregivers. Evening and daytime classes available. Office support is also needed. Call (800) 770-9859.

**Cancer support group**  
 The Charac Cancer Treatment Center at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital hosts a support group for anyone dealing with cancer 7-8:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For information, call (248) 937-5163.

**Thyroid cancer support group**  
 Free support group meets monthly and is open to all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family members and friends. For summer meeting dates or information, call Gwynne at (248) 740-9759.

#### ONGOING

**Our Body exhibit**  
 Our Body exhibit tickets \$24.95, \$22.95 seniors, \$19.95 children. Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by adult. Advance tickets on sale at www.detroit-sciencecenter.org. Exhibit has been extended to Jan. 6, at Detroit Science Center. As part of the extension, five new full human body specimens will be on display. For information, call (313) 577-8400 or visit www.detroit-science-center.org.

**Volunteers needed**  
 Sandcastles grief support program for children and teens needs volunteers for Rochester, Southfield, Livonia and other sites. Sponsored by Hospices of Henry Ford Health System, the programs meetings are held biweekly. Sandcastles also offers a weekend bereavement camp in August which is in need of volunteers. Call (313) 874-6881.

## Blood pressure hard to control in winter, new research shows

Neil from Plymouth e-mails asking if the cooler weather could be affecting his blood pressure.

Neil, new studies have shown that blood pressure can be harder to control in the winter. Researchers studied more than 440,000 Americans with hypertension in 15 cities. They found fewer people saw their blood pressure levels return to normal when treated in the winter months compared to the summer. In fact, about 60 percent of the patients saw a change in blood pressure control in the winter. Experts believe the cause could be weight gain, different eating habits and less



Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

exercise during the winter months. Peggy from Romulus e-mails asking what can she do to relieve the pain from osteoarthritis. Peggy, you can not cure osteoarthritis, but there are some things you can do to slow its progression, reduce pain and improve your function. The first thing you need to do is exercise. I know you are saying: Peter you are crazy! I

can't even move. But exercise will help ease pain and stiffness and maintain mobility. Exercise will also strengthen your muscles and improve your flexibility, balance and overall health. I would recommend an exercise routine which includes cardiovascular exercise, some light weight training and stretching.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, e-mail Peter through his Web site www.peternielsen.com. Contact him Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

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<p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$319</b> PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1999</p>		<p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$377</b> PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT</p>	

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## Friend's stealing costs everyone

My friend did something, like stealing. What should I say to him? Should I still be his friend?

**Good Friend**  
Garden City

It sounds like you don't like what your friend did. Good for you! It's important not to do things that break the law. Breaking the law has consequences

— some of them are immediate (like getting caught by the police), but some of them are far removed from us. Take shoplifting, for example ... when someone steals clothes from a store, that person causes the price of the pair of jeans you want to buy to increase.

Why? Because businesses are in the business of making money. If a department store loses inventory due to shoplifting, then they have to increase the price on the other items in their inventory in order to make up the money they lost (because they can't sell the item that was stolen). Plus, they have to hire more security to help reduce their loss in inventory. But, more security costs more money. Where will the company get this extra money to pay for added security? From the extra money you and I pay for the items the store increased prices on! So tell your friend that by stealing or shoplifting, he's costing you more money! Then you can tell him that you won't be friends with someone who continues to break the law!

I know it's hard to fall in and out of love. What do you do when the person you loved doesn't love you anymore and they tell you they've moved on?

**Lost in Love**  
Garden City

I'm sorry to hear that this relationship didn't work out. It's very painful, isn't it? Unfortunately, I can't say anything that will make the pain disappear overnight. It will take time ... but, I can tell you that it's important to focus on yourself during this tough time. Your self-esteem can take a big hit when you're rejected by someone you care deeply about. Remind yourself every day that you're a good person. Look in the mirror and tell yourself that the perfect match for you is just around the corner. Try not to focus on how perfect you thought the relationship was. Besides, it couldn't have been all that perfect if it didn't work out! If you spend too much time thinking about it, you might miss the perfect match. In short, it he's moved on, you need to move on too!

My parents always say I run my mouth too much. How can I control my mouth and still get

Please see **FULTON, C3**

## Special childhood memories sought

Do you still think about the toy train you received one year as a kid or a doll house your dad made? *The Observer Newspapers* wants to hear about the special gift you received as a child for Christmas.

On Dec. 23, the Hometownlife section will feature our readers' memories. Send your story to [hgallagher@hometownlife.com](mailto:hgallagher@hometownlife.com) or *The Observer Newspapers*, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, Attn: Hugh Gallagher. The deadline for receipt is Monday, Dec. 17.

# Magical evening

Performance troupe fills evening with wonder

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Stand-up comedy, sleight of hand and razor blade swallowing magically blend into one act when members of The Wonder Merchants speak about their performance troupe. Each of the men bring their special form of entertainment to The Village Theater in Canton as part of a New Year's Eve celebration that includes a late night buffet and champagne toast at midnight.

Although they've never appeared together before, the troupe of four friends have been rehearsing a program that takes their different talents and turns them into a night of wonder to match their name. Andrew Dakota has been a full-time magician for 25 years. Ron Aldrich was awarded the Order of Merlin by the Brotherhood of Magicians for a career spanning more than four decades.

Craig Alan uses walk around magic to entertain the crowds at Albert's on the Alley every Friday night in Garden City. His first memory of wanting to do tricks goes back to a Cub Scout meeting at age 9 or 10 when a magician performed. Alan combines his improvisation training at Second City with psychology and theater classes at Schoolcraft College to develop his brand of performance.

In addition to corporate functions, awards banquets, employee appreciation days, holiday and house parties, graduations and weddings, Alan entertains at Malarkey's

Please see **MAGIC, C2**



Pooch (left back), Craig Alan, Ron Aldrich, and Andrew Dakota perform as The Wonder Merchants on New Year's Eve in The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE MAGIC

**What:** The Wonder Merchants performance troupe rings in the New Year

**When:** 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31 (doors open at 8:30 p.m., Afterglow until 12:30 a.m.)

**Where:** The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill at Ridge, Canton

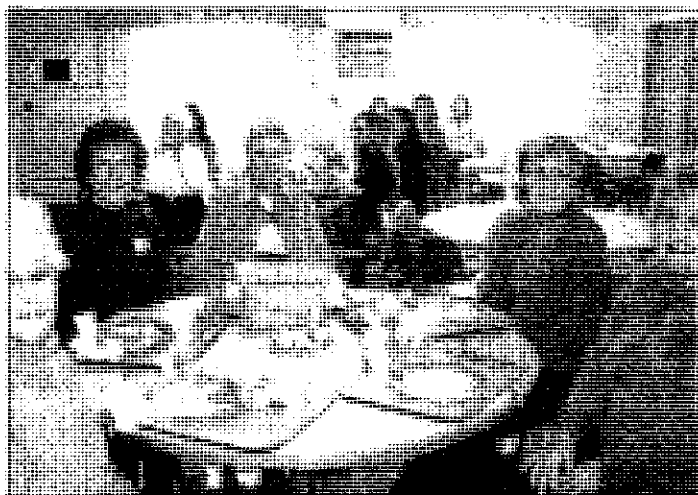
**Tickets:** \$45 includes performance, late night buffet and champagne toast at midnight. Call (734) 394-5300 or visit [www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater](http://www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater).



