



'O little town of Bethlehem'
Inside today's newspaper

In these difficult times, we're still your local news source
Opinion, A9



Keeping Santa looking good for his big day

Hometownlife, C1



SUNDAY
December 21, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

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It's a secret!



Sixth-graders Rachel Charron (from right), her twin sister Gabrielle and Lydia Derr wrap presents for students who purchased items at the Secret Santa Shop at Schweitzer Elementary.

Youngsters stock up on gifts at Santa shop

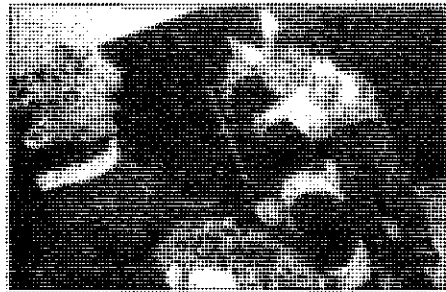
BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jewelry, homemade chocolates and trinkets, Santa and Mrs. Claus and free gift wrapping. It was shopping at its best for youngsters at Schweitzer Elementary School where the PTA and a group of vendors teamed up for an over-the-top Secret Santa Shop.

"It's controlled chaos," said Noel Derr, who came up with the idea four years ago. "We don't ask the vendors for anything, just come with items that are reasonably priced. They're all really generous."

Held after school, the shopping spree featured a PTA table with items like a ice scraper attached to a woolly glove, a popular gift for dads, homemade chocolates by Sweet Expressions and handmade jewelry by Mary Ray. The Jerry Ball Foundation also made decorated ornaments for shoppers while they waited. The proceeds went to the foundation.

According to Derr, Sweet Expressions



Mrs. Claus watches as Schweitzer Elementary kindergartner Alec Roulopoulos gives Santa a big hug at the school's annual Secret Santa's Shop.

chocolates sold almost all of the eight tubs of candy while all Roy's jewelry during the three-hour event.

Also providing items was Kimberly Loveless, owner of The Acorn Shop in Wayne. Loveless hosted the shop at her store the first two years before it moved to the school gymnasium last year.

"Youngsters would go to her shop, we'd have Santa and Mrs. Claus at the store

next door and parents would get coupons to go down to W.C. Franks (Furniture) to relax," said Derr.

Last year's event came the day after Loveless was attacked and robbed in her store. According to Derr, they were able to retrieve the items she had in her car for the Secret Santa Shop and sell them for her.

"Her car became a crime scene," said Derr. "We were able to get the items and take them to the school. We sold them so she had income coming in."

To put youngsters in the Christmas spirit, there was holiday music and a table where they could have their gifts wrapped. The PTA provided the wrapping paper and ribbon and volunteers as well as cookies for the shoppers.

Even with brisk sales at the PTA table, where items are priced from 25 cents to \$3, the event costs the organization several hundred dollars, Derr said.

"It's my gig," said Derr. "It's one of my favorite things."

Westland sizes up its carbon footprint

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland officials have decided to find out what the size of the city's footprint when it comes to the environment.

The City Council has approved the hiring of Resource Recycling Systems to do an assessment of the city's emissions, or so-called carbon footprint to provide a baseline for setting goals to reduce the city's impact on the environment.

"This will enable us to take a go hard look at where we are

currently with the intention of reducing our output going forward," said Mayor William Wild. "This measurement will give us the ability to track our progress as we proceed with future initiatives."

The carbon footprint study will be based on the city as a whole and will look at emissions from such things as vehicles, electricity, natural gas, waste disposal and other potential sources of carbon emissions. It will help the city as it moves toward green initiatives, like Wild's Mission Green, an initiative to promote environmental wellness

practices throughout the city, which he unveiled earlier this year.

The largest green effort the city has on tap is curbside recycling which Resource Recycling Systems has had a part in. The Ann Arbor-based firm has sent out requests for proposals for a "single stream" program in which accepts more materials that don't have to be separated for recycling.

Wild hopes to roll out the recycling program on Earth Day, April 22, 2009.

The mayor said he heard about the carbon footprinting at the Conference of Mayors.

Cities like Seattle and Toronto have done similar assessments.

"We need a baseline to get started as we move forward and look at energy efficiency," he said, adding the Resource Recycling Systems also will provide recommendations on what the city can do to cut emissions.

"They'll show us that by turning off lights or servers, we can cut emissions," he said. "The whole thing, the whole aim is to reduce global warming."

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

City gets ready to pitch park cleanup plan

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If city officials have their way, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Quality Review Team will come back from the holiday break to find a formal proposal for the remediation of a portion of Westland's Central City Park.

The proposal is based on an informal plan that was given to the team for its review several months ago in which some 15 acres of the 100-acre park would be developed as soccer

fields, pavilions and restrooms. The area would receive a combination of 12 inches of clean, imported soil and geotextile fabric.

"We made a pitch for the soccer fields at the district level and asked them to take it to the QRT to see if they would give it a thumbs up or a thumbs down," said Mayor William Wild.

The sign was somewhere in between. While the QRT approved the concept, it had reservations with the area

Please see **CLEANUP, A2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ann Kurtis, of Livonia, runs her usual 5 miles in the Plymouth Township area of Hines Park, in spite of the snow. "It's better than a treadmill," said Kurtis, who is married to famed local runner Doug Kurtis.

Storm provides snow for white Christmas

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Those people dreaming of a white Christmas saw their dream materialize Friday as a strong storm swept through, giving students an early start to their Christmas break, snarling traffic and leading to a declaration of a snow emergency in Westland.

The storm came just two days before the official first day of winter and dumped more than 7 inches of snow, prompting a declaration of a snow emergency in Westland. Residents must remove vehicles from roadways to allow snowplows to clear roads or face tickets.

"We're doing pretty good," said DPS director Kevin Bufford who was out checking major and secondary roads Friday afternoon as the snow stopped falling. "The county didn't do much, they definitely have fallen behind. We had to plow Wayne Road to help out our local businesses."

According to Bufford, the

started falling around 4:45 a.m. and DPS trucks were out by 5:15 a.m. Buford assigned 22 pieces of equipment from dump trucks to a road grater and plows to handle the job. Major roads were in good shape by late Friday afternoon and Buford hoped to have local roads like Fairchild and Glenn cleared by Saturday morning, depending on if residents heeded the snow emergency declaration.

"It normally takes 24 hours from start to finish," he said. "What helps is having the vehicles off the streets."

They only "victim" of the day was the annual DPS Christmas luncheon. Normally, employees get an extended lunch hour to enjoy the catered luncheon, provided by the directors. However, it was shortened because of the snow emergency.

"It was a little discouraging, but we told them we would make it at another time," Bufford said. "We have an obligation to the community."

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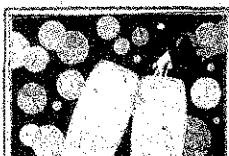
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Coming Thursday in Filter



Low budget or big budget - we have the New Year's Eve events for you. Check them in the next issue of Filter on Christmas day.

CLEANUP

FROM PAGE A1

around Friendship Lake. The panel is concerned that while the lake was tested for contaminants, the sediment wasn't.

"It looked like they wanted additional work around the pond, and if we go with the geotex and 12 inches of clean soil to the water's edge, it would mean taking down all of the trees," Wild said. "Beth Vens (MDEQ's project manager) told us to pull it out of the proposal."

Another area in question is the parking lot off Marquette by the old soccer fields and lawn bowling court. That, too, has been pulled out of the proposal "so it doesn't slow us down," Wild said.

Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp has said the document will likely amount to "many hundreds of

pages" before it is handed over to MDEQ officials. According to Wild, the document looks to be "32 inches tall."

Admitting that the MDEQ can move slowly, he is hoping the proposal will fly through the process quickly so that work can begin early next year.

The proposal is to cover the site with a geotex fabric and 12 inches of clean soil. Any areas that were not tested will be covered by the fabric and soil or turned into parking lots, Wild added. Rather than risk having the formal proposal stall, the lake will be phase 1A. "Once they get the plan, we're going to push to get them done," said Wild. "My attorney has always told me to temper my expectations, but I'd like to get this back in early 2009."

"I think we've addressed everything they have concerns with, this should work through pretty quickly," he added.

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Businesses collect coats for needy

With many struggling financially because of the recession, donations matter more than ever this year. Because of that, several Westland and Canton businesses are open their doors to help collect cold weather gear for the needy.

Coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots and any winter weather wear for adults and children are being collected for One Warm Coat at Taxfaster, 38950 Cherry Hill at John Hix in Westland, through Jan. 31. Donation are tax deductible and receipts for donations will

be provided. "When I heard that our local schools were in need of winter wear for their students, I simply had to help," said William Elias, founder of Taxfaster. The Towne Money Saver is helping to promote the coat driver in its monthly direct mailers, while Park Avenue \$2.75 Dry Cleaners of Canton is cleaning all of the donated items for free. Eagle Nationwide Mortgage of Westland is providing storage and transporting the coats to local charities.

The items will be distributed to anyone in need along with the Plymouth-Canton High School Clothing Bank and New Dimension Outreach of Westland. For more information about the coat drive, visit the Taxfaster Web site at www.taxfaster.com.

"We are thrilled that so many people across the country have received coats to help them stay warm," said Lois Pavlow, founder of One Warm Coat. "It's such a simple and easy way to show you care for people in need."

The Burlington Coat Factory store also is holding its second annual Warm Hearts and Warm Coats Drive now through Jan. 16.

Coats for men, women and children can be dropped off at store at 35555 Warren Road, west of Wayne Road. Coats should be in good condition with working fasteners, no rips and no stains. Donors also will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

The coats will be distributed to the needy by the Detroit Rescue Mission.

AROUND WESTLAND

Holiday closings

Observance of the Christmas, New Year's holiday season, city buildings are changing their hours. Westland City offices and the 18th District Court will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Dec. 24-25, and New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, Dec. 31-Jan. 1. Both the William P. Faust Public Library and the 18th District Court will be closed on Friday, Dec. 26, and the Bailey Recreation Center will be open from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31.

There will be no rubbish pick-up on Christmas Day, and pickup will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week. There also will be no rubbish pick-up on New Year's Day, delaying pickup for the rest of that week.

Free movie

The William P. Faust Public Library is inviting families to enjoy a free movie at its "matinee" 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27. No registration is necessary, and all ages are welcome, but children ages 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult. For the movie theme and more information, call the library at (734) 326-6123. The William P. Faust Public Library is located at 6123 Central City Parkway, between Ford and Warren roads.

New Year's Eve
AMVETS Post 171 is holding a New Year's Eve party from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the AMVETS Memorial Hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, in Westland. The bar opens at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. There will be dancing, a bottle of champagne for each table at midnight and pizza. Tickets cost is \$30 per person or \$45 per couple and are available at the post. For more information, call (734) 721-9440.

New Year Fellowship
The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army will offer "New Year's Fellowship" 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Dec. 31 at the corps, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer in Westland.

There will be an all-you-can-eat buffet for \$10, \$5 for children age 13 and under. The evening, a youth fund-raiser, will feature live music, ping pong, pool, arcade games and prizes.

Children age 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call Greg Barta at (734) 722-3660, Ext. 20.

New Year's Eve

Count down to 2009 with fellowship and fun, when the Westland Salvation Army hosts "New Year's Fellowship @ The Sal" 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Enjoy a rockin' good time complete with ping-pong, arcade games, prizes, pool, live music, plus, an all-you-can-eat buffet which is \$10 per person and \$5 per child age 13 and under. Children 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call Greg at (734) 722-3660, Ext. 20. The Westland Salvation Army is

at 2300 Venoy between Palmer Road and Michigan Avenue.

Glow Skate

Grab your skates and head for the Mike Modano Arena on Friday nights for Glow Skate. Cruise around the rink with blacklight illumination 7:30-9 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Skate rentals are \$2.50. The arena is at 6210 Wildwood at Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 729-4560.

Food collection

TCF Bank is making it easier for you to donate food to feed the needy in our communities this winter. Through Dec. 31, all of TCF's branches are serving as a collection site for non-perishable foods. Stop by the TCF branch at 37151 Warren Road and 360 S. Merriman, both in Westland to drop off your donation. Collected food will be donated to local food banks in early January. For your convenience, TCF Bank is open seven days. For more information, call 800-TCF-Bank.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 12/29/2008 at: 9:30 am Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

2138	daniel curren boxes, bag, chairs
2188	shatunna priester boxes, bags, sofa
2304	nina costello boxes, bag, totes
2312	tristina mitchel bag, box, totes
2334	cherill adams box, bag, totes
2388	jerry taylor tv, bag, totes
2393	margaret harris washer, dryer, bike
2444	germaine milliner tv, sofa totes
5006	todd harbin trailer
5012	tyrone johnson truck
1008	candy chartier bag, box, racks
1096	mohammad omar malik box, bag, totes
1138	yancy davis box, bag, totes
1164	djuana pearson box, bag, totes
1288	martha williams box, bsg, totes
1346	terry morgan, box, grill, totes
1348	zenobia morgan bike, bag, totes
1354	glen smith, tools, washer, bags
1410	sparkalen keith, box, bag, totes
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1552	marion sinclair box, toys, bags

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A007- Ronald John Lithgow- boxes, bags, totes
B015- Theresa Sturr- boxes, bags, totes
B129- Linda Carter - boxes, bags, totes
B156- Cherie Towns - box, bag, tote
B189- Ruth Jones - box, bag, tote
B226 ADT Security Services Curuty Services - boxes, bags, totes
B257- Petrice Johnson - box, bag, tote
B260- Naena V Love- box, bag, tote
B261- Rodney Ursey - boxes, bags, totes
B282- Sandra Harrison - box, bag, tote
B309- Jason Hernandez - boxes, bags, totes
C005- Jennifer Cialone - boxes, bags, totes
C012- Howard Hayes- box, bag, tote
C015- Devaughn Bone- box, bag, tote
D010- Curtis Wallace- box, bag, tote
E024- Harold Harvell- box, bag, tote
E042- Saleh Almansoob- box, bag, tote
F032- Willie F Randolph- box, bag, tote

Publish: December 14 & 21, 2008

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 12, 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on January 12, 2009 at 6:57 p.m. regarding the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant funds. The following projects are being proposed for the use of these federal funds for the period beginning July 1, 2009:

OBJECTIVES:

- A) To provide the benefits of using CDBG funding directly to persons of low- to moderate-income and/or areas where 51% of the residents are of low- to moderate-income.
- B) To reduce negative environmental impacts.
- C) To maintain a high level of performance in the management of CDBG and non-federally funded programs, while offsetting administrative costs to the General Fund.
- D) To improve public facilities.

ESTIMATED ALLOCATION	POTENTIAL PROJECTS
\$50,000	Citywide Housing Rehabilitation
\$71,400	ADA Infrastructure Improvements
\$10,000	Senior / Family Center Improvements
\$7,300	Planning
\$7,300	CDBG Administration (Administration and Planning combined must not exceed 10% of total allocation)
\$146,000	Total Proposed Allocation (estimate)

Everyone is encouraged to provide input regarding the proposed allocations of the CDBG program.

All documentation regarding the CDBG program is available at the Community Development Department, 6000 Middlebelt, Garden City, Michigan 48135, (734)793-1663.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS
Treasurer / City Clerk

Posted: December 15, 2008
Publish: December 21, 2008

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Gift cards brighten seniors' holidays

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The first time Helen Mulcoine got the phone call about getting some money she hung up. That's the technique she had picked up from watching a week's worth of programming about money scams.

But the Westland resident finally listened and what she heard was music to her ears: She was one of 34 senior citizens who received \$100 Meijer gift certificates from a group of friend, known simply as The Club, who each year hold a party to raise money to help people at Christmas.

"We've been doing this for about 20 years, but this is the third year with the seniors," said Lorena Dugger.

The party was held in November at the Leather Bottle in Livonia. The Club invited 96 people who enjoyed dinner and homemade desserts and bid away on such things as a Niklas Lidstrom Red Wings jersey signed by the captain and his teammates, raising \$5,600.

Of that money, \$1,600 went to the Friends of the Michigan Animal Rescue, \$3,400 to provide gift certificates for the seniors and the rest to buy a needy 17-year-old girl "anything and everything a teen would want."

"With the hard times, it was hard to ask for money, but we did," said Dugger.

The seniors, who are on Section 8 (subsidized) housing in Westland, were invited to the Dorsey Community Center where they were served lunch and heard the story of how the charity work began so many years ago.

"It started with a bunch of us girls getting together and going



Helen Mulcoine (center) holds onto her gift card as Lorena Dugger's granddaughter, Ashley Lohrer of Plymouth, gives one to another of the 34 seniors who received them from The Club last week.

here and there," Dugger told her guests. "We decided that one month we'd do something for the needy and started doing food baskets. When we outgrew my basement, we started having parties."

Mulcoine is glad. She lives on \$9,000 a year and had just got a \$229 gas bill.

"It's a pain owning your own house, but I love having my own house," she said. "You can be your own boss."

And as the boss, she decided immediately that her gift certificate was going to buy some food.

"This is lovely, such a nice gesture," she said. "Maybe I can get a ham."

Florence Thomas also planned on using her gift card to buy food.

"Now I can have a nice Christmas," she said. "It'll be wonderful, we'll have a great time with dinner and maybe I'll get the grandkids something."

Thomas receives \$636 a month in disability from Social Security.

After paying her utilities, phone and rent, she doesn't have too

much left, maybe \$20, to live on the rest of the month.

"I liked to have hit the floor when they told me, I asked, are you sure," she said. "She said I had to come and I said I'll be there, no problem."

"I think it's pretty cool," said her son, Lorenzo, who brought her to the Dorsey Center. "Now she can get the things she needs."

According to Lorenzo Thomas, the gift card means a lot. He helps his mother as much as he can, and his sister helps, too, but she has three children to raise.

"It's really nice to see that there's people out there who still do this," he added. "If someone's in need, you're supposed to help. That's how I was raised."

Comments like that are music to Dugger's ears. It makes her want to do more.

"I had a woman tell that that gift card meant she would have food for three months," she said.

"Things come to us with a reason."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Year's Eve
AMVETS Post 171 is holding a New Year's Eve party 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the AMVETS Memorial Hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, in Westland. The bar opens at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. There also will be dancing, a bottle of champagne for each table at midnight and pizza. Tickets cost is \$30 per person or \$45 per couple and are available at the post. For more information, call (734) 721-9440.

Prison Family Support Group
Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss with just anyone? Now, there's a place for help - for conversation - for understanding of what you are going through. Hope-4-Healing is a free on-going support group for those who have loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn from others. The group meets the second Monday of every month beginning in January 2009 at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail hope4healing@rocketmail.com.