KONICA MINOLTA DIGITAL CAMERA

Craig Alan does card tricks for the crowd every Friday night at Albert's on the Alley in Garden City.

## Retreat makes great gift for Christian women



Women of all ages enjoy the peaceful and spiritually uplifting atmosphere at St. Mary's Retreat House.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Marilyn Olszewski has the perfect solution to gift giving dilemmas for women this Christmas — a weekend at St. Mary's Retreat House in Oxford. The peaceful setting is actually the Motherhouse grounds of the Dominican Sisters, but the two-night and two-day stays are open to all faiths not just Catholics.

"It's well worth the time and money. It's a good way to start off the new year, what an excellent Christmas gift if you don't know what to give somebody, your wife or friend," said Olszewski of Plymouth Township.

Olszewski is coordinating the Jan. 11-13 retreat with the Rev. John Martin Shimkus on Learning Forgiveness, Learning Christ. Throughout the weekend, women will have the opportunity to attend conferences with the priest between times for reflection and prayer. For more

### ST. MARY'S RETREAT HOUSE

**What:** Weekend retreats  
**Where:** St. Mary's Retreat House, 775 W. Drahrer Road, Oxford  
**Cost:** \$150, includes lodging on Friday-Saturday nights, and five meals during the weekend. Call (248) 628-3894.

Please see **RETREAT, C3**



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# Need a Santa? Troy man will 'ho, ho, ho' at no cost for nonprofits

BY SHARON DARGAY  
STAFF WRITER

When Pat Grady performs a hearty "ho, ho, ho," the 52-year-old Troy man sounds just like a North Pole native. And when he dons his new red coat, with jingle bell-studded boots and a fluffy white beard, he looks the part, too.

"Betsy Reich, one of our members is heavily involved in Childhelp and she sent out an e-mail looking for a Santa for an event they have coming up," said Grady, a member of the Birmingham Rotary Club.

He answered his fellow Rotarian's call for help and bought a Santa suit online, figuring he'd extend his services to other nonprofit groups for free and to private events for a donation to Childhelp, a national organization with offices in Southfield that works to prevent and treat child abuse.

"I put some ads online at craigslist and on a couple of radio station Web sites. I had one animal rescue call me. Hopefully people will spread the word," Grady said.

Although he's had no formal training in portraying Santa Claus, he's been doing his homework, downloading tips from the Internet.

"One tip was to get a quality suit," he said, pointing out that he had done just that. "Probably

one of the biggest 'don'ts' is don't promise anything, especially pets."

He'll tell youngsters that animals "don't travel well in the sleigh," and will suggest they talk to their parents about their request.

"There are probably a lot of things I haven't thought of yet," he said, adding that he might "fly by the seat of my pants" during his first Santa performance.

Those pants will be a few sizes smaller than what Grady wore the last time he portrayed Santa several years ago at the elementary school his children attended. Now 21 and 19, the Michigan State University students have seen a photo of their dad in his new Santa suit, but haven't watched him perform the character.

Grady said his wife, Nancy, supports his Christmas time endeavor and plans to accompany him to his Childhelp gig.

"Oh, she's all for it. I tried to talk her into being Mrs. Claus, she didn't want to invest another \$500 to get a quality suit. By the time you get most of the stuff, it's about \$500," said Grady, who's proud to say he needed padding to create Santa's ample waist.

"I needed the whole nine yards. I just got the suit after Thanksgiving. I thought this year might be slow and by next year it will start to snowball. This is all about the kids."

Arrange for Grady to play Santa Claus by calling him at (248) 229-7612 or by e-mailing him at gradypat@juno.com.



Psst .... that's really Pat Grady of Troy in the Santa Claus suit, but don't tell the kids.

## MAGIC

FROM PAGE C1

in Southgate. He began mesmerizing the crowds at the Westland location of Malarkey's about six years ago. After the holidays he plans to resume the talent shows at Albert's on the Alley to give other entertainers the opportunity to perform. Between acts, he and John Thiede, a member of their improv troupe 94 East, perform.

At Albert's on the Alley Alan goes around to customers' tables, entertaining and making the time pass until food orders arrive.

"Magic has always been kind of a hobby that tapered off in my early teens and came back in my late high school years," said Alan, a graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland. "My job is to keep people entertained, bring something different to the atmosphere with card tricks to coin effects to mind reading. I use psychology, misdirection and magic, take advantage of basic human behavior, the usual way people would think. I ask a person to think of a favorite number up to 10, but not 7. Kids usually say 5 or 8, adults 3 or 4. You have to learn to think on your feet, take a situation and roll with it and get people to interact with you."

While much of the show is interactive with the troupe members calling people up on stage, Pooch works alone. The stand-up entertainer has spent years practicing to swallow fire and razor

blades.

"It's a unique variety show from razor blade eating to poetry, mentalism such as mind reading, telepathy, and the audience will be allowed to participate," said Pooch, a local funeral director who prefers not to reveal his name. "Other than razor blade or fire eating, it's mostly geared to comedy and enjoying the start of the new year. Every element of the show is meant to amaze or amuse."

Pooch is more of a humorist than a magician. He bought his first trick at a magic shop in Las Vegas.

"I found out it wasn't about the trick," said Pooch of Farmington Hills. "It's about entertaining people, that's why many magicians later turn to acting or stand-up comedy. Ultimately the audience doesn't remember the trick. They remember the performer. I do a lot of gags in my show instead of magic tricks. We all enjoy having a laugh, seeing a smile on someone's face."

"We're incorporating four different acts into one show. There's no blue material. I think it's going to be a fun night. We're merchants of wonder, men of wonder for hire."

For details about the talent shows at Albert's on the Alley, call Craig Alan at (734) 546-5207. For information about The Wonder Merchants, visit [www.wondermerchants.com](http://www.wondermerchants.com).

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## Items needed for soldiers and their pets

The Canton Petco is sponsoring a drive to collect items for the K-9 Off Base Housing Program for Military Pets, and the men and women who serve in the American military. The fund-raiser continues to Monday, Dec. 31, at Petco on the south side of Ford Rd., west of Lily.

Donna Law of Mutts & Mutts Rescue of Redford is asking for donations of travel size deodorant, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, shampoo, tooth paste and brushes, tampons and sanitary napkins, Roloids, cough drops, hard candy (no chocolate) shaving cream, razors, package vitamins, powder drink mixes, playing cards, pens and notebooks, AT & T calling cards, white men's socks, and monetary donations to help ship packages.

The K-9 Off Base Housing Program currently has 5-dogs that are being cared for by Mutts & Mutts. Because many military families have no one to care for their pets while overseas, Law started the program which is in need of Pro Plan Lamb and Rice/Chix and Rice Dry Dog Food, wet canned food (Pedigree chopped beef), blankets and sheets, rugs, bleach, paper towels, 13-gallon garbage bags, brewer's yeast and garlic tablets, squeaky toys, and adult dog vitamins.

In August Law returned two dogs to a sergeant returning after an 18-month deployment in Iraq.

All donations are tax deductible. For more information, call (313) 232-0382. To adopt a dog or cat, go to [www.muttsandmutts.petfinder.org](http://www.muttsandmutts.petfinder.org) or visit the Canton Petco noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22.