Friends of Rouge
The Friends of the Rouge are looking for people interested in helping with two programs taking place in 2009. The first is the Rouge Winter Stonely Search 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 24. Join a team to search Rouge tributaries for the sensitive winter stonely. The program takes place at the Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Preregistration required. Call Sally Petrella at (313) 792-9621 or by e-mail at monitoring@therouge.org. For more information and a flyer, go online to www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/Benthic_Monitoring%20events.html. Petrella also is accepting signups for the Rouge Frog and Toad Survey training workshops. Volunteer to survey wetlands for frogs and toads by listening for their calls. Surveys are done independently on warm damp evenings March through July. Workshops will be held 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 14 at Southfield Parks and Recreation, 2600D Evergreen Road, Southfield; 7-9 p.m. March 4 at Canton Summit on the Park, 46000



Making merry

Children who attend the McKinley Co-op Preschool in Westland and their families celebrated the holiday season with a Christmas party at the Wayne Community Center. The event was organized by "party moms" Danielle Woodward, Mandy Pianga, Wendy Sica and Kim Alcantara, along with board members Becky Allen and Gina Lardin and featured a catered dinner by DeLuca's Restaurant. The fun-filled event also included entertainment by Beverly Meyer, the Music Lady, who had the children on their feet singing and dancing the night away. Teacher Carol Miles also got into the act, leading the youngsters in a dance around the room. Of course, Santa also made an appearance and gave each child a book to take home. More than 200 people attended the party. McKinley Co-op Preschool meets in the Good Shepherd Reformed Church at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland.

Summit Parkway, Canton; 10 a.m. to noon March 14 in the Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, and 10 a.m. to noon March 21 at the Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth. Sign up to attend one workshop; preregistration required. For more information or to obtain a flyer, go online to www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/frog_and_toad_workshops.htm

Charity casino
If you are looking for a place to show your skills at Texas Hold 'Em, the hottest game in town, the Canton Charity Casino, Western Wayne County's only

charity poker room at the Shark Club on Ford in Canton every Thursday through Sunday. The Canton Charity Casino offers nightly tournaments as well as continuous cash games and a venue for players of all skill levels. Non-profit, charitable organizations are licensed by the State of Michigan to sponsor each weekend, allowing them to raise funds for their special causes. The hours are 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Thursday-Friday (tournament at 8 p.m.) and 2 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday-Sunday (tournament at 5 p.m.) The Shark Club is at 42070 Ford, just west of Haggerty in Canton. Non-profit groups interested in sponsoring a fund-raising weekend can call (734) 5D2-7033 or send an e-mail to spckortb@gmail.com.

Free workshops
Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, a holistic physician, wellness consultant and clinical nutritionist, will guide you through a workshop on Holistic Health 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Say goodbye to headaches, back pain, stomach problems even hormones issues and weight problems. There are alternatives to medications; this workshop will teach about natural means of improving health naturally. There is no charge for the workshop, however, seating is limited to the first 15 guests. Reservations are required. Call (734) 756-6904 or go online to www.TLCHolisticWellness.com. Fischer will also present "Eat Your Way Thin," a natural approach to a healthier, new you, 6-8 p.m. Jan. 14, at Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Seating is limited to the first 30 callers.

Class reunion
Garden City High School Class of 1989 will hold its 20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are \$65 before March 1 and \$75 March 2-June 1. Tickets include dinner, premium open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts. Tickets are available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or by contacting Paula at gchc1989reunion@hotmail.com.

GC Hospital programs focus on wellness

Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup this week includes:

Monday, Dec. 22
Exercise Express - call for times this week. Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Get in, get out and get on with your day. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information

Tuesday, Dec. 23
Get Up and Move - call for times this week. This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Strength and Stretch - call for times this week. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Wednesday, Dec. 24
Exercise Express - call for times this week. Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Get in, get out and get on with your day. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information

Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. This support group is for those individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Both males and females

are invited to attend. This meeting is held in the Garden City Hospital Auditorium. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 23
Get Up and Move at 9 a.m., 3 and 4 p.m. This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Strength and Stretch at 2 p.m. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Diabetes Self-Management Education (first of four classes) at 6:30 p.m. This comprehensive series is planned to help people Live Well With Diabetes. Participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-3481 for more information or to register.

Yoga (third of four classes) at 6:30 p.m. Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind. This four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden

Friday, Dec. 26
Exercise Express - call for times this week. Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Get in, get out and get on with your day. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information

Monday, Dec. 29
Exercise Express - call for times this week. Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Get in, get out and get on with your day. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information

Tuesday, Dec. 30
Get Up and Move - call for times this week. This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Strength and Stretch - call for times this week. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and

tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

American Red Cross Blood Drive 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Garden City Hospital will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive in the Lower Level Classrooms of the Allan Breake Medical Office Building, located on the Garden City Hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road. Appointments may be scheduled by calling (734) 458-4259. Walk-ins are always welcomed.

Wednesday, Dec. 31
Exercise Express - call for times this week. Thirty minutes of exercise including cardio, strength training and stretching. Exercise at your own comfort level. Get in, get out and get on with your day. Fee is \$30 per month or a \$5 drop-in fee. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information

Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. This support group is for those individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Both males and females are invited to attend. This meeting is held in the Garden City Hospital Auditorium. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Daily Programs
Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center offers daily programs Monday through Friday in Phase II and III Cardiac Rehabilitation/Cardiac Wellness, a Peripheral Vascular Disease Exercise and Strength Training Program, and a Diabetes Exercise Program. These classes are presented and monitored by certified exercise physiologists. Contact the Health Enhancement Center at (734) 458-3242 to select an exercise program specifically designed for you.

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Pre-planning a funeral may save trouble for loved ones

Dear Rick: My wife and I are in our early 70s and it seems we've been attending too many funerals of late. Friends told us they have pre-planned and pre-paid their funerals. It seems like a smart thing to do. Do you recommend it?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

They do not have the energy or

their funerals, thus leaving it to loved ones to handle. Unfortunately, family and friends are in a very vulnerable position after a loved one's death. The result is many people spend too much money on funerals.

If you're thinking about pre-planning a funeral, some of the issues to consider are whether you will be buried or cremated and what type of casket you desire. A casket is where individuals can save a substantial amount of money. Most people purchase caskets directly through a funeral home where, in many cases, prices are artificially inflated. Caskets are high-profit items for funeral homes and it is not unheard of for them to mark up caskets 500 percent or more. Some funeral homes may tell you that you must purchase the casket through them, however, that is not the law.

mindset to shop around, nor do they want to give the funeral director the impression that they are cheap. In addition, when you're grieving over the

loss of a loved one it is hard to think dollars and cents. That is why it makes sense to pre-plan a funeral.

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Pre-planning a funeral can save your loved ones aggravation and a substantial amount of money at a time when they can least afford it. I believe it makes sense to pre-plan a funeral. However, pre-planning is different than pre-paying.

When it comes to pre-paying a funeral, issues to consider are what happens if you no longer live in the area, the funeral homes goes out of business, or you just change your mind regarding the funeral. If you decide to pre-pay your funeral check with the funeral home in regard to these issues.

Death is a topic that no one likes to talk about. However, it is a fact of life and therefore we should not ignore problems that may arise when we are no longer here. That includes what to do with your funeral and have a good and current estate plan.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

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Women To Work boosts job search

The next Women To Work Program presented by JVS starts with an information meeting on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, at the Southfield office from 9-11 a.m. The program starts on Tuesday, Jan. 27, and continues for five weeks, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, ending on Feb. 26. Hours are from 9 a.m. to noon.

"I've gotten such a good response," said Judy Richmond, employment specialist/Women To Work coordinator, of past *Observer & Eccentric* coverage. She often gets her best candidates from the *O&E*, including the Livonia and Plymouth areas. Charter One Bank supports the program.

"We assist women who are interested in entering or re-entering the job market," Richmond said of the program, also available to men. Some participants have been out of the paid workforce, often for family responsibilities which can include caring for older parents."

"It's for people who are able to begin a job immediately and can commit to that schedule of Tuesdays and Thursdays." Richmond also meets with participants individually during the program.

For additional information on Women To Work, contact Judy Richmond at JVS, (248) 233-4232.

- By Julie Brown

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Shining the light

Vigil helps mourners grapple with grief

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jamie DeWitt of Livonia just finished her third year being the sign-language interpreter for the Compassionate Friends' candlelight vigil, the event held every year in Plymouth's Kellogg Park to honor those who've died too soon.

And it's not getting any easier.

DeWitt struggled again Sunday, particularly as she signed her way through Josh Grobin's *To Where You Are* at the end, after the hundreds of names had been read, and hundreds of tears had been shed. But she fought her way through her own grief and helped make the event successful.

DeWitt, who got involved with the candlelight vigil after the death of the man she was dating, Andy Imielowski, in August 2005, said it's important for her to continue to support Andy's family.

"I could be nowhere else but here with this group, interpreting for them," DeWitt said. "It's very difficult, thinking about not only (Andy) but about all the families here. I feel their grief, and it makes it difficult for me."

The event is part of a worldwide candle-lighting ceremony, designed to take place at the



Hundreds of people lit up Kellogg Park during the annual Compassionate Friends Candlelight Vigil to honor children who've died too soon.

PHOTO BY
JOHNATHAN FIDLER

same time in every time zone, theoretically forming a worldwide ring of light honoring children who have died too soon.

Hundreds of parents, siblings, family members, friends and loved ones braved intermittent rain to light their candles in a show of love and support — for their children and for each other.

"It's gratifying, but it's sad, too, because a lot of these people are newcomers," said Gail

Lafferty, one of the organizers of the event. "They've all lost children, and that's sad. We're all in this group we don't want to be in, but we're glad we found each other."

The crowd huddled together and listened to poems and songs, lighting their candles during the traditional reading of hundreds of children's names.

Judy Dever of Trenton has been part of the event since

1992, when her son, Josh, died of cancer. She also honors her son-in-law, John Strasser, who also died of cancer in June 2003. Dever read one of the poems Sunday night.

"I picked a poem that says what I'd like to say to my son, if he were here, and to the other parents," said Dever, who read a poem titled "To Honor You." "Our children are still with us. We carry their memory and live for them."

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 12/30/2008 at 9:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

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- 823- James Goodman- box,bag,totes
- 947- Susan Dalimonte- box,bag,totes

Publish: December 14 & 21, 2008

08090215-2x3

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelhem Road, Taylor, 48180 (313) 292-9730 12/30/08 at 10:30am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 1014 - Jeremy Turner - box, bag, tote
- 2005 - Holly Cacihas - box, bag, tote
- 2013 - Theresa Purves - box, bag, tote
- 2045 - Donna Bauer - box, bag, tote
- 2051 - Talis Dugas - box, bag, tote
- 3023 - Rafael Hughes - box, bag, tote
- 3030 - Jennifer Orman - box, bag, tote
- 3031 - Antione Turner - box, bag, tote
- 3042 - Erma Austin - box, bag, tote
- 3050 - John F. Zacchi - box, bag, tote
- 3064 - Andrew Jones - box, bag, tote
- 3075 - Steven Newsom - box, bag, tote
- 3089 - Stephanie Machel - box, bag, tote
- 4027 - Justin Proch - box, bag, tote
- 7070 - Brandie Johnson - box, bag, tote
- 9108 - Helen Nelson - box, bag, tote
- 4043 - Patrick Knight - box, bag, tote
- 4044 - David Kaszubowski - box, bag, tote
- 4051 - Antoine Murry - box, bag, tote
- 4071 - Walter Kraft - box, bag, tote
- 4082 - Yvette Gatlin - box, bag, tote
- 4083 - Claude Ross - box, bag, tote
- 5018 - Kyla Russell - box, bag, tote
- 5030 - Patricia Kowalski - box, bag, tote
- 5069 - Carl Hicks - box, bag, tote
- 5089 - Sandra Church - box, bag, tote
- 6036 - McDonalds STC Inc. - box, bag, tote
- 6046 - Vince Stellini - box, bag, tote
- 6046 - Michael Shepherd - box, bag, tote
- 6085 - Ron Bemby - box, bag, tote
- 7019 - Tiffany Scott - box, bag, tote
- 7021 - Kim Redmond - box, bag, tote
- 7058 - Jerry Brazier - box, bag, tote

Publish: December 14 and 21, 2008

08090220-2x4

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Westland Police Department will conduct an online public auction of miscellaneous seized and forfeited items. The auction will begin on Sunday, December 21st, 2008 and end Sunday, December 28th, 2008. Interested persons should:

1. visit www.aiteanton.com
2. click on the "Auctions" tab
3. in the right column, click on the "Click here for live auctions!"

The following items can then be viewed and are offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1998 Harley Davidson motorcycle, PS2 game system, darts, watches, engine stands, gaskets, PS3 game system, Zune, iPods, PSP player, Al Wissam leather jackets, LCD TV, Nike shoes, El Camino car parts, Omni mount stand, and a Craftsman snow thrower.

All items are sold in "as is" condition. Items may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Publish: December 21, 2008

08090117-2x3

CITY OF WESTLAND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **January 12, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

Curbside Recycling Collection Services

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from Resource Recycling Systems at (734) 996-1361 or at www.CityofWestland.com. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith
Controller

Publish: December 21, 2008

08090976-2x4



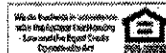
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In these difficult times, we're still your local news source

As this column is being written, President George W. Bush, the decider, is deciding what kind of Christmas gift he's going to give Detroit's automakers.

His press secretary keeps saying that help is definitely on the way as soon as the president works out the details, and he won't be rushed. Apparently the president only allows himself to be rushed by investment banking interests, who work out the details to their best advantage at a later date.



Hugh Gallagher

These are hard times. Some say we are at the beginning of a deep recession. Others call it the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The more optimistic, as always, see opportunities where others see disaster.

The domestic auto industry is certainly in deep trouble and trouble in that industry means hard times for almost everyone in southeast Michigan. But another troubled industry is newspapers.

This past week, the Detroit Media Partnership announced a major upheaval in how business will be done at the *Detroit Free Press* and *The Detroit News*. The *Free Press* will be home delivered on only three days a week, Thursday, Friday and Sunday, traditionally the days with the most advertising. *The Detroit News* will be home delivered only on Thursdays and Fridays. The *Free Press* will continue to publish print newspapers seven days a week and the *News* will publish print newspapers six days a week for distribution at newsstands and stores. But five of those newspapers will be slimmed down, redesigned papers for readers on the go.

Both newspapers will put more emphasis into their online product. The *Free Press* is offering a digital newspaper, complete with advertising, coupons and traditional layout for subscribers while continuing to offer news on their www.freep.com Web site.

Dave Hunke, *Free Press* publisher and Detroit Media Partnership chief executive officer, is one of those optimists who sees opportunity where others see disaster. Advertising is down, circulation is down, the cost of paper, ink and trans-

portation is up. More and more readers, especially young readers, have drifted from the print product to the Internet. These are the realities. Hunke acknowledges that this is a gamble, of sorts, but so is doing nothing. Advertising revenue for the Web has been steadily rising, though it will be a while before it matches print revenues.

The *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* are not exempt from these challenges. The *O&E* and the *Free Press* are owned by the Gannett Corp., the nation's largest newspaper company. Last week the editorial offices of the *Observer Newspapers* were relocated from our building in Livonia to the DMP building on Lafayette and Third in downtown Detroit. (Our customer service and circulation are at our offices at 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, advertising is at 44704 Helm St., Plymouth.)

Our new accommodations are comfortable, but the move was a difficult economic necessity. We understand that it moves us from our suburban family of readers. But like the DMP newspapers, we are striving to meet the needs of our readers and our advertisers in these difficult times.

Our reporters and photographers will be out and about in our communities, filing stories daily to our Web site www.hometownlife.com and developing stories for our print product on Thursdays and Sundays. They'll have an office in Detroit, but they'll also have an office on the go in Livonia, Redford Township, Westland, Garden City, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

We'll be there to cover the local news that our readers have come to depend on. We'll be there to cover local sports, from game coverage to personal profiles of our student athletes. We'll be there as an integral part of the communities we cover. All the other news media are beginning to brag about putting a new emphasis on local news. We have always been about local news and we always will be.

We'll be in touch with you, stay in touch with us.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by phone at (313) 222-8730 or by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com.

Candlelight vigil gives the grieving a place to reach out and touch someone

Debbie Estep came to the table at the front of the crowd at last Sunday's Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil looking for a candle and a program, but mostly she was looking for Gail Lafferty, the woman who is the point person for the vigil, for a pretty simple reason.



Brad Kadrich

She just wanted a hug. Estep, a Dearborn Heights resident who lost her daughter to multiple sclerosis four years ago, was among the hundreds of people gathered in Kellogg Park on a damp, cold Sunday night in December as the Compassionate Friends honored children who died too young. Her daughter was just 28 when the MS claimed her, and Kellogg Park is where Estep has spent the second Sunday of December ever since.

They were there for a common purpose, the folks who defied Mother Nature with their umbrellas and boots, with stiff resolve and, most importantly, with love. They've all been touched by the same tragedy, and they find a definite comfort in each other's embrace.

"She's another mother who has lost a child," Estep said of her reasons for searching out Lafferty. "We have a bond, even though we've never spoken. Only a mother would know. It's just very comforting to be among other parents, especially moms, who've lost their children."

It's a comfort they all not only feel, but relish. Many of these people — in fact, most of them — are repeat attenders, folks who've come to rely on the considerable power of shared love, of knowing there are people out there just like them, folks who've felt a pain so deep it's nearly impossible to grasp, much less voice.

But grasping it, and sharing it, is how they get through it. Cathy Clough, a Plymouth resident who heads the New Hope Center for Grief Support in Northville, has long believed — and indeed staked her center's reputation on the idea — people enveloped by grief are best helped out by those who've been there.

Lafferty knows it's true, sad as that may be. "It's gratifying, but it's sad because a lot of them are newcomers," Lafferty said of the hundreds who braved the weather Sunday. "They've all lost children and that's sad. We're all in this group we don't want to be in, but we're glad we found each other."

Lafferty firmly believes her son and all the other children are grateful for the love, watching from heaven as she's sure they are. In fact, Lafferty attributes the traditionally bearable mid-December weather to her son, Max, whom she believes watches over the vigil, designed to create a worldwide ring of candlelight.

For the most part, the weather isn't bad, often much better than a Michigander comes to expect this time of year. Mother Nature kept doing her damndest to change all that Sunday, dumping occasional rain on the throng. But Max and the others must have been pretty successful in discouraging Mother Nature, because eventually she stopped trying, settling instead for a fairly fine mist.

The crowd wasn't to be deterred. As they gathered before the vigil started, there was a soft buzz of conversation as people greeted each other, doled out a large portion of hugs and kisses and caught up with each other's lives. The crowd noise then softened as the vigil began.

As the traditional reading of the names got under way and candles were being lit, a silence passed over the crowd like a blanket. It's as stirring a moment as there is in this town at any time of the year, hundreds of loved ones gathered as one, tears falling silently as the names are read.

Those gathered seem to snuggle in even closer together, and it becomes obvious why they're there. It couldn't be clearer at that moment that these people, all of whom have suffered terrible losses, have found the one thing they so desperately need to help them go on.

Each other.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the *Plymouth Observer*. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (313) 222-8899.

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Standard Bar (6 pm - 11:30 pm) then Cash Bar (11:30 - 2:00 am)
Wild game menu to include:
- Hors d'oeuvres - Family Style Dinner at 7:30 pm -
- Wine served with dinner -
6 pm - 10 pm - 50/50 Raffle - Silent Auction
Live Auction - Crap Shoot - Gun Board - Raffle Drawings
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<p>New Cranberry Ambrosia Salad \$5.99 lb.</p>	<p>Nature Ripe Blueberries 2/\$5.00</p>	<p>California Sweet & Juicy Navel Oranges \$4.99 8 lb. bag</p>	<p>Joe's Florida Fresh Squeezed Orange or Grapefruit Juice \$4.99</p>	<p>Pinenut Spinach Pasta Salad \$5.99 lb.</p>
<p>Hoffman's Hard Salami \$3.99 lb.</p>	<p>Boarshead Sweet Sliced Ham or Classic Chicken \$6.99 lb. Co-Jack or Colby Cheese \$5.99 lb.</p>	<p>Alexander & Horning Honey Glazed Spiral Ham \$3.99 lb.</p>	<p>Dietz & Watson Gourmet Chicken \$6.99 lb. Corned Beef \$7.99 lb.</p>	<p>Honey Suckle Turkey \$4.99 lb.</p>
<p>Grut Sparkling Brut NV \$16.99</p>	<p>Hayman & Hill Meritage Reserve Monterey '06 \$14.99</p>	<p>Wente Vineyards Syrah-Cabernet-Chardonnay-Merlot-Sauvignon Blanc \$12.99</p>	<p>Diamond Oaks Pinot Noir Carneros '04 \$13.99</p>	<p>Crista Sparkling Cava Brut & Rose \$8.99</p>
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SPORTS

B (CPLW)

Sunday, December 21, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Scrappy Spartans earn road win over Plymouth

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In a sport generally ruled by teams whose rosters are stocked with Rolls Royces, Hummers and Cadillacs, Livonia Stevenson's boys basketball team is doing just fine with its down-sized fleet of energy-efficient models. The Spartans, who have seven players 5-foot-11 or smaller, relied on hustle, scrappiness and momentum-changing pressure defense in Thursday night's 57-50 road win over Plymouth.

The victory improved the Spartans' record to 2-1 while the Wildcats slipped to 1-2.

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

"We're not big and we don't have any superstars on this team — nobody's going to score 25 points a game — but we have great team chemistry and we have a lot of very smart players," said second-year Stevenson coach Mike Allie. "We're a balanced team. We always have four or five guys on the court who I feel we can go to at any time. If we get balanced scoring every Tuesday and Friday night, we should be O.K."

The Spartans' scoring attack was shared mainly by senior guard Brian

Rowe (17 points) and Bobby Naubert (16). Junior forward Jordan El-Sabeh and junior guard Austin White both contributed seven points.

"Everybody on this team plays hard," said Naubert, a 5-10 back-court whiz. "In our first game, we came out slow and didn't hit our shots. Tonight, we worked hard on defense, and that got us a lot of points."

The Wildcats were led by senior guard Cliff Buttermore, who poured in 14 points, and sophomore center Justin Moss, who netted 13.

"We were lazy moving without the ball tonight," lamented Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "Stevenson was able

to jump our passing lanes and get a lot of transition points. They caught us back on our heels."

The Wildcats were in charge most of the first half and upped their biggest advantage to 22-14 on Mike Nadratowski's triple with 3:10 left in the second quarter.

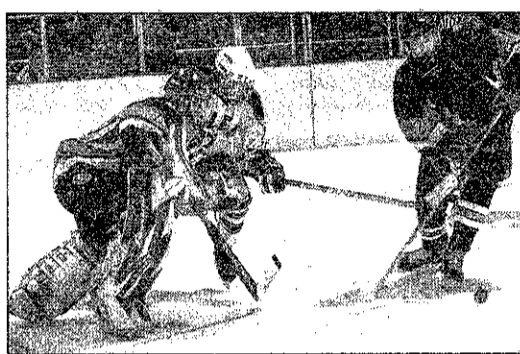
The pivotal point of the game unfolded mid-way through the third quarter when the Spartans' amped-up pressure resulted in a series of consecutive Plymouth turnovers that turned a 31-26 'Cat lead into a 38-33 Stevenson edge at the end of the third.

Please see **BASKETBALL, B4**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Ryan Quigley (white jersey) manages to get off a shot despite an air-tight defensive effort from Plymouth's Mitch Martin. The PCEP rivals skated to a 3-all draw.



Salem forward Josh Jarvela's scoring efforts are subdued by Plymouth goalie Mike Justus and Evan Swieczkowski (right).

Game on!

Weather or not, PCEP rivals skate to 3-3 draw

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Friday night's Plymouth-Salem hockey showdown more than lived up to its only-game-in-town billing.

With the remainder of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park sports calendar wiped out by a snow day, the Rocks and Wildcats skated to a spirited 3-3 draw in front of a large, vocal crowd at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The contest marked the season's mid-way point for the Wildcats, who stand at 7-4-1

Please see **HOCKEY, B4**

Trojan grid star chooses Spartans

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

He is still a Trojan, but Jeremy Gainer can't wait to become a Spartan.

The multi-talented Livonia Clarenceville senior, a football and basketball stalwart, verbally committed Thursday to play college football not too far from home — at Michigan State University.

"I think it came down to the social aspect of being able to be close to home," said Gainer, good friends with many current MSU athletes (including basketball player and Redford Covenant alum Durrell Summers) and those on the way to East Lansing. "I know most of the players on that recruiting class."

Gainer, a hard-hitting linebacker

who earned the defensive MVP honor in the Metro Conference for a second consecutive year, also made parents Kimberly and Jerome Gainer very happy about his choice.

"They said they'd support me anywhere I'd go," Jeremy Gainer said. "But they were sure happy I'll be close so they can see some of my games."

His choice came down to between Michigan State and the University of Minnesota, with strong interest also coming from Colorado, Kansas State, Iowa State, Indiana University and Penn State.

Proximity to home was only part of his decision and so was knowing Michigan State really wanted him. "They came to me and I know they have a great organization."

MSU coach Mark Dantonio came

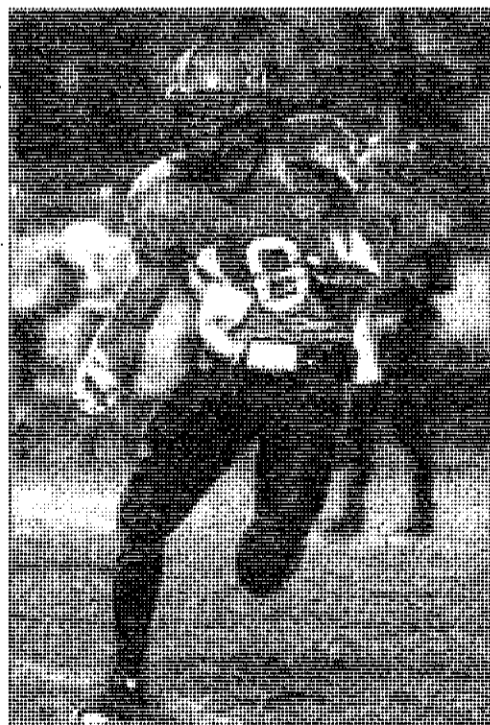
to the Gainer home to help make the athlete feel comfortable going forward, noted Clarenceville head coach Ryan Irish.

"I believe in Jeremy's heart that he made the right decision for him and his family," Irish said.

With his choice, Gainer, who registered 100 tackles in 2008 for the Metro champion Trojans, gave his high school coach something to be proud about, too.

"I am very excited to be able to see him play more, due to the closeness of Michigan State," Irish noted. "I'm looking forward to seeing him continue to develop into a better football player and a well-rounded young man."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Clarenceville's Jeremy Gainer is shown running the ball during one of his team's playoff games this season. But it will be at linebacker where he will likely find his mark at Michigan State University. Gainer verbally committed to MSU on Thursday.

Precision camps

Precision Baseball in Canton will be hosting softball and baseball camps for kids in grades 1st through 8th later this month.

The softball camp will be held Dec. 26-27 with a cost of \$65 per session or \$115 for both.

The cost of the baseball camp, which will be held Dec. 26-28, is \$65 per day or \$180 for all three days.

For more information, call (734) 459-5921 or visit www.precisionbaseballone.com.

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Improving 'Cat matmen drop pair at quad meet

The Plymouth wrestling team's steady improvement may not be showing up in the record books, but it's apparent to first-year coach Quinn Guernsey.

"We're improving every day," said Guernsey, who was upbeat despite his team's two losses at Wednesday's Allen Park quad meet. "Derek Davey and Said Youssef both looked very good in their wins, but even the guys who lost their matches wrestled well."

The Wildcats lost the opener, 52-21, to the host Jaguars before dropping a 47-27 deci-

sion to Livonia Franklin in the night-cap. The two setbacks dropped Plymouth's record to 1-6.

ALLEN PARK 52 PLYMOUTH 21
Wednesday at Allen Park
160 pounds: Derek Davey (P) pinned Mike Gaggin in 4:40; **171:** Phil Adamcen (AP) pinned Rob Barackman in 4:51; **189:** Alex Winn (P) pinned Bobby Garza in 3:26; **215:** Chris Bryant (AP) pinned Brian Chandler in 1:40; **285:** Rubert Miller (AP) pinned Jordan Birman in 5:12; **103:** Said Youssef (P) decided Jake Polenciewicz 7-4; **112:** Bobby Webb (AP) pinned Kenzie Benka in 32 seconds; **119:** Calib Riley (AP) pinned Nick Rizzo in 3:29; **125:** James Cousin (AP) pinned Jimmy Ahearn in 2:51; **130:** Christian Hersey (P) pinned Tyler Paravano in 59 seconds; **135:** Joey Suski (AP) dec. Tate Braboy, 14-8; **140:** Trent Wolfe (AP) won by decision over

Ryan Schultz; **145:** John Meece (AP) won by major decision over Brandon Crowther, 21-6; **152:** Steve Niedowicz (A) pinned Timon Crawford in 3:42.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 47 PLYMOUTH 27
Wednesday at Allen Park
171 pounds: Don Stratz (LF) pinned Curtis Crosier in 1:22; **189:** Alex Winn (P) pinned Nick Simmons in 4:38; **215:** Cody Hay (LF) pinned Brian Chandler in 4:25; **285:** Mike Modes (LF) pinned Jordan Birman in 1:05; **103:** Said Youssef (P) decided Ryan Kline, 8-5; **112:** Paul Hanni (LF) pinned Kenzie Benka in 29 seconds; **119:** Nick Rizzo (P) Steve Tuyo in 1:05; **125:** Eric Czek (LF) won by major decision, 12-0, over Jimmy Ahearn; **130:** Christian Hersey (P) won by void; **135:** Josh Hatfield (LF) dec. Tate Braboy, 6-2; **140:** Ryan Schultz (P) pinned Jordan McGwire in 5:28; **145:** Brandon Conger (LF) dec. Brandon Crowther, 12-3; **152:** Brandon Billau (LF) pinned Timon Crawford in 1:24; **160:** Alvin Ferreira (LF) pinned Derek Davey in 2:46.
PLYMOUTH'S DUAL-MEET RECORD: 1-6

Allen leads way as MU wins 4th game in a row

After starting the season with nine straight losses, the Madonna University men's basketball team has resurrected itself.

The Crusaders traveled Wednesday night to South Euclid, Ohio and came away

with their fourth straight victory, a 63-60 triumph over host Notre Dame College.

Detroit's Leroy Allen, a junior forward, paced MU with 18 points and six rebounds, while senior guard Cedric Sims (Wayne Memorial) contributed

15 points and seven rebounds. Westland's Bryant Slaughter also scored in double figures with 13, while Josh Gay also added nine.

Eric Dummermuth led Notre Dame (8-3) with 19 points and Karim McFarlane chipped in with 10.

Case for the defense

Stevenson makes enough stops to cage Wildcats

Livonia Stevenson girls basketball coach Paul Tripp believes his team has a good chance to win if they hold their opponents "in the 30s we have a good shot to win."

Mission accomplished Thursday night for the host Spartans, who edged Plymouth, 39-37, to improve to 2-3 overall.

Stevenson led 22-19 at the half and held the Wildcats to six in the third period.

"Our defensive rotation was great," Tripp said. "We had 13 steals and only four turnovers, which are good numbers."

Tasi Newton, who hit a couple of clutch free throws down the stretch, led the Spartans with 10 points. She also had three steals.

Kaylee McGrath added eight points and 11 rebounds, while Sarah Smith also scored eight and had a key steal late with the help of teammate Nina Bonanno.

Kelsi Robinson and Stacey Klonowski each scored 12 for the Wildcats, who fell to 1-3 overall.

Senior center Shaakira Haywood was limited to four points, but added a team-high 11 boards.

"She (Haywood) was a presence defensively and I thought Kaylee (McGrath) did a great job battling her inside," Tripp said.

Plymouth was only 13-of-26 from the foul line, while Stevenson was 8-of-15.

FRANKLIN 52, HARTLAND 37: Twin sisters Brittany and Briauna Taylor combined for 30 points and 20 rebounds Thursday as host Livonia Franklin (5-0) downed the Eagles (3-2).

Brittany, a senior forward, finished with 16 points and nine rebounds, while Briauna finished with 14 points and 11 boards.

Sophomore Chelsea Williams

chipped in with 10 points, while Brittany Milican and Amanda Borioe added six apiece.

"Hartland is a good team, big and strong," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "I thought Chelsea (Williams) did a good job driving the pockets and making them play defense. We made the proper pass and were shooting when we were supposed to."

Meredith Kussmaul led Hartland with 12 points.

Franklin was 8-of-10 from the foul line, while Hartland hit 10-of-15.

CHURCHILL 53, REDFORD UNION 16: Junior Darcy DeRoo scored 12 points Thursday as host Livonia Churchill (2-2) rolled to a non-league win over Redford Union (4-1).

The Chargers, who led 18-2 after one quarter and 27-8 at halftime, also got nine points apiece from Lindsey Graciak and Alysa Boldizar.

ANNAPOLIS 47, CLARENCEVILLE 21: On Thursday, host Livonia Clarenceville (1-5) got fell behind 23-2 after one quarter and never really threatening the rest of the way in non-league setback to Dearborn Heights Annapolis (5-1).

"We've been battling the flu and just didn't show up tonight," lamented Clarenceville head coach Julie Patterson. "We were down 20 in the blink of an eye. We finally woke up a bit in the second half but it was too little, too late."

A bright spot for the Trojans was senior forward Marlene Azar, who tallied 10 points.

Junior guard Justina Williams paced the Cougars with 14 points.

Neither team had a strong night at the free-throw line. Clarenceville sank just 3-of-9 tries, while the Cougars made 5-of-13 attempts.

BRIGHTON 68, SALEM 52: The Bulldogs broke open a tight

game with a late 10-0 run to improve their record to 3-1. The Rocks slipped to 0-3.

"We played well for most of the game," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "We were only down six without about five minutes left, but they turned their defensive pressure up and ran off 10 straight points. Brighton has a very good team and they went into another gear late in the game."

"We still have a chance to be a very good team. The girls are playing very hard. We just need to pull together."

Junior guard Sara Stone paced Salem's balanced scoring attack with 14 points. Tracey Whalen added 12, Victoria Brotz contributed 10 and Brett deBear chipped in with eight.

PCA 55, AGAPE 27: On Tuesday at Ypsilanti Calvary Christian, the Eagles soared to a 4-0 start with a convincing victory over the host Wolverines.

Senior Megan Greve ruled the paint, scoring 18 points. Also excelling for the winners were Allyson DeKruyter (eight points) and Kristin Malcolm (seven points, eight rebounds).

"Jessica Murphy and Brooke Williams played awesome defensively for us," said PCA coach Carol Gerulis.

The Eagles broke open a tight game by outscoring their rivals 16-4 in the second quarter to grab a 27-15 halftime lead. PCA put the game away with a 19-6 run over the third period.

"We started very slowly, but my kids picked it up in the second half," said Gerulis. "We pressed them full court in the second half and that was effective. Megan Greve played very good, especially in the third quarter when she scored eight of her 18 points."

Ayanna Martin paced the Wolverines with 19 points.

Both teams struggled from the free throw line. PCA was 6-of-14 while Agape was 5-of-12.

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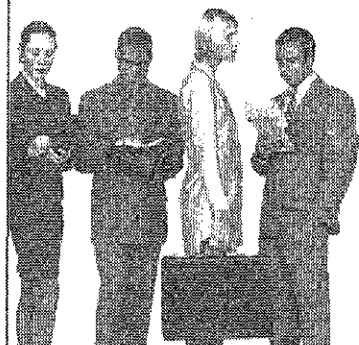
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Plymouth icers nip Spartans, 1-0

Evan Swieczkowski tallied the game's only goal on a 5-on-3 advantage to give Plymouth a 1-0 win Wednesday night over host Livonia Stevenson in a game played at Edgar Arena. Swieczkowski's goal came on a shot from the point during the second period as the Wildcats, now 6-3 overall, evened their record to 2-2 in the South Division of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association. Mike Justus was spectacular in the Plymouth nets stopping all 35 Stevenson shots, including 17 in the final period. The Spartans' Richie Dunphy made 16 saves.

"We played a pretty solid hockey game, but just couldn't capitalize on our chances," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "Give Plymouth credit." Stevenson is now 4-3-1 overall and 2-2-1 in the KLA's Central Division. **FARM, UNIFIED 10, FRANKLIN 2:** Scott Newel finished with four goals and one assist Wednesday as Farmington Unified (6-4) skated to the decisive non-league win over host Livonia Franklin (0-5) at Edgar Arena. Caleb Wright finished with four assists, while Peter Kusik, James Long, Dane Laird, Andrew DeBrincat, Jimmy Chesney and Ryan Murray also scored for Farmington.

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

overall and 2-2-1 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association. The Rocks will take a 4-4-3 mark into the holiday break.