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## Oh, Baby! 2007

**Do you have an adorable baby that was born in 2007?**

Would you like to show him/her off to the world? Then this is an opportunity to do just that! The Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers will publish a page of the babies born in 2007 on January 31, 2008. You could win a gift certificate to a local restaurant!

Fill out the coupon below and send it along with a photo of your cute adorable baby. Be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, if you'd like your photo returned.

All entries MUST be received no later than January 21, 2008.

Two lucky entries will be picked from a random drawing for the dinner gift certificates, one valued at \$100 and the other valued at \$50. The winners will be announced on the "Oh, Baby 2008" page, January 31, 2008.

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Buy 2: Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Garden City and Westland  
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Our Holiday Present To You – Sale Extended Thru the Holidays!

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## \$38.95 sq. ft. installed

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- Radius Corners to 6" included
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40 Colors Available at this price

\*Note - sink holes & stove cutouts are extra charge. Minimum order 30 sq. ft.

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Farmington Hills  
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# RETREAT

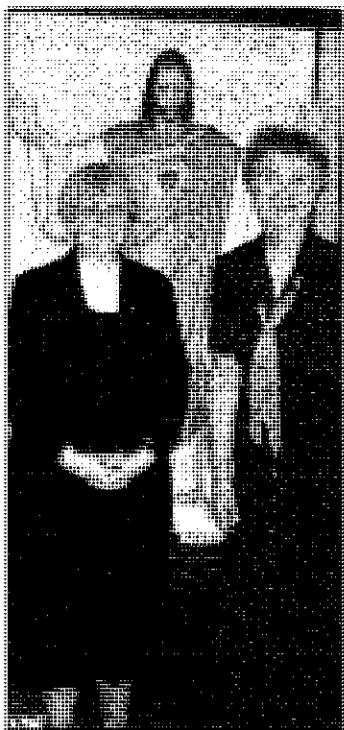
FROM PAGE C1

information, call Cynthia Wishart at (734) 591-6435. The cost is \$150. Deadline for registration is Dec. 28.

Olszewski has gone to about eight retreats in the last 15 years. She was raised in a Catholic family in Alpena and went to the Felician Academy in Detroit before receiving a degree in chemistry and theology from Madonna University in Livonia. She taught at Our Lady of Refuge, St. Hillary's in Redford, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, and was director of religious education at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth where she's been a member since 1977.

"If they go in with an open mind and heart they can expect to be re-energized in their faith life," said Olszewski. "The surroundings are very peaceful in the midst of all the busyness. It's a time to rest and relax and re-energize. It's more of a spiritual gift, if you're looking for an uplift. It's a Christian retreat."

The women arrive at 7 p.m. Friday and gather for snacks, evening prayer and a conference with Shimkus who leads the retreat. Saturday morning begins with prayer, breakfast and conference followed by free time, lunch, more conferences and time for private prayer and reconciliation,



Sister Audrey and Sister Sue at St. Mary's Retreat House in Oxford.

and private counseling with Shimkus. After dinner, there is time for evening prayer and another conference. Sunday morning begins with Mass and then breakfast, conference and lunch. The day concludes at 1:30 p.m.

"It's very relaxed with comfortable clothes and walking shoes," said Olszewski whose husband, Dan, attends retreats at St. Paul of the Cross in Redford.

Paula Madigan went to her

first retreat in 1972 and by 1979 was volunteering to serve on a committee to choose the speakers. The Livonia woman is one of the coordinators for the Jan. 25-27 retreat, The Tapestry of Our Lives, with Sister Sue Tracy who spoke at the Nov. 2-4 retreat on Unwrapping God's Gifts. The deadline for registration is Jan. 11. For more information, call Madigan at (734) 422-2689.

Madigan was born into a Catholic family in the Detroit area.

"A couple of my daughters usually go and my sister usually goes," said Madigan, 91, who coordinates the weekend with her sister Theresa Stuve of Livonia.

"It's a time to reflect and pray, a spiritual weekend basically. There are friendships. Some of the women have been coming for years. It's very friendly, not the silent retreats. You meet new friends and look forward to seeing the ones you saw last year."

Madigan helped select Sister Tracy to speak after hearing her at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Sister Tracy is a Dominican sister of Grand Rapids.

"She was very informal and wide open for questions and comments and has a tremendous sense of humor," said Madigan.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

# FULTON

FROM PAGE C1

my point across? Big Mouth in Garden City

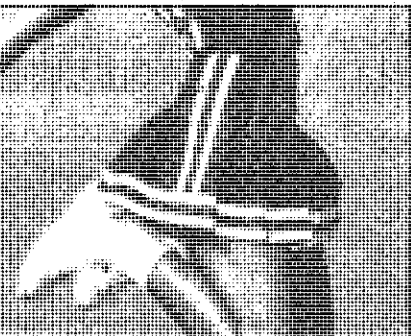
It sounds like you agree your mouth is a problem. But it also sounds like you feel you have good reasons for "running" your mouth ... like maybe you're trying to explain yourself or your behavior?

One word of advice: Timing. Timing is everything. I wouldn't try to justify the behavior your parents are angry about while they're yelling at you. Wait until everyone calms down and then ask them if you can explain why you did what you did. But, don't try to get out of whatever consequence they've given you.

If you did something wrong, then own up to it. If you had a good reason for doing something wrong, find a good time to explain your decision-making process. It might give your parents an opportunity to give you some guidance.

Monica Fulton is the supervisor of the Family Resource Center in Garden City working on youth and family problems. She has a master of arts degree in clinical psychology. She can be reached by e-mail at monicafulton@sbcbglobal.net.

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's Sports section



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**SCREENING COLONOSCOPY**  
DIGESTIVE DISEASE CLINIC  
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## Arthritis Today

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18829 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone: (248) 478-7860



### DON'T STOP MOVING

This time of year brings on heavy work. You have leaves to gather, spring clothes to put away and winter gear to bring out of storage. The effort strains the knees, necessitating in some cases, a doctor's appointment to drain excess fluid from the knee.

Usually, taking fluid out of the knee and injecting a steroid into it suffices to resolve the knee problem. But not always. The fluid may return bringing up the question: "Am I doing too much?"

Your doctor is not likely to agree with you. Rather, he will take the view not that you should do less, but that he should do more. If your knee problem was only one of an unexpected twist with irritation, then the first draining should suffice. If you have return of the fluid, he needs to investigate further to answer why the swelling has re-occurred.

The medical community is aware of the importance of activity in preserving your mental and physical stamina. Return of knee swelling requires investigation, not the recommendation for you to just do less.

In most instances recurrence of swelling indicates that you have osteoarthritis of the knee. If x-rays of the knee do not confirm this diagnosis, then an MRI is in order. This imaging delineates internal damage such as ligament tears or injuries to the knee meniscus. In turn, treatment can provide sufficient relief to allow you to maintain the activity needed for good mental and physical well being. Therapy may include joint injection for osteoarthritis and knee arthroscopy for ligament and meniscal tears.

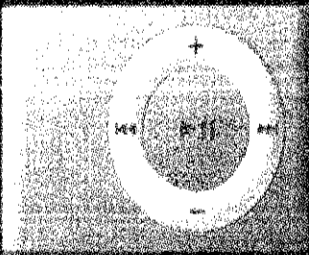
Today the job of medicine is to keep you moving.

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Get an iPod® shuffle when you open a new Chase Free Checking account with Direct Deposit.



Celebrate the new year with a new iPod® shuffle when you open a new Chase Free Checking account with Direct Deposit. With Chase Free Checking, you get an account that's great for your life on the go. Enjoy the advantages of free personalized alerts, free online bill pay, a free Chase Visa® Check Card and over 9,000 Chase ATMs nationwide. So stop in to get your iPod® shuffle and enjoy a little music on the go. Offer ends December 30, 2007.



\*Reward is only available to new checking customers who do not have an existing Chase checking account. Offer valid from 12/17/07 through 12/30/07 and available at Chase branches in Michigan only. Chase Free Checking requires \$100 minimum opening deposit of new money (money not currently held by Chase or its affiliates). Chase Free Checking has no monthly service fee when you have a monthly direct deposit. The customer has 60 calendar days to set up a repeating direct deposit on the new account to qualify for the 1GB iPod shuffle offer. The iPod shuffle will be shipped 8-10 weeks after the initial direct deposit is made. Limit one personal checking account-related award/premium per customer, per calendar year. Offer not available on account conversions or in combination with any other offer. Checking account must remain open for six months or the \$79 Retail Value of the premium will be debited from the account at closing. Account is subject to approval. The premium value is considered interest and will be reported on IRS Form 1099-INT. iPod is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. Apple is not a participant or sponsor of this promotion. ©2007 JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. Member FDIC.

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**HOLIDAY SPECIALS:**

- Whole House Special \$100
- Receive 10% off Total bill when you get your carpet & ducts cleaned.

\*Main supply duct, main cold return duct, up to 6 vents. Additional vents - \$10. Excludes 1-11-08.

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**Meadow Brook Theatre Co.**

EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD

By Michael Bakula, Art Fugate & John Anker. Original Music by Will Knapp

The Meadow Brook Theatre Company presents a new annual stage production of Dickens' Christmas Carol. The three professional comedians of the troupe, Richard P. Kelly, David L. Kelly, and Michael Bakula, will bring you a hilarious and heartwarming production of Dickens' Christmas Carol. The show is a hilarious and heartwarming production of Dickens' Christmas Carol. The show is a hilarious and heartwarming production of Dickens' Christmas Carol.

It's X-mas extreme...laughing...stuporably funny! - Orlando Santini

DECEMBER 11TH - DECEMBER 20TH, 2006

www.mbttheatre.com - 248-377-3300

**A Christmas Carol**

BY CHARLES DICKENS

ADAPTATION & ORIGINAL STAGING BY CHARLES NOLTE

November 23rd - December 23rd, 2007

Tickets 248-377-3300 online at mbtheatre.com

space donated by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers



### Prince of Peace ELCA - Westland

Come celebrate the birth of our LORD with us!

Christmas Eve: Family Service @ 7:30 p.m.  
Service of Adoration @ 10:00 p.m.

Sunday of Christmas: 12/30 @ 9:30 a.m.

**"Mary, Joseph and the Baby"**  
Presented by our Bell choir

734-722-1735  
37775 Palmer Rd. • Westland, MI 48185  
(1/4 mi west of Newburgh)  
princeofpeacewestland.com



### CHRISTMAS AT ST PAUL

Christmas Eve Services:

7 pm - Family-oriented  
Story-telling, Candles,  
Holy Communion  
11 pm - Traditional  
Lessons, Carols, Candles,  
Communion  
*(beautiful music at each)*

St Paul United Methodist Church  
of Bloomfield Hills  
165 E Square Lk Rd east of Woodward  
248.338.8233 www.gbgm-umc/paul  
CE0857608

### A Christmas Tradition

Christmas Eve Services

4:30 PM Family Service  
8 PM Candlelight Service  
10 PM Candlelight Service

Every Sunday

9:00 AM Service  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:15 AM Service

Plymouth First United Methodist Church  
45201 N. Territorial Rd. • Plymouth  
734-453-5260 • www.plums.org

### FINN CHRISTMAS JOY AT OUR SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Carols by Candlelight • Sunday, Dec. 16 at 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve • Monday, Dec. 24

Children's Service 4:00 PM

Candlelight Services 7:00 & 11:00 PM

Christmas Day • Tuesday, Dec. 25 at 10:00 AM

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
2225 E. 14 Mile Rd. • Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-646-6100 • www.ourshepherd.net  
Located 5 Blocks East of Woodward Ave.

CE0857604



Knowing Jesus Christ And Making Him Known

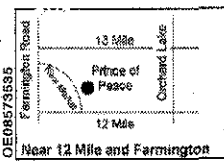
## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

### Home for Christmas

An unwanted toy sits unclaimed on the shelf of a bustling toy store...

An orphan faces another Christmas alone in a world too busy to notice...

Together they find what they want more than anything -- to belong.



### Join Us Christmas Eve

at 5 pm for a dramatic presentation of this story at our family service, or at 7:30 pm for our traditional candlelight service.

28000 New Market Road • 248 | 553 | 3380

## ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

~Christmas Eve Services~  
Monday, December 24, 2007

5:00 p.m. - Family Service

Featuring Children's Choir and Bell Choirs

10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service  
Featuring Chancel Choir and Handbells

Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor • Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Assoc. Pastor

Rosedale Gardens  
Presbyterian Church, USA

9601 Hubbard at West Chicago • Livonia, MI 48150

734.422.0494

www.rosedalegardens.org

Wheelchair Accessible



First Presbyterian Church ~ Plymouth

Church & Main Streets ~ 734-453-6464

Regular Sunday Worship Services:  
8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.



Christmas Eve Services:

3:00 p.m. Puppet's Service

5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant

8:00 & 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

December 30 ~ One service only ~ 10:00 a.m.

### Orchard United Methodist Church

30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI, 48334

248-626-3620

www.orchardumc.org

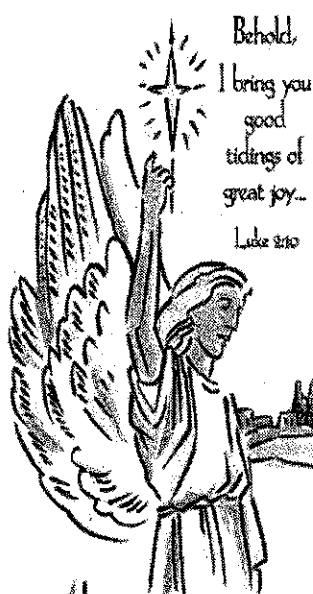
### Christmas Eve Services

5:00 PM Family Worship

9:00 PM Candlelight Services

11:00 PM Traditional with Communion

CE0857604



Behold,  
I bring you  
good  
tidings of  
great joy...  
Luke 2:10

### ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

620 Romeo Street

Rochester

stpaulsrochester.org

248.651.9361

Christmas Eve Services  
Monday, Dec. 24, 2007

New time: 4 p.m.

Children/Family Celebration

7:30 & 11 p.m.

Candlelight Celebration

Childcare for birth through 4 years is available at 4 & 7:30 p.m. services.

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

CE08673019

## FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Service  
Monday, December 24th



PLEASE JOIN US IN  
CELEBRATION AND  
WORSHIP OF OUR  
LORD AND SAVIOR!

Classic Worship: 6:00 p.m.