Although Salem never led — Plymouth built leads of 2-0 and 3-2 — the Rocks came within two stellar Mike Justus last-minute saves from converting a game-winning power-play goal.

"We had some good shifts tonight, but for the most part we played a little selfish and we didn't play good team defense," said Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender, whose team was capping a three-games-in-four-nights string. "We were sort of running all over the place and we took some bad penalties. Two of their goals were the result of our lazy play.

"We gave up more shots tonight (24) than we gave up against Livonia Stevenson or Northville. I don't know if that was because we were tired or if it was from the pressure of playing in a big rivalry game."

Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher said the tie was a reflection of his team's entire season.

"The comebacks were great tonight, but the fact that we fell behind early was a result of our inconsistent play," said Ossenmacher. "And that inconsistency is why we're 4-4-3 right now. Some nights we play just well enough to win, other nights we don't quite play well enough to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Sam Ott (right) and Plymouth's Zach Gambrell battle for control of the puck during Friday's 3-3 tie.

win. Tonight kind of wraps up what our season has been like."

Plymouth's Ryan Renault ignited the scoring when he banged home a shot in front of the crease off assists from Chris Merrill and Alex Holcomb.

The Wildcats extended their lead to 2-0 3:19 into the second period when Taylor Currier wristed a rebound shot past Salem goalie Adam Powers, who made a spectacular stop seconds earlier on a John Maurer rocket.

The Rocks lit up the scoreboard for the first time just under four minutes later when David Russell lifted a rebound shot past Justus 7:34 before the second intermission.

Two minutes later, Salem knotted the game at 2-all when Steve Haburne scored the first of his two tallies after securing a slick pass in front from Ryan Quigley.

"This was Steve's first full game at forward after playing defense all season," said Ossenmacher. "He gives us a big body who goes to the net. He did what we wanted him to do tonight."

Plymouth regained a 3-2 lead with 12:04 to play when John Deal slid a shot into a narrow slot between Powers' skate and the right post. He was assisted by Maurer and Mitch Martin.

The Rocks drew even two minutes later when Haburne re-directed an Eddie Mazorowicz shot past Justus.

Salem outshot Plymouth 24-18.

Even though all other PCEP sporting events were postponed when school was cancelled Friday morning, the hockey game was played because ice time is difficult to schedule later in the season, Ossenmacher explained.

Prior to Friday night's varsity contest, the inaugural Plymouth-Canton-Salem alumni game was played and won 6-5 by a team made up of former Salem players. The "old" Rocks defeated a contingent of ex-Chiefs and ex-Wildcats when Aaron Cheesman — currently a Rock assistant coach — scored with 40 seconds to play.

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PCA pressure cooks Agape

Canton Agape fell right into Plymouth Christian Academy's trap Tuesday night during a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference basketball game played at Ypsilanti Calvary Christian.

The Eagles' half-court trap proved to be the momentum-changer in their 58-42 victory.

"We started slow and Agape dictated the pace in the first half," said PCA coach Mike

Doyle. "In the second half we switched up our defense to a half-court trap and that forced a lot of turnovers and we got some easy baskets."

Senior forward Brent Zinn led the winners with 24 points. Sophomore John Slater added eight points and senior post player Reid Barber led all rebounders with 11.

PCA led 7-6 after one quarter and 16-14 at the half before dominating the third

stanza, 18-7. Zinn was the catalyst of the third-quarter uprising as he poured in nine points.

"He's the one who spurred us on," said Doyle. "Brent got a lot of fast-break points created by our defense and he hit one three."

Don Mullett paced the Wolverines with 19 points. PCA hit half its free throws (14-for-28) while Agape was 20-for-31 from the line.

BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE B1

"I subbed in Austin White, Ricky Chrzasz and Jordan El-Sabeh and we went to the diamond press," Allie said. "That seemed to swing the momentum to our side for the rest of the game. From there, we just kept pressuring their guards and our kids started contesting every shot." Sparked by an and-one

three-pointer from Mark Grisa and a pair of buckets from Rowe, the Spartans reeled off a 10-2 spurt to start the fourth and put the win on ice.

The 6-6 Moss led all rebounders with 11 — eight coming on the offensive end. Fellow sophomore Brennen Beyer ripped down six boards. "Plymouth plays very hard," said Allie. "They start three sophomores, so their program

is going to be excellent in the future. They should have a good season this year. It will just probably take a few games for their young kids to get used to the varsity level."

Stevenson hit 17-of-43 field goals (39.5 percent) and 19-of-27 free throws (70.3). Plymouth was 20-for-67 from the field (29.8 percent) and 5-of-10 from the charity stripe.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 22
 A.A. Gab, Richard at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 23
 Clarenceville at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 26
 (Franklin Tournament)
 Rochester vs. Fordson, 5:30 p.m.
 Franklin vs. Howell, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 27
 Franklin Tournament, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
 (Romulus Christmas Tournament)
 Clarenceville vs. Det. N'western, 2:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 29
 (John Glenn Basketball Classic)
 Farmington vs. Crestwood, 11 a.m.
 Ferndale vs. Canton, 1 p.m.
 Waterford Mott vs. Detroit Central, 3 p.m.
 N. Farmington vs. Thurston, 5 p.m.
 John Glenn vs. Det.-Univ. Prep, 7 p.m.
 (Woodhaven Tournament)
 Salem vs. Flat Rock, 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30
 (John Glenn Basketball Classic)
 Wayne vs. N. Farmington, 1 p.m.
 Wat. Kettering vs. Thurston, 3 p.m.
 John Glenn vs. Ferndale, 5 p.m.
 Clarenceville vs. Detroit Central, 7 p.m.
 (Woodhaven Tournament)
 Salem vs. Annapolis, 3 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 29
 (Kalamazoo Loy Norrix Tournament)
 Ladywood vs. Inkster, 3 p.m.
 Loy Norrix vs. McBain, 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30
 Loy Norrix Tournament, 3 & 6 p.m.
 Salem at Detroit Community, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3
 Canton at F.H. Mercy, 4 p.m.
PREP BOYS SWIMMING
Monday, Dec. 22
 Wildcat Relays at Canton pool, 1 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Saturday, Jan. 3
 Ladywood vs. Bloomfield at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
 Salem at Farmington United at Farmington Hills Ice Arena, 5:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Tuesday, Dec. 23
 Brother Rice Tournament, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 27
 Salem Invitational, 9 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30
 Trenton Invitational Team Dual, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3
 Romulus Royal Tournament, 9:30 a.m.
 Wyandotte Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
PREP GYMNASTICS
Saturday, Jan. 3
 Salem Invitational at Plymouth gym, 10 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 29
 (Hope College Russ DeVette Tourney)
 Madonna vs. Judson College (Ill.), 6 p.m.
 Hope College vs. Davenport, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30
 Hope College Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3
 St. Clair Co. CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
 Madonna vs. Marygrove College at U-D Jesuit H.S., 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Sunday, Dec. 21
 Schoolcraft at Scottsdale (Ariz.), 2 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 22
 Schoolcraft at Glendale (Ariz.), 1 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 29
 (Las Vegas Invitational)
 Madonna vs. Vanguard (Calif.), TBA.
Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 29-30
 Madonna at Las Vegas Inv., TBA.
Saturday, Jan. 3
 St. Clair Co. CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS
FARMINGTON UNIFIED 143.60
LIVONIA RED 137.05
Dec. 17 at Farmington Gymnastics Center
 Vault: 1. Paula Guzik (Red), 9.25; 2. (tie) Dani Bresso (Farm.), Lena Schneewind (Farm.) and Elana Coker (Farm.), 9.0 each; 5. Alyssa Bresso (Farm.), 8.95.
 Uneven bars: 1. Coker (Red), 9.6; 2. Sam Kohl (Farm.), 9.15; 3. A. Bresso (Farm.), 9.0; 4. (tie) Kyoko Yamamoto (Farm.) and Amy Bell (Farm.), 8.5 each.
 Balance beam: 1. Coker (Red), 9.4; 2. Kohl (Farm.), 9.0; 3. A. Bresso (Farm.), 8.75; 4. Courtney Simpson (Red), 8.7; 5. Alicia DiMauro (Red), 8.55.
 Floor exercise: 1. Coker (Farm.), 9.5; 2. A. Bresso (Farm.), 9.4; 3. Kohl (Farm.), 9.3; 4. Schneewind (Farm.), 8.95; 5. DiMauro (Red), 8.9.
All-around: 1. Kohl (Farm.), 36.4; 2. A. Bresso (Farm.), 36.15; 3. Schneewind (Farm.), 34.65; 4. Yamamoto (Farm.), 34.25; 5. Amanda Lumley (Farm.), 33.70.
Dual meet records: Farmington Unified, 1-0 overall; Livonia Red, 0-1 overall.

Hope for the future

Screening for ovarian cancer on the way

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

Janis Warren still might be alive to light the menorah with her 3-year-old grandson Ryan this Hanukkah if screening had detected the ovarian cancer earlier. Unlike mammography for breast cancer a woman can only hope to recognize symptoms such as abdominal bloating, fatigue and pain in time.

Janis fought ovarian cancer 18 months before dying in April 2007 at age 60. Her husband, Larry Warren, sons Michael and Jeff, and daughter Stephanie Harold came together at the family's Farmington Hills home the day after Thanksgiving to talk about the need for screening. In September they raised \$55,000 from a walk in Drake Sports Park in West Bloomfield to fund Michael Tainsky's research at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit. The director of the molecular biology and genetics program is developing a blood test to diagnose ovarian cancer at the earliest possible stage.

"People are totally unaware of what ovarian cancer is and

the limited span of life these women have," said Larry Warren who watched his wife die from the disease. "People aren't aware of how brutal the end is. She starved to death. She couldn't keep anything down. Tumors were growing on her intestines. Eight days before she died she aged to 85 quickly."

Before ovarian cancer Janis led a busy lifestyle and even sang in the Temple Beth El choir in Bloomfield Hills. Health was one of her priorities. She continued exercising four to five days a week even after her surgery.

"She was having abdominal discomfort. Her tummy was sticking out," said Larry. "Before the cancer she looked 35 but was 59 when diagnosed. I didn't suspect anything because she had her ovaries removed right after she had breast cancer 11 years earlier."

On a visit home Michael noticed his mother had put on weight. Then she told him she was having pain. An OB/GYN at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Dr. Michael Warren became concerned.

"Most women are diagnosed in stage 3 or 4," said Michael.

"The cure rate is 95 percent in stage 1, 10 to 15 percent in stage 3 depending on the type of cancer. If you're feeling discomfort or pain in the stomach it's pretty late. Ovarian cancer almost inevitably reoccurs. They weren't able to remove all of the cancer."

Stephanie Harold isn't taking any chances that she might develop cancer like her mother. While Harold is careful not to miss mammograms or breast MRIs there's nothing she can do to screen for ovarian cancer. That's why the family started the walk. In addition to raising money for research they want to educate the public about the deadly disease.

"This is an illness that needs support as far as funding research," said Stephanie. "People think a PAP smear screens for ovarian cancer. It does not."

Tainsky was well aware of the lack of screening when he began a new line of research in 2001. The Southfield resident began his career at the National Cancer Institute 30 years ago. In 1998 Tainsky came to Karmanos to study high risk individuals and



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Warren brothers Jeff, left background, and Michael with their sister Stephanie Harold, her husband Dan and 3-year-old son Ryan gather with their father Larry next to a family portrait taken with their mother Janis who passed away in 2007 from ovarian cancer. The family celebrated Thanksgiving together in Farmington Hills.

noticed an incidence of breast and ovarian cancers in the families.

"Our human immune systems make antibodies against new tumor proteins. Those proteins (or antigens) are somehow a little different," said Tainsky, the Barbara & Fred Erb professor of Cancer Genetics at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

"We've developed a microchip to look at thousands of these proteins at once. As of 2006 we had a relatively good test but still falling short of acceptable. We should have a panel for outside testing in a year or two. This is absolutely new kind of work and we can't predict the problems. You're not clear what the speed bumps are until you hit them but we

have every reason to believe it will work. We're hoping in the long run that these antigens can be used for vaccines personalized for each woman like a booster shot for tetanus."

The second Janis Warren Walk for Ovarian Cancer is Sept. 13, 2009. For more information, visit janiswalk.org.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241

Blood donors needed for post holiday drive

On Tuesday, Jan. 6, the American Red Cross once again holds its critical Post Holiday Blood Drive for businesses and residents in the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park area at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites located off of the southbound M-5 Service Drive behind the Bill Cook Automotive

Dealerships. The hours will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (517) 545-7712 to schedule an appointment.

Approximately 800 units of blood are needed on a daily basis to fulfill the requirements of local hospitals.

Platelets have a shelf life of only 5 days and are necessary for patients undergoing cancer

therapy and open heart surgery or have leukemia or aplastic anemia.

To help encourage participation, a free Detroit Pistons ticket will be given to any donor with the purchase of a second discounted ticket.

Remember, one donation of blood will help three hospital patients.



LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Award-winning writer

Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric health and community life writer, receives the Excellence in Community Awareness Award from Helping Our Pain & Exhaustion (HOPE), on Sunday, Dec. 14, at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. HOPE, which is dedicated to Fibromyalgia education and awareness, also screened a new documentary on diagnosis, treatment and management strategies at the awards dinner. Chomin, here with Sharon Ostalecki following the dinner, has written extensively about Fibromyalgia, a chronic condition characterized by muscle, ligament and tendon pain, as well as fatigue.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

DECEMBER

Get ready to have a baby

Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the entire experience more rewarding. Childbirth Education Weekday programs held 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays to Jan. 14. Childbirth Education workshops 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. There is a fee. Registration required. Call (734) 655-1162.

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100 for more information, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information visit www.oa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

UPCOMING

Understanding diabetes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts Diabetes Support Group presentations 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 14, and Feb. 11, in the hospital's Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile at Levan Road, Livonia. Please use the Main Entrance on Five Mile Road. Registered dietician Katie Dooley presents Understanding Carbohydrates for Better Blood Sugar Control on Jan. 14. On Feb. 11, registered dietician Judy Swancutt presents Diabetes and Vitamins, Minerals and Herbs: What's Right for You. All are welcome. A new topic is presented on the second Wednesday of each month for adults with diabetes and family members. There is no charge, pre-registration not required. For information, call (734) 655-8961.

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Expand your horizons in the new year

The new year is a good time to expand your horizons. Elizabeth LaManna has grown musically since resolving to join the BeckRidge Chorale in 2006. The elementary school teacher was among the board of directors who met Tuesday night at the Plymouth District Library to discuss their spring concert.



Linda Chomin

The BeckRidge Chorale is looking to add new voices for a program of love songs April 25-26, at Northville High School.

This is the 35th anniversary of the nonprofit formerly known as the Plymouth Community Chorus. The name was changed two years ago to reflect the membership which hails from Canton to Fenton, Rochester, Allen Park, Walled Lake, and Plymouth.

"I hadn't sung since high school when a friend told me they had been to the Christmas concert," said LaManna of Northville. "I've been here ever since."

The chorale rehearses from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays beginning Jan. 13, at First United Methodist Church on North Territorial, between Beck and Ridge, in Plymouth. For more information, visit www.beckridgechorale.org or call (734) 416-9885.

The year kicks off with a Jan. 6 meeting of the Vision Team which director Michael Gross formed as a way to plan for the future. The Canton resident took over as leader 30 years ago after reading an article in the *Observer Newspaper*.

"I asked them to help me think differently and get the chorale to the next level," said Gross, who wants to form a separate non-audition group of singers. They novices would rehearse and perform for two years before joining the BeckRidge Chorale.

"It's a learning process," said Gross. "I want everybody to sing."

The board of directors and Gross already encourage high school and college students by offering \$1,000 scholarships if they rehearse and perform with BeckRidge for an entire season. Right now they're only able to support three or four young singers but have dreams of inspiring as many as 16. When Gross wanted to go to college to study music his mother said no, so Gross paid his own way. Although he ended up in a business career, he has used the musical training to direct the chorale and several church choirs.

Jeanne Martin first sang under Gross at First United Methodist in Plymouth. She enjoyed his style so much she followed him to the chorus after he left the church choir.

PROFESSIONAL, CARING

The BeckRidge Chorale regularly reaches out to help the community whether it's by participating as a group in fund-raising walks for cancer or performing at senior centers.

"I feel privileged to be on board," said Martin of Canton. "We care about our community. We bring hope. We do a lot of sacred music with the group with a core Christian heart."

Sherrie Northway emphasizes that BeckRidge is not a social group.

"People come to our concerts expecting to hear a community group and leave thinking they've seen professionals," said Northway, a Redford resident who joined in 1982. She drove through a snowstorm from her workplace in Troy last week just to talk about the chorale. Not to be outdone, Sandi Edwards drove from Commerce Township.

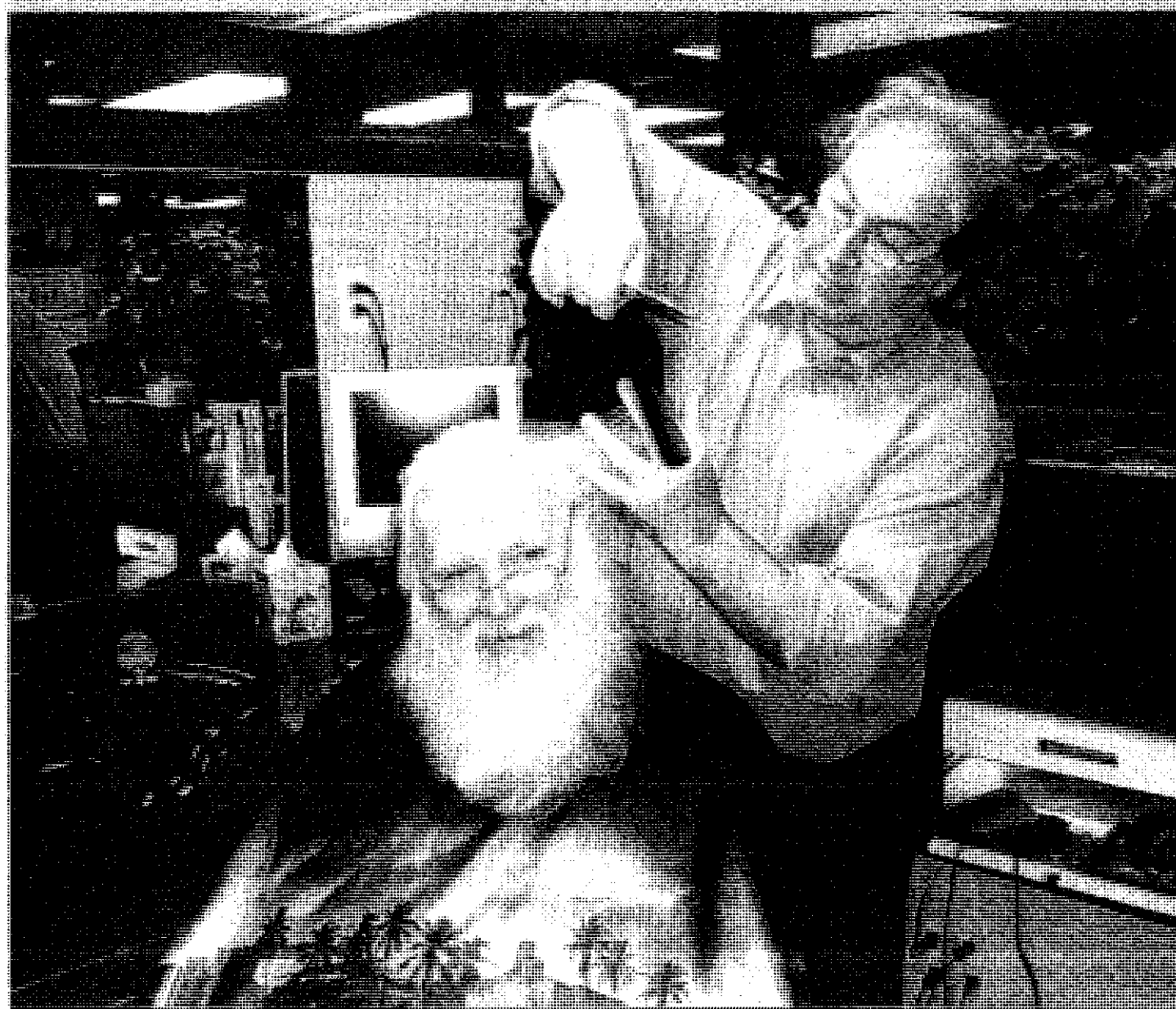
"I had been an audience member for years and knew that there was good musicality I wanted to be part

Please see **BECKRIDGE, C2**



Make a resolution to expand your horizons by joining the BeckRidge Chorale in song.

Santa's Beard



Joe Smotherman (right) grooms Santa in his hair styling shop in Farmington. Michael Deller (left) personifies the Big Guy in the red suit.

Barber keeps Santa looking good for his big day

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

Clients smile as they pass the Big Guy in the red suit inside Joe's Headquarters in Farmington. Yes, Virginia, Santa needs a haircut just like everyone else. On this day though, he stopped by just to say hello.

Michael Deller, the Big Guy's Agent, usually makes an appointment with barber Joe Smotherman every six weeks then disappears much like Superman's Clark Kent. In his place appears Santa and a green velvet bag filled with tricks of the trade. The jovial elf is especially busy right before Christmas telling stories to children at libraries. Deller told his first tall tale as director of the Livonia public libraries from which he retired in 1999. He is a 1959 graduate of Birmingham High School.

"I call them scissor stories," said Deller

as he began telling the story of an old woman who lived alone except for two mice.

Deller mesmerizes the audience as he cuts out two pieces of cheese and mice from a paper plate. The Livonia resident has his own story to tell about accidentally becoming Santa's Agent. Back in 2002, he and wife Paulinda were moving when Deller forgot to shave for a couple of days. His sons bet that the beard wouldn't grow out completely white. Deller, who turned gray and then white by age 50, had no doubt as to who would win.

BECOMING SANTA

Not long after he was visiting Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey's office when a staff member was so impressed with the new look she asked him to play Santa in the city's Holiday Parade after another Santa quit. Deller said yes, but had nothing to wear so it was on to Bronner's for the red

suit, Scott Colburn's for boots, and his eye doctor for reading glasses to look like Santa. Deller was having so much fun he decided to attend Charles Howard's Santa School in Midland. He's been warming the hearts of children and adults ever since.

And no, it's a myth that Santa puts on weight magically before traveling around the world to deliver toys to all the good boys and girls — just ask Deller who sports a hefty physique all year long.

"I went for a refresher course in 2008 to see if there was anything new," Deller said. "Different Santas approach what they do as Santas in a different way. I learn something new from presentation to what to do when visiting a nursing home or hospital."

BUSY SANTA

Please see **SANTA, C2**



Santa (Michael Deller) enjoyed donating his time to have photographs taken with children at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Westland. The big jovial elf has a limited amount of time right now as he prepares for the busiest night of the year.

Nonprofits looking for end-of-the-year donations

BY SHARON DARGAY
O & E STAFF WRITER

Is it mission-focused?
Is it responsible with its money?
Does it have high administrative overhead?

Does it do good work?
Those are a few of the questions that individuals may be asking themselves as they sort through end-of-the-year appeals for charitable causes from local nonprofit organizations.

It's the kind of thought process Beth Morrison goes through when



she and her family consider where they will spend charitable dollars.

"HAVEN is my No. 1 organization for support," said Morrison, who heads the Oakland County domestic violence shelter. "But there are a few other nonprofits that my family and I support. At some point in the year we sit down and ask 'Are we going to support everything we did last year?' I think a lot of people go through a thoughtful process and more so

now than ever, because dollars are so limited. They want to make sure their gift makes an impact. If, for example, I have the capacity to give \$1,000, do I give it all in one place or spread it out over 10 places or more?"

"Some people literally wait until the last week of the year to make a decision on what they want to donate. Part of it is just habit. The day after Christmas they sit down and decide. Every year with all of our donors, we do an end of the year appeal," Morrison said.

Other organizations do, too.

HELPING THE HOMEBOUND

Linda Devore of Senior Alliance — Area Agency on Aging 1-C, the organization that aids senior citizens and individuals with disabilities in Western Wayne County, is still taking donations for its holiday meals program, hoping to garner a few more dollars before Christmas.

"We're selling Christmas cards for \$5. The card will go to a senior with their meal," she said, adding that the donation funds the cost of one hot holiday meal. "Meals on Wheels is

Please see **DONATIONS, C3**

SANTA
FROM PAGE C1

Although Deller knows of Santas who have lost their jobs this year in malls, he booked the bulk of the Big Guy's appearances by Aug. 15. Santa especially enjoyed donating his time to have photographs taken with children at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Westland where Michael Saine offered the treat for free to parents.

Smotherman's clients like to share their list with Santa as well when he's in the hair styling shop.

"Customers come in saying I've been a good boy or girl,"

Smotherman said. "We all joke around. They say you aren't bringing me coal, are you?"

Smotherman's been an especially good boy this year by giving free haircuts to longtime clients who have lost their jobs. He began cutting hair in 1967 and uses a special shampoo to prevent Santa's hair from oxidizing and turning yellow.

"He makes me look really good. December is one of my busier months," said Santa with a wink.

Before long the Big Guy was finishing the story that ended happily ever after and it was time to leave and prepare for his trip.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241

Dinner to benefit local health organizations

The CDS Foundation holds its 16th Annual Wild Game Benefit Dinner 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

The event benefits the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit; St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center and Angela Hospice Home Care in Livonia, and Botsford Hospital Foundation in Farmington.

The evening begins with hors

d'oeuvres followed by a family style dinner with wine at 7:30 p.m.

The 50/50 raffle and silent auction run from 6-10 p.m., a standard open bar from 6-11:30 p.m. then a cash bar from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m.

There will also be a live auction, crap shoot and Texas Hold'em.

Tickets are \$70 per person. This is a stag event.

For more information, call (734) 462-0770.

BECKRIDGE
FROM PAGE C1

of," said Edwards, who most enjoyed singing with the group in 2002 at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

"It's the professionalism of the group that I admire and our spiritual side," added Kathy Norred. The Livonia woman joined in 2002 after husband Bruce became a member.

Norred was a chef for the chorale's Musical Feast program along with Schoolcraft College culinary arts students this fall. The annual concert

and dinner is a popular event.

"I joined nine years ago 'cause it's fun," said Jack Charlefour of Dearborn. "I love to sing and it's one of my ways of worshipping."

Charlefour is a member of the chorale's 16-member Village Voices, an elite group that performed the music of French composers at the last Musical Feast.

It's obvious the BeckRidge Chorale offers real opportunity for growth.

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (313) 222-2241.

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the newspaper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your reunion announcement at least two weeks in advance to Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or e-mail lchomin@hometownlife.com.

Brighton High School

Class of 1989

Planning a July 25, 2009 reunion at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. There will be a buffet dinner, DJ, and cash bar. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. For details, contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at email4kelley@yahoo.com, or see groups.yahoo.com/group/brightonclassof1989.

Class of 1959

50th reunion with activities June 5-7, 2009. Events will include a Saturday evening dinner party at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield. For information, visit www.casstech59.com or contact Marge Teramino Knable, reunion@casstech59.com; Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.

Dearborn Fordson

Class of 1969

Planning a reunion. Contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu-core.com.

Detroit St. Brigid

Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about

classmates.

Garden City High School
Class of 1960

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

Class of 1989

20th reunion Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor (6 p.m. to midnight. Ticket \$65 before March 1, 2009, \$75 from March 2 to June 1, 2009. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, premium open bar, dj, door prizes, picture cd and other gifts, and available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or contact Paula at gchsf1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Grosse Pointe North

Class of 1991

Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail: info@taylorreunions.com.

Lincoln Park High School

Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbcglobal.net.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1969

A reunion is in the pre-planning stages. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aol.com.

Milford High School

Class of 1978

Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail milford78@gmail.com.

Meadow Brook Theatre
Relive the Magic
Extended Stay Hotels Presents
A Christmas Carol
November 28 - December 21
Rediscover a Classic

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

TROCHANTERIC BURSITIS
The trochanteric bursa is a sac located in the outer aspect of the upper thigh. The purpose of the bursa is to prevent a large muscle, the gluteus maximus, from rubbing against the side of the hip bone.

At times, for unknown reasons, the bursa becomes inflamed. The pain that ensues, may radiate to the low back or down the leg, and may present at night when you turn in bed or shift position. The pain is close to the hip joint and often brings a person to make a doctor's appointment from concern that hip arthritis has begun.

Your doctor can usually tell immediately that the problem is not arthritis. Particularly important is that you are experiencing pain at night while in bed. Arthritis lessens at such times, because you are off your feet, not weight bearing. In contrast, trochanteric bursitis asserts itself because of movement of the muscle over the bursa when turning.

When trochanteric bursitis begins, the best treatment is heat alternating with ice. The heat brings in a blood supply and the cold gives relief by numbing the bursal area and also causes blood vessels in the vicinity of the bursa to expand widely when the heat begins.

If these measures do not work, then the next step is injection into the bursa with cortisone. Your doctor can repeat injection therapy as needed as long as each injection provides you benefit.

In some instances, the bursitis will resolve, and the other leg bursa will become irritated and need attention. Why this sequence occurs is not known; fortunately, conventional treatment by heat, cold or steroid injection, resolves the bursitis.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

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- Beauty & Barber Shop

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8121 Lilley, Located between Joy & Warren Roads

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20% OFF
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Get 2nd 1/2 off

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CALL NOW FOR A COMPLIMENTARY SPECIAL REPORT

"The truth about Varicose & Spider vein therapies: What every patient must know!"

Before After

DONATIONS

FROM PAGE C1

not open on holidays, so we pick up delivery on Easter, Labor Day, Christmas and Thanksgiving.

"The need is great. It grows every year. If we get an increase in funds, we can add holidays, like Fourth of July."

The organization's counterpart, Area Agency on Aging-1B, serves approximately 8,300 meals a year through its holiday program to the homebound in six counties, including Oakland. Its volunteers will deliver hot meals for Hanukkah and Christmas this week, as well as on New Year's Day, Easter, Passover, and Thanksgiving.

"We don't have a special (fund-raiser) event. We send an appeal, direct mail," said Kathleen Yanik,

communications director. "A lot of times the need is not necessarily tied to income. A lot of times, the seniors we serve don't have the mobility to get around to the grocery store."

"Something that we give these people most often who are homebound is companionship. Often there's no one else there to wish them a happy holiday beyond the volunteer."

MONEY TO EXPAND

Like Devore, Alice Dent hopes to receive enough donations to expand her organization's efforts in 2009.

Dent is executive director for Habitat for Humanity Western Wayne County, the faith-based organization based in Plymouth that builds and rehabs houses for the needy. Although volunteers work without pay on Habitat construction sites, the cost of building supplies

increased this year as gas prices soared. And when the economy nose dived in the fall, Dent had to reduce new builds to two houses.

"We need at least \$80,000 for new builds and a company or individual who can co-sponsor a rehab house at \$5,000. They can be a full sponsor for \$20,000," Dent said. "We are in desperate need of licensed general contractors that can donate hands-on time to our organization. We also need real estate appraisers ... site supervisors and crew leaders with construction experience that would like to help lead volunteers."

The organization also needs help with grant-writing and clerical support. Anyone interested in volunteering can call the Habitat office at (734) 459-7744. Donate by sending a check to 638 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170. Or visit www.habitatwwc.org.

Donate to the group's Oakland County counterpart by visiting www.habitatoakland.org.

Here's donation information for other groups:

■ **The HAVEN:** Morrison says crisis calls have increased in the past month and that the agency's shelter generally is full, with children accounting for half of its residents. The organization needs volunteers, financial contributions and items for the shelter. Make online donations and download a wish list of items at www.haven-oakland.org. Or call (248) 334-1284, Ext. 659.

■ **The Senior Alliance:** Buy a holiday meal for a senior for \$5 or make a donation. Stop by in person or send a check to 3850 Second St., Suite 201, Wayne, MI 48184. Call (734) 727-2063 to volunteer.

■ **Area Agency on Aging-1B:** Donate by calling the center at (800) 852-7795 or online at www.aaalb.org.

■ **CARE House of Oakland County,** home of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council: "Our greatest need is monetary donations to be able to continue with the programs we have in place," said executive director Pat Rosen. The organization in Pontiac serves approximately 4,000 families and children annually. All of its services and programs are provided at no cost to its clients. Mail contributions to CARE House of Oakland County, 44765 Woodward, Pontiac, MI 48341 or make an online donation at www.carehouse.org. The group also maintains a wish list online that includes arts and crafts supplies, disposable diapers, baby food and toys, among other items.

Knowing Jesus Christ And Making Him Known
Prince of Peace
 Lutheran Church
 Join Us Christmas Eve
 5:00 pm - Family Worship | 7:30 pm - Candlelight Service
 Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 am
 28000 New Market Road • 248 | 553 | 3300

FREE MOVIE
 THE NATIVITY STORY
 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30TH
 2 PM
 PENN THEATRE
 Bring your family and friends!
 Sponsored by Plymouth First United Methodist Church
 www.pfumc.org (734) 453-5280

Come Celebrate the Birth of Jesus
Christmas Eve (December 24th)
 7:00 P.M.
Sunday Worship - 10:30 A.M.
Central Woodward Christian Church
 3985 W. Big Beaver Road in Troy
 (Corner of Big Beaver and Adams)
 248-644-0312
 www.centralwoodward.org

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 ~Christmas Eve Services~
Wednesday, December 24, 2008
 5:00 p.m. - Family Service
 Featuring Children's Choir and Youth Handbells
 10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service
 Featuring Adult Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir
 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

St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church
 555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton
 (SE corner of Lilley and Cherry Hill)
 Free Christmas Concert
 Sunday, December 21, at 3:30 PM
 Christmas Eve Masses
 4 PM (two masses), 6 PM, 9 PM, and Midnight
 Christmas Day Masses
 10 AM, and Noon

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 620 Romeo Street, Rochester
 stpaulsrochester.org 248.651.9361
Christmas Eve Services
 4 p.m. - Children/Family Celebration
 7:30 & 11 p.m. - Candlelight Celebration
 Childcare for birth through 4 years is available at 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. services.

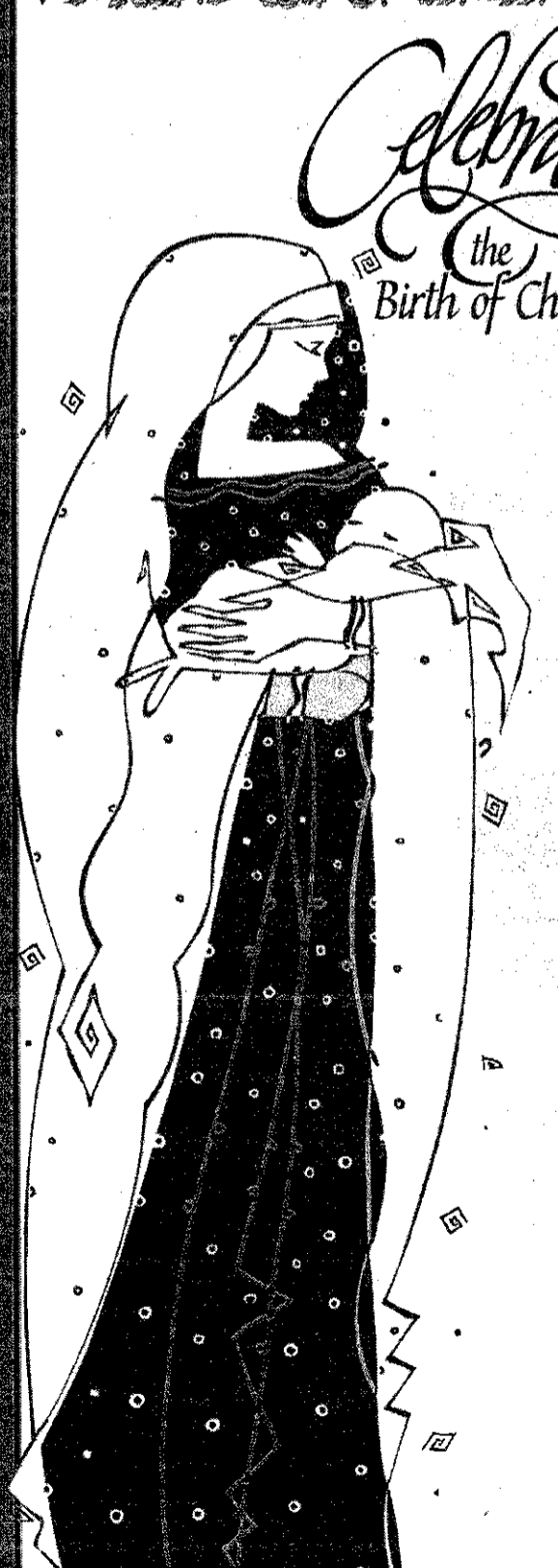
WORSHIP WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS
Christmas Eve
 Wednesday, December 24
 Holy Eucharist at 5 p.m.
 (suggested for families with small children)
 Festive Eucharist at 8 and 11 p.m.
 with choir and orchestra
 The Rev. Edward L. Mullins preaching
 Childcare available at 5 and 8 p.m.
Christmas Day
 Thursday, December 25
 Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.
 The Rev. W. Terry Miller preaching
 No childcare
CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK
 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills
 (at corner of Lone Pine and Cranbrook)
 248.644.5210 • www.christchurchcranbrook.org