REV. DR. JIMMY MCGUIRE

Nursery Provided

We meet at  
Madonna University's Kresge Hall  
36600 Schoolcraft Road  
Livonia, MI 48150  
Parking lot is North-West corner  
of Levan and Schoolcraft

## Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in Downtown Birmingham at the First Baptist Church

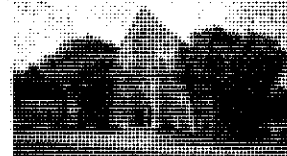
All are welcome to worship in the beautiful English Gothic Sanctuary in downtown Birmingham.

Monday, December 24, 2007

4:30 p.m. Family Service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Listen to an inspiring Hand Bell Choir  
Presentation of the Traditional Lessons and  
Carols of the Season on Sunday, December 23



CE0857602

First Baptist Church 300 Willits at Bates Streets  
Tel: 248.644.0550 Website: firstbaptistbirmingham.org

### Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church & School

9600 Leverne, Redford, MI 48239

www.HosannaTabor.org

313-937-2233

A Tuition Based, Christian School of the  
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am and 11 am

Sunday School

9:45 am

Hosanna-Tabor

Invites You to Join our Holiday Celebrations

A Night in Bethlehem

Wed, Dec 19 7 pm

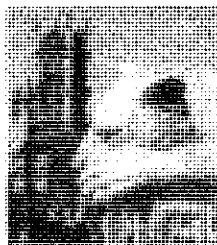
Christmas Eve Worship 6 & 10 pm

Christmas Day Worship 10 am

New Years Eve Worship 5 pm

Potluck & Family Game Night

following the service



### St. John's Episcopal Church

Woodward Avenue and I-75 (exit 50)

NEXT TO COMERICA PARK

www.StJohnsDetroit.org

(313) 962-7358

Avoid the Christmas Rush...

Come to Church this Sunday!

### Sundays in Advent

7:30 AM - Morning Prayer

8:00 AM - Holy Communion

9:05 AM - Christian Education for all ages

10:00 AM - Holy Communion

followed by an Advent Soup Luncheon

### Christmas Eve - December 24

4:00 PM

Children's Pageant Service

8:30 PM

Carol Prelude Service

9:00 PM - Candlelight Festive Communion

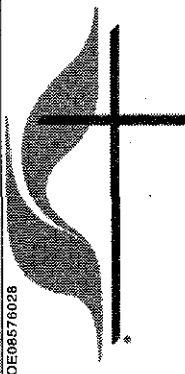
Christmas Day - 11:00 AM in the Chapel

Come find out why your neighbors are coming to  
Detroit for Biblical Preaching and Teaching, and  
Traditional Anglican Music and Liturgy



# Celebrate the Birth of Christ





**Berkley First United Methodist Church**  
2820 W. Twelve Mile Road • Berkley, Michigan 48072  
248-399-3698  
www.berkeley1stumc.org

CHRISTMAS CANTATA — Today at 10:30am  
LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE — December 21 at 7:00pm  
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT — December 24 at 5:00pm  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE — December 24 at 7:30pm  
CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION — December 24 at 11:00pm

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
749 West Fourteen Mile Road • Clawson

Advent Wednesday Evening Worship  
December 19 at 7:00 PM  
Light Supper at 6:00 PM (bring salad or dessert to share)

Christmas Eve Worship  
Monday, December 24  
5:30 PM Children and Families  
Great for families with small children  
7:30 Christmas Candlelight & Holy Communion  
11:00 PM Christmas Candlelight & Holy Communion

**Christmas Services**  
Monday, December 24  
Services  
4:00, 8:00 & 11:00 p.m.  
Music Prelude 10:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 25  
10:30 a.m.  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
574 S. Sheldon Road  
Plymouth, Michigan  
www.stjohnsplymouth.org  
734.453.0190

**FRA COMMUNION**  
Historic Frank  
United Methodist in Ag  
DECEMBER 23, 2007  
CHRISTMAS EVE!  
7:00 P.M. Family Ser  
11:00 P.M. Traditiona  
26425 Wellington  
(between 13 & 14 Mile Road)

**Christmas Eve**  
**Grace Lutheran Church**  
25630 Grand River Ave. (E. of Beech Daly)  
Redford Township, MI

Christmas Eve 7:00 PM Family Worship  
Christmas Eve 11:00 PM Candlelight Worship

The Rev. Timothy Halboth, Senior Pastor will preach on the theme "Crossing the Christmas Border" based on Luke 2:1-20. The Rev. Dr. Victor Halboth will serve as celebrant. Special music by the entire music ministry of Grace Church will beautify each worship hour. All are welcome!

**Resurrection Catholic Church**  
48755 Warren Rd.  
Canton, Michigan 48187  
734-451-0444  
Rev. Richard A. Peretto, Pastor

CHRISTMAS EVE - Dec. 24th - 4:30 p.m.  
Children's Mass (All Saints Gym)  
4:30 p.m. Mass (Church) & 10:00 p.m.  
CHRISTMAS DAY - Dec. 25th - 10:30 a.m. Mass  
SUNDAY, Jan. 1st - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

**UNITY OF LIVONIA CHURCH**  
28860 Five Mile Road  
Livonia, MI 48154  
(734) 421-1760  
www.unityoflivonia.org

First Baptist of Rochester  
6377 Orion Rd. • Rochester  
248.652.6151  
fbrochester.org

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
Sunday,  
December 24th  
6 PM



**Faith Covenant Church**  
Join us for candlelight Christmas Eve service  
Monday, December 24  
5 p.m. & 10 p.m.

35415 W. 14 Mile Road, Farmington Hills  
(248) 661-9191 • faithcovenantchurch.org  
Childcare provided at 5 p.m. service

**NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, MI  
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Senior Pastor

"Celebrate the good news with us - that with God all things still are possible...and that even now, unto us, a Child is born!"

CHRISTMAS EVE - Three Services  
5:00 p.m. Children/Family Service  
7:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols and Candlelight  
11:00p.m. Festival Worship & Candlelight

**Lutheran Church of the Shepherd King**  
5300 W. Maple • West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
248.626.2121

Join us for worship  
Sunday, December 23 at 10:00 a.m. (Lessons & Carols)  
Christmas Eve, December 24  
6:00 p.m. Family Worship  
10:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

**Christ the King Lutheran Church**  
9300 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 421-0749  
www.christthekinglivonia.com  
The Rev. James L. Fogle  
Interim Pastor

Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Worship with Communion  
7:30 & 11:00 pm

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
website: stjamesbirmingham.org  
The Reverend Fred Elwood, Rector 248.644.0820

**CHRISTMAS EVE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**5 P.M. CRECHE PROCESSION & HOLY COMMUNION**  
Carols & Candles; Service oriented for children; Nursery provided

**10 P.M. CHORAL SERVICE**  
Carols, Communion, Christmas Message & Candles (Music begins at 9:30!)

**CHRISTMAS DAY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25**  
10 a.m. Holy Communion with Carols  
(Downtown Birmingham between Woodward & Southfield, corner of W. Maple and Chester)

**Peace Lutheran Church Welcomes You**

This Christmas Eve  
Monday, December 24th

6:00 pm Family Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service with Children's  
Nativity Play

8:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve  
Carol & Candlelight Service

Peace is located at 17029 W. 13 Mile Rd  
Between Greenfield and Southfield Rd  
Southfield, MI • 248.642.7047

**Come Catch the Christmas Spirit**  
**Redford Aldersgate United Methodist**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
Dec. 24

5:30 p.m.  
★ Family Musical:  
"Christmas Chronicles"  
A multi-generational choir presents a delightful story with an important message with lights, drama and lively music.  
★ Closing service with individual candles  
★ Nursery provided for preschool children

10:00 p.m.  
★ Adult Choirs  
★ Hand Bell Choir  
★ Communion  
★ Candle lighting

10000 Beech Daly  
2 blocks south of Plymouth Road  
313- 937-3170  
www.redfordaldersgate.org

**The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit**

9083 Newburgh Rd.  
Between Joy & Ann Arbor Tr.  
(734) 591-0211

Christmas Eve - 6pm  
Christmas Day - 10am  
www.holyspirit-livonia.org

**WARD**  
(Evangelical/Presbyterian Church)

40000 Six Mile  
Just West of Haggerty  
248.374.7400

**Historic Mariners' Church**  
A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE  
Traditional Anglican Worship  
Since 1842

Sunday, December 23  
Advent IV  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.-The Holy Communion

Monday, December 24  
Christmas Eve  
7:30 and 11:00 p.m. Duplicate Services  
Festival Choral Communion  
No services on Christmas Day

Sunday, December 30-The First Sunday after Christmas  
8:30 a.m.-The Holy Communion  
11:00 a.m.-The Festival Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas with the Holy Communion

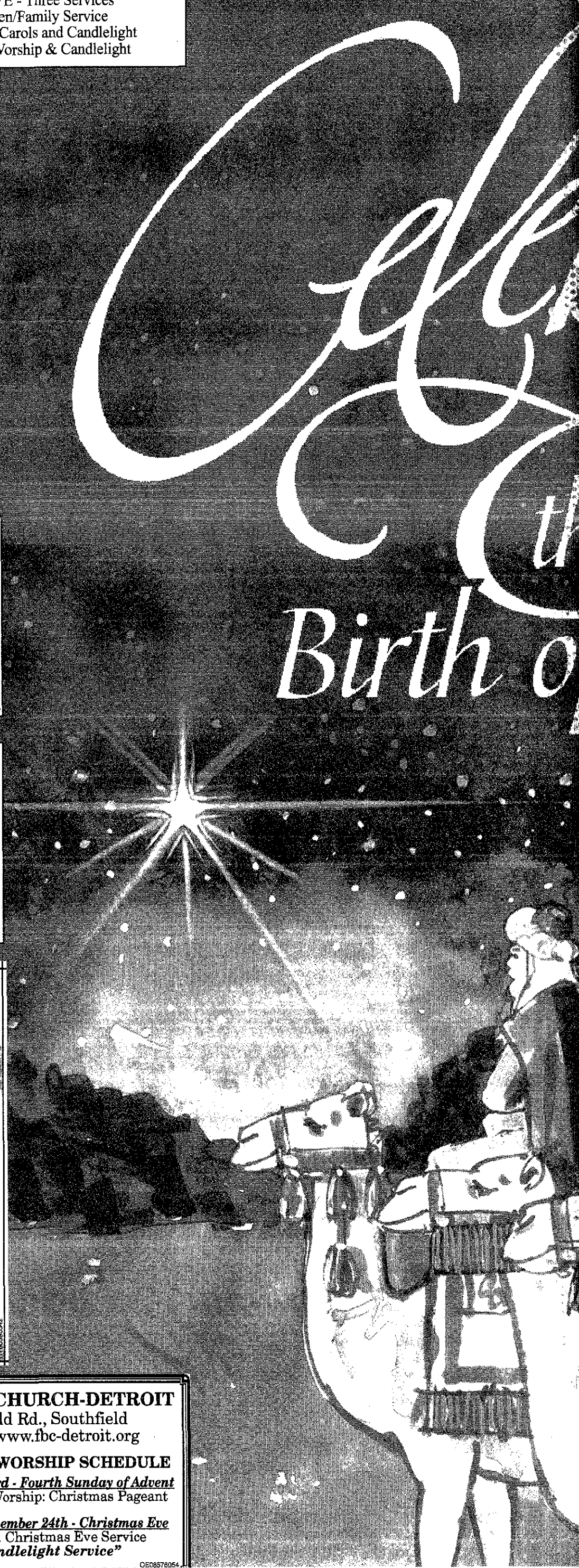
Regular Services of Holy Communion  
Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.

On Hart Plaza at the Tunnel  
Free Secured Parking in Ford Underground Garage  
with entrance in the median strip of Jefferson at Woodward  
(313) 259-2206  
www.marinerschurchofdetroit.org

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH-DETROIT**  
21200 Southfield Rd., Southfield  
248-569-2972 • www.fbc-detroit.org

**ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
December 23rd - Fourth Sunday of Advent  
11:00 a.m. Worship: Christmas Pageant

Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
"Candlelight Service"





**FRANKLIN CITY CHURCH**  
 On **Lin Village Green**  
*Station, Ecumenical in Spirit*  
 7 • Lessons and Carols  
**DECEMBER 24, 2007**  
 Service with Candle Lighting  
 Service with Candle Lighting  
 Pastor: James E. Greer  
 (S. - 1 block west of Franklin Road)  
 OE08576042

**SALEM CHURCH**  
 Downtown Farmington  
 33424 Oakland Ave.  
 (N. of Grand River, W. of Farmington Rd.)  
 Farmington, MI 48335  
 (248) 474-6880  
**Christmas Eve 8:00 pm**  
 Candlelight with Holy Communion  
 Everyone Welcome  
 OE08572399

**North Congregational Church**  
 35620 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 248-848-1750  
**Sunday, December 23, 2007**  
 10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent:  
 "Receive Him"  
**Monday, December 24, 2007**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
 7:30 p.m. "Finding Christmas Joy"  
 Ministers: Rev. Dr. Mark P. Jensen, Rev. Mary E. Biedron  
 OE08570328

**ST. GENEVIEVE 29016 Jamison...ST. MAURICE 32765 Lyndon**  
**- ROMAN CATHOLIC CLUSTERED PARISHES IN LIVONIA -**  
**December 24...Christmas Eve Masses**  
 4:00p at St. Genevieve Church; 4:30p at St. Maurice Church  
 Children's Masses  
 10:00p at St. Genevieve Church  
**December 25...Christmas Day Masses**  
 9:00a at St. Maurice Church; 11:00a at St. Genevieve  
**December 31...New Year's Eve Masses**  
 4:00p at St. Genevieve Church; 6:00p at St. Maurice Church  
**December 31-January 1...Holy Hour at St. Maurice**  
 11:30p Exposition...12:30a Reposition & Benediction  
**January 1...New Year's Day Masses**  
 9:00a at St. Maurice Church; 11:00a at St. Genevieve Church

**Grace Chapel**  
 An Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
 27996 Halstead Road  
 Farmington Hills  
 9:30 am Sunday School  
 10:45 am Worship Service  
 Christmas Eve Services:  
 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm  
 OE08578534

**HOLY CROSS**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Traditional  
**Christmas Eve Worship**  
 Carols, candlelight and Holy Communion  
 4:30\* 7:30 and 11 pm  
 \*For families with young children  
 All are Welcome  
 http://holycrosslivonia.org  
 30650 6 Mile Rd., Livonia  
 (1/2 Mile West of Middlebelt)  
 734-427-1414 • WELCOME VISITORS

**CELEBRATE WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS**  
*Christ came to be the Light of the World*  
**Calvary Baptist Church**  
 43065 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187  
 734.466.1022 www.cbcjoy.org  
 Christmas Eve Services 4:30 & 6:00 p.m.