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Service
 Wednesday, December 24th at 6:00pm
"Why God Became Man"
 Rev. Dr. James N. McGuire
 (Nursery Provided)
 We meet at:
 Madonna University's
 Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft
 Road - Livonia
 (Parking lot is NW corner
 of Lovan & Schoolcraft)
 www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
 Woodward Avenue and I-75 (exit 50)
 NEXT TO COMERICA PARK
 www.stjohnsdetroit.org
 (313) 962-7358
Christmas Eve - December 24
 4:00pm - Children's Pageant Service
 8:30pm - Carol Prelude Service
 9:00pm - Candlelight Festive Communion
Christmas Day - 11am in the Chapel
Saturday, December 27th
The Feast of St. John the Evangelist
 4pm - Christmas Lessons and Carols with our professional choir for the 150th Anniversary of the founding of our parish!
 Come find out why your neighbors are coming to Detroit for Biblical Preaching & Teaching, Traditional Anglican Music & Liturgy

A Multicultural Christmas Eve!
December 24 7:00 pm
 U R Invited!
Ecumenical Service:
Filipino-American Presbyterian Fellowship Church of Pentecost
Southfield Presbyterian Church
 21575 W. Ten Mile Rd., Southfield 48075
 (between Lahser & Evergreen)
 248-356-1430

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church & School
 9600 Leverne, Redford, MI 48239
 www.HosannaTaboo.org 313-937-2233
Join us in worship!
 Dec 21 9:30 AM A Service of Music
 Dec 24 6 PM Family Service
 Dec 25 10 PM Candlelight Services
 Dec 26 10 AM Christmas Morning Svc
 Dec 28 9:30 AM Worship Service
 10:45 AM Education Hour
 Dec 31 5 PM New Year's Eve Service And Game Night.
 A Tuition Based, Christian School of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
 Offering Infant-Toddler Day Care, Preschool, All Day Kindergarten, Elementary Grades 1-8

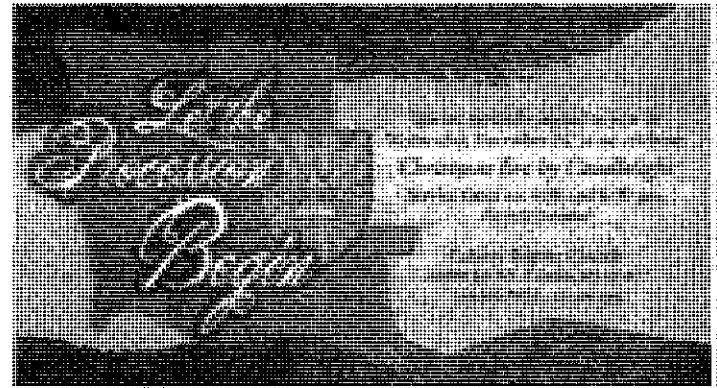


Covenant Community Church
 On Beech Daly Just N. of 5 Mile in Redford • 313-535-3100

Christmas Eve Service:
 Wednesday, December 24, 2008 – 6:00 pm

Sundays:
 Sunday School (Classes for all ages) – 9:45 am
 Morning Worship Service – 11:00 am

Loving Him, Loving Others & Working with Him in the World



Newburg United Methodist Church

36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia
 Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Lead Pastor
 Rev. Paul Perez, Deacon

*"Love Came Down at Christmas"
 ...and made all the difference!*

CHRISTMAS EVE
 5:00 pm...Children/Family Service
 7:00 pm...Family Worship & Candlelight
 11:00 pm...Lessons & Carols, Communion & Candlelight

St. Anastasia Catholic Church
 4571 John R, Troy 48085
 (248) 689-8380

Christmas Eve Mass Times:
 4 pm, 7pm & 12am (midnight)
Christmas Day Mass Times:
 8:15am & 11:15am

www.stanastasia.org & http://stabasic.com

Antioch Lutheran Church
 33360 W. 13 Mile Road Farmington Hills, a congregation of the ELCA
 NE corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Hills, (248) 626-7906; website

Join our celebration of Jesus' birth

Christmas Worship:
 Wednesday, December 24 (communion)
 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas
 6:00 p.m. Family Worship (pre-service)
 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Festival (no music at 10:00)

Sunday, December 28 (one service)
 10:00 a.m. Festive Service—Praise

You're invited to experience the sights & sounds of Christmas

Wednesday, December 24, 2008
 4:00, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Childcare available at 4:00 & 7:00 (ages 4 & under) | Candle Lighting at all three services

Trinity Church
 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth, MI • www.trinityepc.org

North Congregational Church
 36520 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills MI 248/848-1750

Sunday, December 21, 2008
 10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent: "Prince of Peace"
 Worship, Chancel Choir and Orchestra performs the Christmas Section of Handel's *Messiah*

Wednesday, December 24, 2008
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 7:30 P.M. - "Wonder in the Night"

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Mark P. Jensen, Rev. Mary E. Biedron

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

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE
 December 21st - Fourth Sunday of Advent
 11:00 a.m. Worship: Christmas Pageant
 Wednesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve
 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service "Candlelight Service"

ROMAN CATHOLIC CLUSTERED PARISHES IN LIVONIA

ST. GENEVIEVE 29015 Jamison...ST. MAURICE 32765 Lyndon

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 Church

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

"A Family in Christ"
 St. Augustine Lutheran Church LCMS
 December 24
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00 pm

Opportunities for Children
 King's Court each Sunday at 9:45 am
 For more information call (248) 879-6400
 http://www.saltchurch.net

Experience Christmas in a traditional Anglican setting at

Church of the Redeemer
 19141 Cornell Road • Southfield

Christmas Eve
 Christmas Day
 Christmas Eve Service
 Christmas Day Service

Christmas at the Kirk

December 21
 4:00 PM Annual Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24 - Christmas Eve

11:00 AM Young Families Service Rev. Lana Russell
 4:00 PM Family Service Rev. Katy Doyle
 6:00 PM Family Service Rev. Katy Doyle

8:30 PM Holy Night Service Dr. Norman Pritchard
 11:00 PM Holy Night Service Dr. Norman Pritchard

Kirk in the Hills
 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302
 (248) 626-2515 kirkinthehills.org

First United Methodist Church
 1589 W. Maple Road, Birmingham 248-646-1200 • www.fumc-birmingham.org

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4:00 p.m. for Families with Young Children
 5:30 p.m. for Families with Elementary Children
 Nursery Open

2:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 p.m.
 Christmas Lessons and Carols
 Dr. John E. Harnish preaching
 Holy Communion at 2, 7 & 11
 Nursery Care at 2 and 7

John E. Harnish, Senior Pastor
 Rodney F. Quanton Jeff Nelson Chad Oyer Carl Price

Come Catch the Christmas Spirit
 Redford Aldersgate United Methodist

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
 Dec. 24

5:30 p.m.
 ☆Family Musical:
"Angels We Have Heard"
 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

Diana & Bob Goudie Pastors

Sunday Dec. 21
 2 services
 9:30 a.m.
 11:00 a.m.

Dec. 28
 one service
 10:00 a.m.
 Blessing of the children & their toys

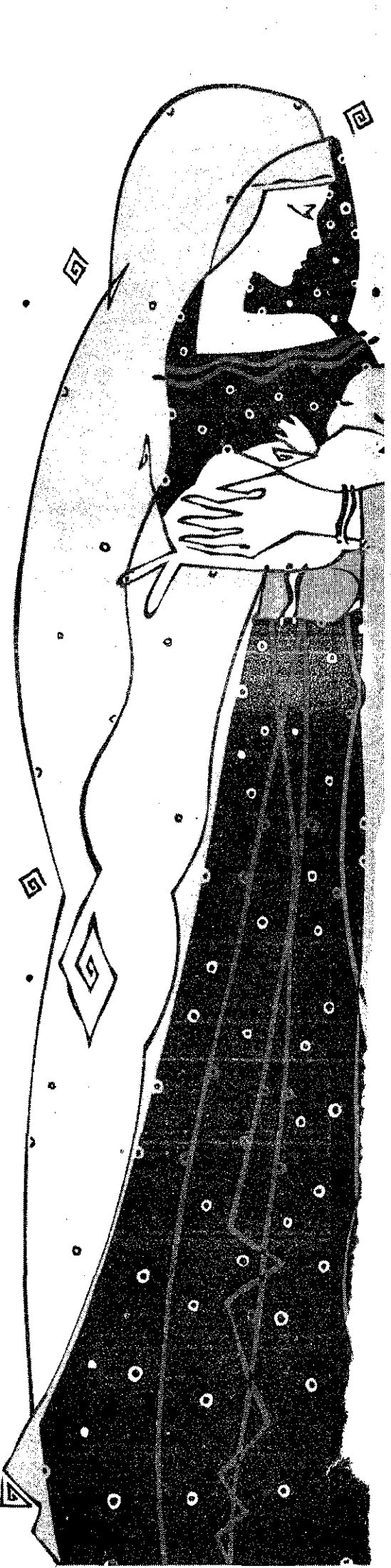
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 WORSHIP SCHEDULE
 website: stjamesbirmingham.org
 The Reverend Fred Elwood, Rector 248.644.0820

CHRISTMAS EVE, WEDNESDAY, 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!)

(Downtown Birmingham between Woodward & Southfield, corner of W. Maple and Chester)



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Your Community
 Can we help you?
 Wedding, Baptism

248-646-1800
 Redeemer
 1800 W. Birmingham

Christmas Eve • Join Us
 Carols by Candlelight
 5:30, 6:00 & 10:00 P.M.

New Years Eve Worship 7:00 P.M.
 Pre-Service Meal 6 P.M. Call for Reservations

Weekly Sunday Worship 8, 9 & 10:30 A.M., Monday
 Children's Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30

Grace Lutheran Church
 25630 Grand River Ave.
 Redford, MI (just E of Beech Daly)
 Sunday, December 21 at 9:15 and 11:00 (S.S. at 9:15 and 11:00)
 Fourth Sunday in Advent
 Service of carols, concert and sermon.
 The Chancel Choir will render extra music along with a sermon by
 Rev. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor. Holy Communion will be celebrated.
Christmas Eve
 7:00 PM Family Worship
 11:00 PM Candlelight Worship
 Music provided by the Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir
 Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor preaching

www.princeofpeacewestland.com 734.722.1735
Prince of Peace
 Lutheran - Westland
 Join us this Christmas!
 7:30 pm - Candlelight Service | Christmas eve
 9:30 am - Nativity Service | Christmas day
 37775 Palmer Rd. (1/4 MI west of Newburgh)

Hills, MI 48334
 is located at the
 on Roads in Farm-
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 -God's gift to us all.
Services
 on at all services)
 ce music at 5:45)
 ship (pre-service
 mly)
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Berkley First United Methodist Church
 2820 W. Twelve Mile Road, Berkley Michigan 48072
 248-399-3698
 www.berkley1stumc.org
CHRISTMAS CANTATA
 December 21 at 10:30am
LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
 December 21 at 6:30pm
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
 December 24 at 5:30pm
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 December 24 at 10:00pm

Risen Christ Lutheran
 David W. Martin, Pastor
 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth
 (1 Mile W. of Sheldon)
 734.453.5252
 Sundays 8:15 & 10:45 am
 Sunday School 9:30
 Adult Bible Study 9:30
 Nursery Care Available
Christmas Eve
 4:30 & 7 pm
 All are welcome.
 www.risenchrist.info

Resurrection Catholic Church
 48755 Warren Road
 Canton, Michigan 48187
 734-451-0444
 Rev. Richard A. Peretto, Pastor
CHRISTMAS EVE - Dec. 24th
 • 4:30 p.m. Mass & 10:00 p.m.
 • 4:30 p.m. Children's Mass
 (All Saints Gym)
CHRISTMAS DAY - Dec. 25th
 • 10:30 a.m. Mass
SUNDAY, Jan. 1st • 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate the Birth of Christ

**Pilgrim Congregational Church
 and The River Church**
 3061 N. Adams Road
 just north of Big Beaver Road
 248-642-2290
Christmas Eve Service:
 "Gift of Music"
 A prelude of traditional,
 instrumental music - 7:30 pm.
 "Carols, Candlelight
 and Communion"
 Worship - 8:00 p.m.

Come, Let Us Adore Him
St. John Lutheran Church
 23225 Gill Road • Farmington Hills • 248-474-0588
Christmas Eve
 Candlelight Worship Services... 5:30, 8:00 & 10:30 pm
Christmas & New Years Sundays
 Traditional Service... 9:00 am
 Contemporary Service... 11:15 am

St. Priscilla Church
 19120 Purlingbrook Street
 Livonia, MI
 248-476-4700
 North of 7 Mile Road
 Between Middlebelt & Merriman Roads
Christmas Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve
 4:30 PM Children's Liturgy
 6:00 PM Mass
 12 Midnight Mass
 (Carols begin at 11:30 PM)
Christmas Day
 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
 5631 N. Adams Road • Bloomfield Hills • 248-646-5041
 Between Square Lake & Long Lake Roads
Christmas Eve Services
 4:30 pm - Children's Service
 7:00 pm - Family Service
 10:30 pm - Festival Communion Service
Christmas Day Service
 10:00 am - Holy Communion Service
Regular Worship
 Sat. 5:30 pm
 Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

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

**Holy Trinity
 Lutheran Church (ELCA)**
 39020 Five Mile Rd., Livonia
 734-464-0211
 www.holytrinitylivonia.org
CHRISTMAS EVE
 5:30 pm Family Worship with
 Holy Communion
 7:30 pm Contemporary Candlelight
 with Holy Communion
 10:30 pm Festival Music Prelude
 11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight
 with Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS DAY
 10:00 am Holy Communion

**Christ the King
 Lutheran Church**
 9300 Farmington Road
 Livonia, MI 48150
 734-421-0749
**Christmas Eve
 Candlelight Worship
 with Communion**
 7:30 & 11:00
 The Rev. James L. Fogle, Pastor
 www.ChristTheKingLivonia.com

Come join
Riverside Park Church of God
 for any or all of the
December Activities
 December 24 5-6 pm Christmas Eve Service
 with Communion
 December 31 10:00 pm New Years Eve Service
 Regular services are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
 and Sundays at 10:00 am
 Located at 11771 Newburgh Rd (NW of Plymouth Rd)
 Information 734-464-0990

**St. Paul's
 Presbyterian Church**
 All Are Welcome to Join Us for
Christmas Eve Services
 Communion and
 Candlelight Services
 8 p.m. and 11 p.m.
 Five Mile & Lakeside Roads in Livonia
 734-221-1570 • www.sppc.org

Please join us on
Christmas Eve:
 5:00 pm - Family Service
 11:00 pm - Candlelight Service
Grace Chapel
 27996 Halsted Road
 Farmington Hills, MI 48331
 (NE corner of 12 Mile & Halsted)

HOLY CROSS
 Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Traditional
Christmas Eve Worship
 Carols, Candlelight and
 Holy Communion
 4:00* 7:30 and 11 pm
 *For families with young children
 All are Welcome
 http://holycrosslivonia.org
 30650 6 Mile Rd., Livonia
 734-427-1413 • WELCOME VISITORS.

Two very special events on
 two very special nights...
Old Moravian Lovefeast
 Sunday, December 21, 2008 • 7 pm
 You are invited to our 36th annual Old Moravian
 Lovefeast! Bring the whole family to celebrate the birth of
 Christ through scripture, beautiful music, candlelight and
 sharing a simple meal of a Moravian bun and water.
Blue Christmas Service
 Monday, December 22, 2008 • 7 pm
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Christmas Worship at St. Paul's
 Christmas Eve Worship.....6:30 p.m.
 Christmas Day Worship.....10:00 a.m.
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Christmas Eve	Confessions	10:15-11:50 pm
	Midnight Mass	12:00 am
Christmas Day	No Confessions	
	Mass	10:00 am
New Years Day	Confessions	9:45-10:25 am
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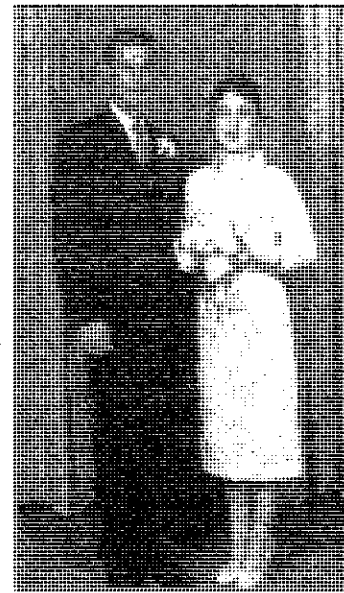
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Golden anniversary
Cornelius and Jean (Duty) Van Boven of Canton are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month. The couple wed Dec. 27, 1958, at Newburg Methodist Church in Livonia. They are parents to James (Mary) VanBoven of Canton and Brian VanBoven of Redford Township. They have one grandson, Andrew, 16. Cornelius worked in trucking for more than 40 years and Jean worked for Plymouth Canton Community Schools. Both are retired. Cornelius has been a member of the American Legion in Plymouth for 43 years. The couple celebrated their anniversary with family and friends, Saturday, Dec. 20

ANNIVERSARY



at Atlantis Restaurant, in Plymouth. They plan a trip to Hawaii in the New Year.



Cornelius and Jean (Duty) Van Boven of Canton on their wedding day 50 years ago.

BIRTH



Mya Rane Bedoun
Jason and Megan Bedoun of Canton are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Mya Rane Bedoun, at Providence Hospital in Southfield. Her grandparents are Al and Ann Thomas of Canton and Ed and Debbie Bedoun of Canton. Her great-grandparents are Albert and Margaret Thomas of Harriman Tenn., Jennie Meier of Novi and Frank and Peggy Hicks of Canton.

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ENGAGEMENT

Zucchet-Szachta
John and Linda Joslin of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Danielle Renee Zucchet to Daniel John Szachta, son of Don and Karen Szachta of Troy. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Churchill High School, the James Madison College at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. Her fiancé is a graduate of Troy High School, Michigan State University and currently works for Johnson Controls. The couple plans an April 2009 wedding in Plymouth.



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THE **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS
YOUR TOTALLY LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Pet love: Treat your dog to homemade, holiday cooking

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGS STAFF WRITER

Nancy Ridella wouldn't think of letting her dog, Max's, birthday go by without baking a tasty turkey cake frosted in mashed potatoes for him and his canine party guests.