*Carols and Candlelight*  
 Christmas Eve • 9:00pm - 10:00pm  
 Holy Communion  
 "The Story"  
 "The Story" is a tender, touching celebration that indelibly writes the story of Jesus' birth on every heart.  
**The Crossing**  
 31590 Grand River • Farmington, MI 48226  
 248.306.0661  
 OE08571192



**COME LET US ADORE HIM**  
**St. John Lutheran Church**  
 Farmington Hills • 23225 Gill Rd. • 248-474-0584  
**Christmas & New Years Sundays**  
 9:00 am - Noon  
 (Come and leave as you decide)  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Worship Services**  
 5:30 pm • 9:00 pm • 10:30 pm  
 OE08570328

**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)**  
 17810 Farmington Road-Livonia, Michigan  
 734-261-1360 - website: stpaulslivonia.org  
 Christmas Worship at St. Paul's  
 Christmas Eve Worship.....7:00 p.m.  
 Christmas Day Worship.....10:00 a.m.  
 New Year's Eve.....7:00 p.m.  
 Come and worship with us!  
 Pastor James Hoff Pastor Eric Steinbrenner

**Holy Trinity**  
 Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
 39020 Five Mile Rd., Livonia  
 734-464-0211  
 www.holytrinitylivonia.org  
**Christmas Eve Services**  
 5:30 pm Family Worship & Children's Christmas Program  
 7:00 pm Contemporary Candlelight  
 11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight  
**Christmas Day at 10:00 am**  
**New Year's Eve at 6:00 pm**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
 Our Community Church  
 Can we help you in some way?  
 #Wedding, Baptism, Confirmation?  
 248-644-4010  
 #redeemerBirmingham.org  
 1800 W. Maple Rd.  
 Birmingham MI 48009  
**Christmas Eve** • Join Us  
 Traditional Family Service 5:30 P.M.  
 Carols by Candlelight 8:00 & 10:00 P.M.  
**New Years Eve** Worship 7:00 P.M.  
 Pre-Service Meal 6 P.M. Call for Reservations Today!  
 Weekly Sunday Worship 8, 9 & 10:30 A.M., Mondays 7:30 P.M.  
 Children's Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30 A.M.  
 OE08570328

**ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 Immemorial Tridentine Latin Rite Mass  
 22310 Joy Road, Redford, MI 48239  
 (313) 534-2121  
**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS DAY MASS SCHEDULE**  
 Christmas Day and New Years Day are Holy Days of Obligation  

Christmas Eve	Confessions	10:00-11:50 pm
	Midnight Mass	12:00 am
Christmas Day	No Confessions	
	Mass	10:00 am
New Years Eve	Rosary and Benediction	11:30 pm
New Years Day	Confessions	9:45-10:25 am
	Mass	10:30 am

 Begin the new year with Benediction and praying the Holy Rosary. See schedule above.  
 OE08570328

**Celebrate Christmas!**  
 Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church  
 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia  
 Just north of I-96 (734) 522-6830  
**Christmas Eve:**  
 7:00pm Family Service  
 11:00pm Candlelight Service  
**Christmas Day:**  
 10:00am Worship  
 http://www.christoursavior.org

**NORTH HILLS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
 3150 N. Adams Road • Troy  
 December 23 • 9:30 a.m.  
 Christmas Worship with harp music  
 December 23 • 6:00 p.m.  
 Christmas Vespers with Communion  
 www.northhillscrc.org  
 OE08572185

**You're Invited!**  
 Come experience the Joy of Christmas at  
 St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
 December 24th at 7:30pm  
**Sunday Worship**  
 10:00am  
 Staffed nursery available each week  
 St. Andrew is located at 6255 Telegraph East Side - North of Maple  
 248-646-5207  
 The Rev. Lauren Kirsh-Carr, Pastor  
 OE08576053

**First United Methodist Church**  
 1589 W. Maple Road, Birmingham  
 248-646-1200 • www.fumcbirmingham.org  
**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23**  
 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. - Dr. John E. Harnish Preaching  
 12:30 p.m. - Rev. Lynn Hasley Preaching  
 5:00 p.m. - Rev. Jeff Nelson Preaching  
**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**  
 4:00 p.m. for Families with Young Children  
 5:30 p.m. for Families with Elementary Children  
 2:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 p.m.  
 Christmas Lessons and Carols  
 Dr. John E. Harnish Preaching  
 Holy Communion at 2:00, 7:00 and 11:00  
 Pastors  
 John E. Harnish, Senior Pastor  
 Rodney F. Quainton Lynn Hasley  
 Carl Gladstone Jeff Nelson Carl Price  
 OE08570062

**Antioch Lutheran Church**  
 33360 W. 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
 Antioch, a congregation of ELCA, is located at the NE corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Roads in Farmington Hills. (248) 626-7906; website: antiochELCA.org. Join our celebration of Jesus' birth - God's gift to us all.  
**Christmas Worship Services**  
**Monday, December 24** (communion at all services)  
 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas  
 6:00 p.m. Family Worship (pre-service music at 5:45)  
 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Festival Worship (pre-service music at 10:00)  
**Sunday, December 30** 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
 Lessons and Carols  
 OE08576053

**West Bloomfield UMC**  
 4100 Walnut Lake Rd.  
 W. of Orchard Lake Rd.  
 248.851.2330  
**Monday, December 24th**  
**Christmas Eve Service**  
 6:00 P.M.  
*A Service of Candlelight Music and Fellowship*









# JACK DEMMER FORD

GET THE BEST OFFERS DURING THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR

Rates as low as **0.9%** on select 2008's

Rebates up to **\$4500** on select 2008's



**2008 ESCAPE XLT**  
 Privacy glass, power windows & locks, power seat, fog lamps, auto headlamps, tilt, speed control, AM/FM CD and more. Stock #81419. Was \$22,030

24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$18,812\* \$213\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

**2008 TAURUS LIMITED**  
 Leather, 18" aluminum wheels, heated dual power seats, 6-disc CD, auto temp control, air, anti theft, auto headlamps, power windows and locks, power mirrors and more. Stock #80634. Was \$27,595

24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$22,810\* \$195\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

**2008 FUSION SE**  
 2.3L 14 eng., 5-speed auto trans, P205/60R16 all season tires, air, speed/tilt wheel, pwr W/L, perimeter anti-theft system, 1st & 2nd row air, curtains, fog lamps, 6-way power seat. Stock #80758. Was \$20,295

24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$16,818\* \$131\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

**2008 FOCUS SE COUPE**  
 Auto, air, aluminum wheels, power windows & locks, 15" alum wheels, remote keyless, message center. Stock #81227. Was \$16,510

24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$14,035\* \$118\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

**2008 EDGE SE**  
 Auto head lamps, keyless entry, power windows & locks, privacy glass, speed control, tilt, front & side impact air bags. Stock #81277. Was \$26,930

24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$22,835\* \$210\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

**2008 F150 S. CAB XLT**  
 5.4 V8, lim, slip axle, 7700 GVW, F-tow & go, 17" alum wheels & much more. Stock #80814. Was \$33,775

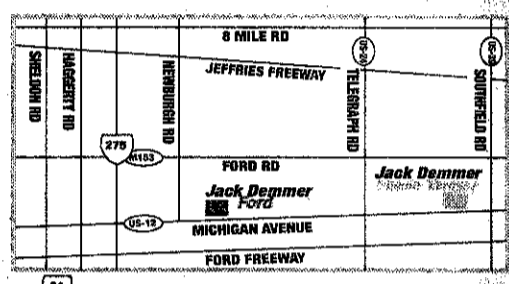
24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$25,385\* \$213\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

**2008 EXPLORER XLT**  
 4.0L SOHC, 5-speed auto OD trans, conven. group, cast alum whls, auto lamp headlights, and much, much more. Stock #81168. Was \$26,740

24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$20,207\* \$199\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

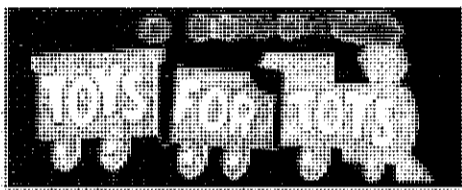
37300 MICHIGAN AVENUE AT NEWBURGH • WAYNE • JUST EAST OF I-275

## JACK DEMMER FORD



www.demmer.com aplanheadquarters.com

(734) 721-2600



Help disadvantaged children in our community. Please drop off unwrapped books & toys by 12/20/07



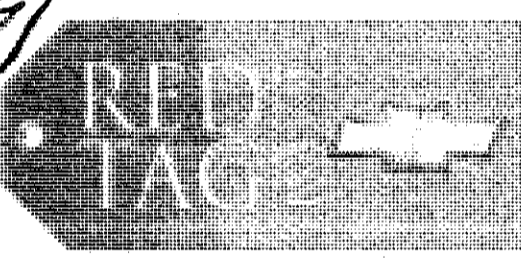
24 MONTH LEASE PAYMENTS  
**DRIVE NEW EVERY TWO**

\*Plus tax, title, license & doc fee. All applicable rebates included in price. \*\*24 Month Lease, 10,500 miles per year. Tax and plates extra. With approved credit. A-Plan purchases and leases. Security deposit waived for qualified buyers. Subject to availability. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments or APR. Offers end 12-31-07. Payments & prices are subject to change. See dealer for details. Includes any owner loyalty available.

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# SWITCH TO LARICHE IN PLYMOUTH



39 PAYMENTS UNDER \$300!



PICK A TRAILBLAZER - PICK A PAYMENT

**2008 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT1**

Power windows, power lock, tilt, cruise, air conditioning, deep tinted glass, locking differential, sunroof, OnStar, AM/FM stereo CD, auto overdrive trans, much more!

	REAR WHEEL DRIVE 8T3887				4 WHEEL DRIVE 8T3886			
	10,000 Miles	12,000 Miles	15,000 Miles	20,000 Miles	10,000 Miles	12,000 Miles	15,000 Miles	20,000 Miles
GM Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$179	\$191	\$211	\$3000	\$204	\$218	\$239
	\$2000	\$206	\$220	\$240	\$2000	\$232	\$246	\$268
	\$1000	\$235	\$248	\$268	\$1000	\$261	\$275	\$296
	\$0	\$263	\$277	\$314	\$0	\$289	\$303	\$325
Non Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$211	\$225	\$245	\$3000	\$239	\$254	\$275
	\$2000	\$240	\$253	\$274	\$2000	\$268	\$282	\$304
	\$1000	\$268	\$281	\$301	\$1000	\$296	\$311	\$332
	\$0	\$296	\$310	\$330	\$0	\$325	\$339	\$362

\*\*\* 1st payment, sec. dep & down pmt due at delivery. See box below for total due.

**36 PAYMENTS UNDER \$300**

2008 CHEVROLET AVEO

LOADED! Look at this Car

★★★★★ CRASH RATING

AM/FM CD MP3, 6 prem. speakers, cruise, auto overdrive trans, delay wipers, air, tilt, digital clock, split fold rear seat, remote trunk release, power rack & pinion steering, disc brakes, stainless steel exhaust, front & side impact air bags, daytime running lamps, fold away body colored dual mirrors, tire pressure monitoring system, halogen headlamps, front & rear floor mats, rear defogger, recline lumbar adj. seats, visor vanity mirrors, front & rear pass. assist handles. Stock #8C9086.

Was \$14,195 • Everyone \$13,671  
 Rebate - \$1500  
**NOW \$12,171\***  
 GM employees save additional \$600

2008 CHEVROLET MALIBU

NOW IN STOCK

STARTING AT **\$18,684\***

2008 CHEVROLET COBALT

ZERO DOWN \$0 SEC. DEP.

Protection Package, Rear Spoiler, Air, stereo & much more.

GM EMPLOYEE 39 mo/39,000 mile lease. Total due \$223.  
**\$223 PER MO**

NOW EVERYBODY PURCHASE \$14,311 - \$2000 REBATE  
**\$12,311\***

2008 IMPALA

OnStar, side head curtain airbags, power windows & locks, tilt, cruise, power seat, stereo CD, rear def. #8C9186

**\$229 DOWN \$229 PER MO.**

39 Mo/32,500 miles lease, no security deposit required. Total due \$458.

OUT THE DOOR PRICING! Includes tax!

EXT. CAB

Power package, trailer tow, locking diff., power windows & locks, tilt, cruise, air, LT 1 package, auto overdrive. Example #6T4019

2008 SILVERADO

GM EMPLOYEE & FAMILY  
**\$195 PER MO.**

\$1000 REBATES ON SILVERADO TAHOE & AVALANCHE

40875 PLYMOUTH RD. AT HAGGERTY • ACROSS FROM UNISYS  
 WWW.LARICHECHEVY.COM  
 WWW.SWITCHTOLARICHE.COM

OnStar

MON. & THURS. 8:30AM-9PM • TUES., WED., & FRI. 8:30AM-6PM  
**1.866.385.8000**

# Lou LaRiche

CHEVROLET

	***Total Due Rear Wheel			***Total Due 4 Wheel		
	10,000 Miles	12,000 Miles	15,000 Miles	10,000 Miles	12,000 Miles	15,000 Miles
GM Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$3404	\$3416	\$3000	\$3429	\$3468
	\$2000	\$2458	\$2470	\$2000	\$2507	\$2546
	\$1000	\$1510	\$1548	\$1000	\$1581	\$1600
	\$0	\$563	\$602	\$0	\$639	\$653
Non Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$3461	\$3500	\$3000	\$3514	\$3554
	\$2000	\$2540	\$2553	\$2000	\$2593	\$2607
	\$1000	\$1593	\$1606	\$1000	\$1648	\$1681
	\$0	\$646	\$660	\$0	\$700	\$739

\*Prices include applicable rebates plus destination. GM employee purchase. \*\*Lease with option to purchase at term for pre-determined amount. Not incentives plus tax & lic. Excess miles @ 25¢ per mile. Lessee responsible for damage, wear & tear.

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