When her church, Unity of Rochester, needs cross-shaped biscuits for its annual pet blessing, her oven is already heated and ready to bake.

And if someone in her Troy neighborhood has a new puppy, she'll welcome the new pooch with a big batch of homemade canine treats.

"It's our animal world. I just love it," she said. "Our church is so full of people who love animals. Once a year I make the biscuits and bring in and after service, if people want biscuits, they can donate whatever amount of money they can for them."

She sends the proceeds — \$250 for her latest batch — to Hawkeye and Friends, a dog rescue in Memphis, located on the dividing line between Macomb and St. Clair counties.

"Max rules the house. He lays on the couch, paws over the edge, but that's OK. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Nancy is my kind of pet owner. She doesn't just cook from scratch for her husband, Bob, but occasionally cracks open the recipe file for Max, their Border Collie-Lab mix, underscoring just how much a part of the family he is. She includes a little something extra for Max at the holidays, for celebrations and makes sure the homemade biscuit jar is always full.

Max's diet isn't limited to dry kibble day in and day out.

Neither is my dog's.

I started cooking occasionally for Hunter, my 3½-year-old Akita-Shepherd mix several months after I brought him home from an Ohio shelter over Labor Day weekend 2006. I got a few pointers from my O&E colleague and longtime dog owner, Linda Chomin, who cooks for her Irish Wolfhound, Claucy, every day. I scoured the cookbook shelves, checked the Internet, and started experimenting with different foods, stepping up my efforts during the melamine-tainted pet food recall in early 2007. Since then I've scaled back some, limiting most of my canine cooking to the weekends when I have extra time and just occasionally after work.

But you can bet I won't let the upcoming holidays go by without serving him at least one special meal or homemade treat. While the family indulges in holiday fare, he'll get his own hot meal. For me, it strengthens the bond I've developed with my loyal four-pawed friend.

This year, I've got a few new recipes to try — and to share with you. Nancy gave me her biscuits and turkey cake recipes and Susan Goetz, owner of All Under One Woof dog day care in Oakland Township, passed along a chicken cake



PET PROJECTS

recipe that one of her clients often makes.

They follow, along with one of my favorite "every day" canine entrees and a couple of cookbook suggestions:

PEANUT BUTTER K9 COOKIE

by Nancy Ridella

2 cups wheat flour
1 cup wheat germ
1 cup peanut butter
1 egg
¼ cup cooking oil
½ cup water

Mix all ingredients together; roll out dough and cut with cookie cutters. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 15-20 minutes. Cool on racks.

DOG BIRTHDAY CAKE

by Nancy Ridella

4 pounds ground turkey
3 cups of cooked brown rice
1 cup diced carrot
1 cup diced celery
1 cup minced parsley
2 eggs beaten
3 teaspoons chopped garlic
2 tablespoons olive oil
½ cup whole wheat flour
Optional: mashed potatoes for frosting

Mix ingredients. Place in 9- by 13-inch pan or larger. Bake in 350-degree oven for an hour. Cool. If desired, frost with mashed potatoes. Nancy says the recipe can be cut in half to make it more manageable. She often makes the full amount explaining "I always have extra on hand in case someone's dog comes over."

CHICKEN BIRTHDAY CAKE

Submitted by Susan Goetz, who got it from one of her doggy day care clients. It was originally from dogskitchen.com

1½ cups all-purpose flour
1½ teaspoon baking powder
¼ cup margarine, softened
¼ cup corn oil
1 jar strained chicken (baby food)
1 cup shredded carrots
3 eggs
2 strips of bacon, fried and crumbled
Yogurt for icing

Sift flour and baking powder together; set aside. In large bowl, cream margarine until smooth. Add corn oil, baby food and eggs and carrots; mix until smooth, gradually add flour and baking powder to the mixture and blend until smooth. Pour batter into well-greased and floured 8-inch round pan. Bake in a preheated 325 degree oven, 60-70 minutes. Cool on wire rack before removing from pan. Ice cake with yogurt or cottage cheese. Crumble bacon on top.

BARLEY, TURKEY AND PUMPKIN

This is one of Hunter's favorite Sun-

TOXIC FOODS

Never feed your dog:

- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Grapes and raisins
- Macadamia nuts
- Alcoholic drinks
- Onions
- Chicken bones
- Anything with xylitol, a sugar substitute found in sugar-free gum, among other products
- Unripened tomatoes and tomato plant leaves
- Yeast dough
- Salt
- Moldy or spoiled foods
- Avocado

The ASCPA also lists garlic as a food to avoid, even though many dog food recipes include garlic or garlic powder. According to the ASCPA Web site, "Garlic does have toxic potential to pets, and is generally more potent than onion, also a member of the Allium species, in causing changes in red blood cells in dogs and cats. This is true in raw, cooked or powdered forms." The site also says it generally takes a large single ingestion or continued exposure to alter a significant number of red blood cells, compromising their ability to carry oxygen. However, it also cautions that some dogs may be genetically more susceptible to problems from garlic. "An occasional low dose, such as those found in most commercial pet foods or treats, would not likely cause problems." But if you want to avoid risk, just leave the ingredient out.

day dinners. It's an altered version of a recipe that originally appeared in Rachael Ray's magazine

¼ quart of vegetable or chicken broth
1 cup pearl barley
1 pound ground turkey
1 cup pumpkin puree
Pinch nutmeg and cinnamon
¼ cup of shredded carrots

Warm ¼ quart of broth and add barley. Cook until it begins to bubble, about five minutes. Add turkey to broth, crumbling it in smaller chunks. Cook until the liquid is absorbed by the grains and then add the remaining ¼ of the quart of broth. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the barley is tender. That's about 20 minutes. At the 15-minute mark, add the shredded carrots. Remove from heat and immediately add the pumpkin, stirring it in and making sure it's just heated through.

For more ideas, check out three of my favorite books:

- "The Healthy Dog Cookbook" by Joanna Anne with Mary Straus. Contains 50 "nutritious and delicious" recipes.
- "The Dog Ate It" by Linda West Eckhardt and Barbara Bradley. Each recipe includes a canine version and spiced-up version for people.
- "The Natural Pet Food Cookbook" by Wendy Nan Rees. Includes recipes for both dogs and cats.



Alan and Joyce Hawkins, of Farmington Hills, both 70 and retired, embarked on one of many of their dream vacations — a cross country adventure on their BMW motorcycle and side car.

Retired couple is high on adventure in golden years

BY ANDI HAWKINS
CORRESPONDENT

Retirement, the Golden Years, is it a myth? Or is it just attainable for a select few?

For one Farmington Hills couple, retirement is all about realizing their dreams. It affords them the opportunity to travel here and abroad, tend to their garden and home, and reconnect with family and friends.

Recently, Alan and Joyce Hawkins, both 70 and retired, embarked on one of many of their dream vacations — a cross country adventure.

Their mode of transportation was not a car, or plane, or mobile home. Instead, they chose a custom BMW motorcycle with deluxe side car.

When asked why he chose to travel this way, Alan Hawkins told about his love for motorcycles, stemming back to his teenage years in England.

Why he chose to attach a side car was necessity over desire.

"My legs weren't long

enough to reach the ground, so the side car was added for balance," he said.

Riding in the side car is very comfortable and Joyce finds lots to do: writing notes in her journal, reading, sleeping, or providing her husband with directions via chatter boxes affixed to their helmets.

"It looks like the Bat pod," said their son, Tony Hawkins, also of Farmington Hills.

Choosing not to use their home as a piggy bank and take out second or third mortgages to fund vacations and gratuities, the couple decided long ago they were never going to live on credit.

"If we couldn't afford to pay cash, we wouldn't buy it" was their motto. Alan a builder, and Joyce, a homemaker, saved enough money to be able to enjoy a comfortable retirement.

Cruising to New Zealand and Australia, visiting their native England, and purchasing such luxury items as two BMW motorcycles — and a car to match — only served to enhance their golden years.

When they're not traveling,

the couple spends their days tending to their vegetable and flower gardens, doing their own home improvements (updating each room of their house), and visiting with family and friends.

Their last trip was a six-week excursion, traveling into Canada via Glacier National Park and extending all the way to California, visiting old friends and relatives along the way.

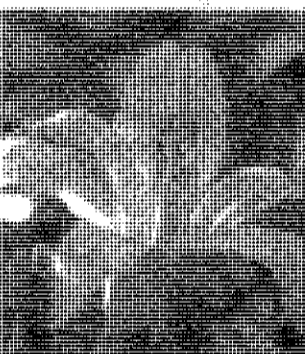
Back home, their sons minded their two acre lawn and tennis court-sized garden and greenhouse.

"At 70, I only hope I can do half the things my dad is able to do and with the same energy and enthusiasm," said Tony Hawkins.

As children, Tony and his three siblings were taught that if they wanted extras, they needed to find jobs and pay for luxuries themselves.

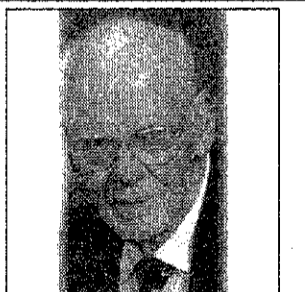
"We all learned a strong work ethic early on," said Tony.

Joyce and Alan count their blessings and feel fortunate that they have their health and each other as they enter this stage in their life.



BETTY BUTLER

Went home to be with the Lord on December 16, 2008. She is survived by numerous nieces, nephews and friends. Viewing will be held December 22, 12-4pm, with funeral at 4pm at Uht Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers please send contributions to Wayne County Senior Services.



CARL D. MARSEE

December 18, 2008. Age 91 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Ila. Loving father of Barbara, David and the late Judy (Ed) Langer, Proud grandpa of Dawn Bradford, Darren (Jana) Koretko, Scott (Anita) Langer, Todd (Kara) and the late Kevin. Dear brother of Orin (Arlene). Also survived by nine great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews including Joan (the late Eugene) Morrison. Funeral Service Monday 12 noon at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (btwn Sheldon and Beck). Visitation Sunday 2-9PM. Interment Riverside Cemetery. To share a memory with the family, please visit www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com

Passages

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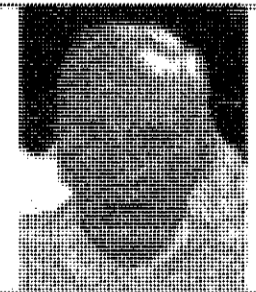
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LILLIAN M. LEENY

Age 86, of Farmington Hills, longtime Congressional Aid, passed away December 18. Loving mother of Camilla Landry, Pamela (James) Kolo and Dennis; beloved grandmother of Scott Vermeulen, Barbara, Denise, Matthew Landry, Christopher and Terry. Lillian is preceded in death by her son Frederick. Funeral Mass Monday, December 22nd, 11 AM (in state 10:30 AM) at the Servant Church of St. Alexander, 27835 Shiawassee (btwn Middlebelt & Inkster Rds.), Farmington Hills. Visitation Sunday 2-8 PM with a 7PM Rosary service at the Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd. (just N. of Grand River, btwn 9-10 Mile Rd.), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Memorial tributes may be directed to the Children's Leukemia Foundation. heeneys-sundquist.com



WILLIAM G. FEHLIG

December 12, 2008. Age 88 of Plymouth. Loving husband of Virginia. Beloved father of David (Holly) and Patricia (David) Tome. Beloved grandpa of David (Maria), Jeff (Nancy), Brian (Sabrina) Tome, Catherine Tome, Jeff (Chitose) Hanert and Jill (George) Carroll. Dear Great-grandpa of Brittany, Makayla, Brenden, Jeremy, Justen, Jordan, Reed, Owen, Luke and Brandon. Mr. Fehlig was a custom home builder, developer and real estate broker. Bill was the last surviving charter member of the Plymouth Lions Club, having been a very active member for 61 years. He was also a lifelong member of the Plymouth Elks. Visitation and funeral services were held at Vermeulen Funeral Home-Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to the Plymouth Lions Foundation. To share memories, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

WEDDINGS

Dickman-Schalter

Julie Schalter and Michael Dickman, both of Plymouth, were married Oct. 17, 2008 in Rochester.

The bride, daughter of Alan and Connie Schalter of Rochester Hills, earned a degree in marketing from Michigan State University in 2003.

She is an eCommerce Retail Specialist at Carhartt.

The groom, son of Catherine Sanders of Pinckney and Eric Dickman of Hamburg, received his bachelor's degree in 2003 and his master's degree in 2004 in account-

ing from Michigan State University. He is a CPA and internal auditor at Pulte Homes.

The Rev. Marc Gemelarro of St. Andrew Catholic Church, officiated the ceremony.

The bride's attendants were Jenny Lenz, Jocelyn Milshteyn, Jillan Bellows, Kara Jelley, and Alexa Jelley.

The groom's attendants were David Dickman, Jamey Schalter, and Zach Dickman.

A reception was held at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. They couple took a honeymoon trip to Amsterdam and Berlin.



LaMontagne-Kain

Robert and Ellen Kain of Livonia announce the marriage of their daughter, Mallory, to Craig D. LaMontagne of Westland. He is the son of John and Lynne LaMontagne of Livonia.

The couple wed Nov. 8, 2008, at Christ Church of Redford. Pastor Mark Einem presided. The bride was attended by Megan Kain, Michelle Kain, Megan LaMontagne, Jennifer Katrich and flower girl Mia LaMontagne. The groom was attended by Jeff Springer, Kevin Jarvis, Dan LaMontagne and Joe Katrich.

A reception followed at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills, where the wedding party and guests enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing. The couple will make their home in Westland.



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Tech society in Farmington Hills seeks self-starter (begin mid-Jan 2009) to assist with annual conference, and to plan and manage seminars, workshops, and meetings. Enthusiastic candidate must be highly-organized, detail-oriented and capable of managing multiple projects simultaneously. Excellent written/verbal communication skills a must. College graduate with a degree in hospitality management, public relations or a related field. Previous event experience a plus.
Salary and resume to: barb.cheyne@concrete.org
FAX: 248-848-3771
Mail to: ACI-EP
P.O. Box 9094, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-9094

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PT/FT, flexible schedules
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LIBRARIAN PART TIME
M.L.S. from A.L.A. accredited school, public library experience preferred. Strong interpersonal skills; experienced with office productivity software. PT 28 hrs week, includes evening & weekend hrs. Pro-rated vacation, sick, holidays.
See <http://www.wblib.org/ask/employment.php>
for more info on responsibilities, qualifications & other details. Application, cover letter, resume to:
Director
West Bloomfield Public Library
4600 Walnut Lake Rd.
W. Bloomfield, MI 48323
by 01-16-09

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
Plating Company needs a Maintenance Technician. Must have plumbing & electrical knowledge. Competitive wage, benefits, retirement.
Fax resume: 313-341-0315

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Roofers-Flat (Laborers)
Commercial roofing firm seeks exp'd single-ply flat roofers. Salary negotiable with exp. Own transportation req. Benefits package after 6 mos. Apply in person btwn 8-12pm 1055 Manufacturers Dr. Westland. Or submit resume to: nessymie@yahoo.com
Absolutely No Phone Inquiries

Roofers-Flat (Experienced)
Commercial roofing firm seeks exp'd single-ply flat roofers. Salary negotiable with exp. Own transportation req. Benefits package after 6 mos. Apply in person btwn 8-12pm 1055 Manufacturers Dr. Westland. Or submit resume to: nessymie@yahoo.com
Absolutely No Phone Inquiries

Roofers-Flat (Laborers)
Commercial roofing firm seeks laborers. No experience required. Starting pay \$10/hr. Own transportation required. Benefits package after 6 mos. Apply in person btwn 8-12pm 1055 Manufacturers Dr. Westland. Or submit resume to: nessymie@yahoo.com
Absolutely No Phone Inquiries

Help Wanted-General 6000

SOCIAL WORKER

The Village of Westland, a Senior Living Community, is looking for an experienced Social Worker. Experience in a geriatric environment is preferred. The candidate must be able to communicate verbally and in writing at a level generally commensurate with a college degree. The candidate must also be able to identify, analyze and resolve problems at a level generally commensurate with a college degree. The candidate must also possess a professional level of knowledge of the principles of human behavior and adjustment-knowledge that is normally acquired during the completion of a Bachelor's degree in Social Work or one of the behavioral sciences.
Send your resume to: jfeast@pvm.org, or 32001 Cherry Hill Road Westland, MI 48186
Attn: Jennifer
No phone calls please.

Wayne-Westland Community Schools open positions:
Registered Nurse with Associate's Degree in Nursing Works under the direction of the School Nurse to provide services to Special Education Students -EOE-
Posting closes Jan. 8, 2009
Apply on-line at <http://wwcsd.net> or come to Human Resources to access the online application system
Wayne-Westland Community Schools
36745 Marquette Westland, MI 48185

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or you can visit us online at www.hometownlife.com

Help Wanted-Office 6020

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

A growing health services provider is seeking a full time hourly Administrative Assistant for its Farmington Hills office. Responsibilities include compilation of financial reports & accounts payable information, interacting with employees regarding benefits and payroll, processing all incoming mail and phone calls, supports senior management.
Qualified applicants must possess a high school degree, have prior administrative support experience, possess excellent communication and organizational skills, the ability to work independently, and must have good customer relations skills. A working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook is required.
Position pays \$12.00 to \$15.00 per hour based on experience. Benefits avail.
Email cover letter and resume to: HR13579@comcast.net
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Must be self motivated, reliable, with one year office exp. Duties include: typing, answering phones, and filing. Knowledge of MS word, Excel, e-mail, a must. 25-30 hrs a wk. Send resume and salary requirements to: Office Manager, 29445 Beck Rd., Ste A-209, Wixom, MI 48393

LEGAL SECRETARY ASSISTANT
Exp. in Family Law & time slips preferred. Flexible hours. Bloomfield Hills, sole practitioner. Email resume to: mrobinslaw@aol.com

Help Wanted-Dental 6040

BUSINESS ASSISTANT
Full-Time for Westland dental office. Exc. people skills & dental experience.
Fax resume: (734) 729-2406 or Call: (734) 729-2368

Dental Assistant Exp. needed; PT/FT Needs to work well in fast paced environment, hard working, organized, enthusiastic and works well in a group. Fax resume: 734-455-7948

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DENTAL HYGIENIST
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ORTHODONTIC CHAIRSIDE ASST & RECEPTIONIST
For our high-quality, fun, orthodontic practice. 3 or 4 days per week. Experience preferred.
Call 734-981-2444

Help Wanted-Medical 6060

Accepting Applications:
CENA's, LPNs, RNs for all shifts. Ask for Dana. (734) 397-4932

Help Wanted-Office 6020

LEGAL SECRETARY ASSISTANT

Exp. in Family Law & time slips preferred. Flexible hours. Bloomfield Hills, sole practitioner. Email resume to: mrobinslaw@aol.com

Help Wanted-Dental 6040

BUSINESS ASSISTANT
Full-Time for Westland dental office. Exc. people skills & dental experience.
Fax resume: (734) 729-2406 or Call: (734) 729-2368

Dental Assistant Exp. needed; PT/FT Needs to work well in fast paced environment, hard working, organized, enthusiastic and works well in a group. Fax resume: 734-455-7948

Sell it all with Observer & Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL

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ORTHODONTIC CHAIRSIDE ASST & RECEPTIONIST
For our high-quality, fun, orthodontic practice. 3 or 4 days per week. Experience preferred.
Call 734-981-2444

Help Wanted-Medical 6060

Accepting Applications:
CENA's, LPNs, RNs for all shifts. Ask for Dana. (734) 397-4932

Help Wanted-Medical 6060

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From great career opportunities and technologically advanced working environment to generous benefits and flexibility in scheduling, we're doing more than ever to give our Histotechs reasons to enjoy a remarkable experience in our diverse, fast-paced, Histology Department at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI. As a member of Trinity Health and part of one of Michigan's premier health systems, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, we have a devoted, dedicated, highly-tenured staff passionate about patient care in support of our start pathologists.

Completion of an accredited histotechnology program OR a minimum of 2 years of successful on-the-job training as a Histotechnologist. Prefer a history of working within a hospital. Prefer ASCP eligible. We offer MOH's training.

Please visit us at: www.sjmercyhealth.org/careers or contact our Recruiting & Staffing Consultant at (734) 712-5518, daily between 8am and 5pm, or via email at Johnstke@trinity-health.org. EOE. REMARKABLE MEDICINE. REMARKABLE CARE.

Receptionist
Needed for surgical practice in Livonia. Must be experienced, good with people & detail oriented. Salary commensurate with experience.
Call Olga: 734-462-1525
Fax resume: 734-462-1830

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Saturday accelerated classes beginning in January, 10-4pm, Garden City; \$900 (313) 382-3857

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Fax resume, Attn: Miriam to: 248-258-9624
ceresume@hometownlife.com

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For podiatry office in Southfield, PT. Exp. required. Send resume: 248-623-1697

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Generate leads for computer software reseller. Mid-day, 20 hrs/week. Must have computer, organizational skills and enjoy phone work. Hourly plus bonus. Call Randall Data Systems: 734-453-9200, Email sales@randalldata.com

Help Wanted-Domestic 6240

Residential Housekeeper/M/F
Gardner/Handyman, Cook
3 positions. Exp. refs.
Non-smoking. 800-436-2193

Divorce Services 6610

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Needed for surgical practice in Livonia. Must be experienced, good with people & detail oriented. Salary commensurate with experience.
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Fax resume: 734-462-1830

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DANTOM SYSTEMS, INC.

PRODUCTION OPERATORS

Join a fast growing, national, and premier print/mail services company located in Wixom, MI as part of a key team responsible for our success. We are looking for full time Production Operators for our afternoons and midnight shifts.

We offer a full benefits package that include: Medical & Prescription Drug, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance, LTD, Healthcare Spending Accounts, 401k, Paid Holidays, and Tuition Reimbursement.

Openings include:

- General labor (Part-time 20-30 hrs/wk on day shift)
- Mail Insert Operator (afternoons or midnights)
- Mail Presort Operator (afternoons or midnights)
- Print Operator (afternoons or midnights)

Position requirements:

- Ability to work an 8 hour or greater shift
- HS diploma or GED
- Two years of high school mathematics
- One year previous light production experience in a high volume organization
- Be physically active for the duration of the shift including standing, lifting and moving materials up to 25 pounds with in the production environment
- Cooperative and positive approach to work both individually and in a team environment.

To be considered. Fill out questionnaire and apply on Careerbuilder.com
Keyword Search: oe08637205
DANTOM Systems, Inc.
Wixom, Michigan
an EOE/M/F/V/H Employer
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

HOLIDAY EARLY ADVERTISING DEADLINES:

for December 25, 28 and January 1, 2009

Due to the holidays, the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will be having early deadlines for advertising

	Issue of 12-25	Issue of 12-28	Issue of 1-1-09
Real Estate Display	Fri. Dec. 19, 4pm	Mon. Dec. 22 4pm	Fri. Dec 26 4pm
Automotive Display	Mon. Dec. 22, Noon	Tue. Dec. 23, 4pm	Mon. Dec 29, Noon
Recruitment Display	Mon. Dec. 22, 3pm	Tues. Dec. 23, 4pm	Mon., Dec. 29, 3pm
Classified Liners	Tues Dec 23, 11am	Fri, Dec. 26 4pm	Tues Dec. 30 11am
Obituaries	Tues. Dec 23, 10am	Fri. Dec. 26, 4pm	Tues Dec 30, 10am

Call to place your ad today:
1-800-579-7355

Automotive

Observer & Eccentric
HOMETOWNlife.com

Trucks for Sale 6220

CHEVY COLORADO Z71 2005
Crew Cab, 4x4, Superior Blue, Test Drive Today! Just \$13,995
Lou LaRiche

CHEVY S-10 LS 2003 37K
miles, automatic, 4 cylinder, very clean, power, airbags, warranty, \$7,995
RALPH THAYER AUTO
734-425-5400

CHEVY SILVERADO Z71 2005
Arctic White, 4x4, Remote Starter, Many Options! Winter Warrior! \$17,995
Lou LaRiche

FORD F-150 2000
Reg Cab, long bed, hard to find! Only 28K! \$6,950
NORTH BROS. FORD
1-800-586-3518

FORD F-150 2004 Super Cab, FX4, V8, loaded \$14,994
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD F-150 SPT XL 2003
Super low miles! \$7,285 or \$37/week. WAC + TTL
NORTH BROS. FORD
1-800-586-3518

Trucks for Sale 6220

FORD F-150 XLT 2007 Crew Cab, 4x4, 25K miles, extra clean \$19,900
Hines Park Lincoln Mercury
1-866-455-5332

FORD F-150 XLT 2007 Super Crew, 4x4, black, loaded \$21,997
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD F-150 XLT 2008 Only 7,900 miles, V8, auto, loaded, sharp! \$24,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

FORD F-250 2002, 7.3L diesel, well maintained, runs & drives great. Comes with Jason Cab & tow package, 86,348 miles, \$6000. Ray: (248) 399-3300

FORD F-350 KING RANCH 2007 Crew Cab, diesel, dually 4x4 \$32,997
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD RANGER XLT 2006 4x4, X-Cab, \$14,995
AVIS TOBI
(248) 355-7515

GMC SIERRA 1500 SLE 2006 4x4, Ext Cab, Z71, 5.3 V8, auto, only 14K miles \$20,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

GMC SIERRA 2500 SLE 2004 4x4, Ext Cab, 6.0 V8, auto, loaded, 16,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

Trucks for Sale 6220

LINCOLN MARK LT 2006 4x4, 24K miles, 20" chrome wheels, moonroof, excellent condition! \$23,500
Hines Park Lincoln Mercury
1-866-455-5332

Mini-Vans 6240

BUICK TERRAZA 2005
Leather, DVD, blue, loaded, only \$13,995
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

CHEVY UPLANDER 2007
Only 29K Miles, Maroon, ABS and Alloys. Room For The Whole Family! Just \$16,995!
888-372-9836
Lou LaRiche

DODGE CARAVAN 2005
Take the whole family! \$9,890
Stk 513004A
NORTH BROS. FORD
1-800-586-3518

DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT 2007 6 cylinder, 42,950 miles, \$12,997
SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON
734-937-9900

FORD FREESTAR 2006 Gray, A/C, 23K, certified \$11,996
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030.

Mini-Vans 6240

FORD WINDSTAR 1999
Green, sharp, only \$4,995
Bob Jeannotte Pontiac
(734) 453-2500

HANDICAP VANS - USED, BOUGHT & SOLD. Mini & full size. I come to you. Call Dale anyday, 517-882-7299

KIA SEDONA LX 2008 7 pass, V6, 21,378 mi, \$13,990
SUMMIT PLACE KIA CANTON
734-937-9900

MERCURY MONTEREY 2006
\$15,998
AVIS FORD
(248) 355-7515

MERCURY MONTEREY 2007
Leather, hot/cold seats, clean \$16,995
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

Vans 6260

CHEVY EXPRESS 1500 2004
Cargo van, V8, auto, air, bulk head, cargo mat \$10,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK
734-525-0900

FORD E-150 CLUB LT 2008 V8, dual A/C, heat, 8 passenger, low miles \$16,998
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD E-150 VAN 1996
Tilt wheel, cassette player, air cond, trailer tow package, 184,000 miles. \$2800, cash only. Call: (734) 502-0861

Vans 6260

FORD E-350 2008
Passenger van \$13,998
AVIS FORD
(248) 355-7515

4 Wheel Drive 6280

FORD ESCAPE XLS 2007 4 door, auto, A/C, certified \$12,955
Bill Brown Ford
(734) 522-0030

FORD ESCAPE XLT 2007 4x4, 4 cylinder \$15,998
AVIS FORD
(248) 35

Automotive

Classifieds inside

To place an ad call toll free
1-800-579-SELL (7355)
Fax: (734) 953-2232

2009 Saturn Outlook Boosts Power

Advertising Feature

CLASSIFIED INDEX

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER
■ Employment	5000-5999
■ Announcements	6000-6900
■ Merchandise	7000-7540
■ Autos/RVs	8000-8780
■ Boats, Motors	8020
■ Motorcycles, Mini Bikes	8070
■ Real Estate	9000

CAReport



By Kevin Koloian
Avanti News Features

The 2009 Saturn Outlook is more powerful than ever because it has gone back to its SUV roots for added strength. Eleven more horsepower, to be exact, thanks to the addition of direct-injection technology, which provides added power and increased fuel efficiency.

General Motors Corp. didn't mess with a good thing. It just made it more powerful. The Outlook, now in its third year, still has the same crossover attributes, providing the capability of an SUV with car-like style, efficiency and driving feel, all while seating up to eight.

Direct-injection technology in the Outlook's 3.6-liter V6 engine helps produce V8 engine power, yet uses regular unleaded gasoline. The Outlook XR puts out 288 horsepower and the Outlook XE is rated at 281 horsepower, which is best in class fuel economy.

The Outlook's V6 is mated to the Hydra-Matic 6T175 six-speed automatic transmission, an advanced transmission with clutch-to-clutch shift operation. Both the XE and XR are available in front-wheel- and all-wheel-drive configurations.

The front-wheel-drive XE gets 17 miles per gallon in the city and 24 mpg on the highway while the all-wheel-drive version gets 16 city and 23 highway.

Changes have also been made to the top of the line XR model to make it even more lux. A major upgrade is standard leather seating and, for the first time, leather seating will be available on the base XE.

Cabin comfort and convenience enhancements include OnStar with Bluetooth hands-free phone connectivity and a choice of two available Bose audio systems: the Bose 5.1 Cabin Surround system with DVD, or a non-surround Bose audio system.

The Outlook provides 19.7 feet of storage space behind the third-row seat, which pays for itself if you need to haul a lot of luggage.

Access to the third row seat and laying it flat for storage is as easy as pulling a strap thanks to a feature called Smart Slide. This feature allows



The 2009 Saturn Outlook XE's horsepower is up from 270 to 281, giving families extra power for pulling things like boats jet skis. Fortunately the added strength doesn't come at the expense at the fuel economy numbers as the Outlook still gets a combined city/highway 20 miles per gallon.

second-row seat cushions to flip up as the seat slides forward, creating a wider path of entry for access to the third row.

Rivaling the storage space of the Chevrolet Tahoe, the Outlook is ideal for road trips. With the second and third rows folded completely flat, the Outlook holds an impressive 117 cubic feet. The Tahoe, which is an inch longer, only holds 109.

If you need to haul more than the Outlook's capacity, you can order a hitch package that's capable of towing 4,500 pounds. This is ideal for the people who need to pull a boat in the summer and a snowmobile in the winter.

A backup camera is also new for 2009 and is available on both XE and XR models. And to accommodate the in-mirror view screen, the compass on the XR model moves from the rearview mirror to the driver information center.

New, 20-inch alloy wheels also are standard on the Touring Package. Other Outlook models feature standard 18-inch wheels.

The Preferred Package on XE models adds body-color bodyside moldings, body-color, heated outside rearview mirrors and turn-signal repeaters for 2009.

Two new Outlook exterior colors are available: Quicksilver replaces Silver Pearl and Silver Moss replaces Ocean Mist.

The Outlook's comprehensive safety system is designed to protect passengers before, during and after a crash. A strong structure is the foundation and with a wide stance and low center of gravity, rollovers are highly unlikely.

The Outlook's responsive four-wheel independent steering system also enhances safety by providing a stable ride and nimble handling.

In case the vehicle does somehow get out of control, the Outlook's proactive safety features keep a potential accident from turning into a major bang-up.

The Outlook is equipped with six standard air bags: two dual-stage frontal air bags for the driver and front passenger, two seat-mounted side-impact air bags in the first row and two head curtain side-impact air bags that cover all three seating rows.

Complementing the air bags is General Motors' rollover sensing system, which can employ the side-impact air bags if sensors determine a rollover is imminent.

Because rollovers are typically longer in duration than non-rollover crashes, the air bags stay inflated longer to provide occupants increased protection from being thrown around the cabin.

For added safety, all-wheel-drive models feature an Active On Demand system that manages the torque split between the front and rear axles, shifting power to different axles as needed.

If you are looking for an alternative to a minivan for family outings and the occasional need to tow a boat, the 2009 Outlook should suffice.

Kevin Koloian covers General Motors Corp. for Avanti NewsFeatures and allopinionsallthetime.com. Write to him at avanti1054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. @2009, Fracassa Communications.

2009 Saturn Outlook
Vehicle class: Crossover SUV.
Power: V6 engine.
Mileage: 16 city / 24 highway.
Where built: Lansing, Mich.
Base price: \$29,380.

Call Toll Free

1-800-579-SELL (7355)

Fax Walk Ad: (734) 953-2232

Walk-In Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After Hours: Call (734) 591-0900

Deadlines: To place, cancel or correct ads.

Sunday

5:30 p.m. Friday

Sunday Real Estate

5:30 p.m. Thursday

Thursday

6 p.m. Tuesday

Thursday Real Estate Display

3 p.m. Monday

View the Observer & Eccentric Automotive Classifieds on the web:

www.observerandeccentric.com

Auto Overdrive, Locking Differential, Convenience Package, 20" Alum. Wheels, OnStar, too much to list. Stock # 4121
LIST MSRP \$44,950 WAS \$39,703 **INCENTIVES \$10,500**

GMS \$29,203

OPEN SATURDAY 12-27-08 10am - 3pm

RED TAG CHEVY

THESE DEALS GOOD WITH ALL GM CARD EARNINGS!

<p>2009 MALIBU Power Windows, Power Locks, Tilt, Cruise, OnStar, Auto Overdrive, Much More.</p> <p>Stock # 6287</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY</td> <td>EVERYONE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BUY \$15,052*</td> <td>BUY \$16,575*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LEASE \$224** 36 Mo. Lease</td> <td>LEASE \$239** 36 Mo. Lease</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">36,000 Miles \$224 Total Due</td> </tr> </table>	GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY	EVERYONE	BUY \$15,052*	BUY \$16,575*	LEASE \$224** 36 Mo. Lease	LEASE \$239** 36 Mo. Lease	36,000 Miles \$224 Total Due		<p>2009 TRAVERSE 6 Speed, Auto Transmission, Onstar, 3.6 V6, Power Windows, Power Locks, Tilt, Cruise, Stereo CD. WAS \$29,065</p> <p>Stock # 2060</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY</td> <td>EVERYONE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BUY \$20,765*</td> <td>BUY \$21,952*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LEASE \$309** 36 Mo. Lease</td> <td>LEASE \$345** 36 Mo. Lease</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">36,000 Miles \$309 Total Due</td> </tr> </table>	GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY	EVERYONE	BUY \$20,765*	BUY \$21,952*	LEASE \$309** 36 Mo. Lease	LEASE \$345** 36 Mo. Lease	36,000 Miles \$309 Total Due		<p>2009 COBALT Protection Package, Onstar, Air, Power Steering, More. WAS \$15,925</p> <p>Stock # 6160</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>EVERYONE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BUY \$11,418*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LEASE \$179** 36 Mo. Lease</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">36,000 Miles \$179 Total Due</td> </tr> </table>	EVERYONE	BUY \$11,418*	LEASE \$179** 36 Mo. Lease	36,000 Miles \$179 Total Due		<p>2009 IMPALA Auto V6, Power Windows, Power Locks, Tilt, Cruise, Power Seat, Onstar, Much More.</p> <p>Stock # 6141</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY</td> <td>EVERYONE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BUY \$14,336*</td> <td>BUY \$15,323*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LEASE \$229** 36 Mo. Lease</td> <td>LEASE \$249** 36 Mo. Lease</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">36,000 Miles \$229 Total Due</td> </tr> </table>	GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY	EVERYONE	BUY \$14,336*	BUY \$15,323*	LEASE \$229** 36 Mo. Lease	LEASE \$249** 36 Mo. Lease	36,000 Miles \$229 Total Due	
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36,000 Miles \$309 Total Due																																
EVERYONE																																
BUY \$11,418*																																
LEASE \$179** 36 Mo. Lease																																
36,000 Miles \$179 Total Due																																
GM EMPLOYEES & FAMILY	EVERYONE																															
BUY \$14,336*	BUY \$15,323*																															
LEASE \$229** 36 Mo. Lease	LEASE \$249** 36 Mo. Lease																															
36,000 Miles \$229 Total Due																																

LEASE PULL AHEAD WILL WAIVE UP TO 2 OF YOUR REMAINING PAYMENTS

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Lou LaRiche

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* Price net incentives plus tax, license, title, doc. and cover fees. Includes destination. All vehicles offers included Lease to Buy offer. See dealer for details. ** Lease w/option to purchase at predetermined amount/36 month lease includes 36,000 miles. 48 month lease includes 48,000 miles. Traverse includes \$1,000 Loyalty Offer. Own It payment offers based on 72 months at 5.75 APR. \$395 disposition fee due at lease turned in. Lessee responsible for excess wear, tear & miles. Net incentives. Leases are plus tax, license, doc, cover and title fees. Due at delivery is plus tax. With approved credit.

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GRAND RE-OPENING
SALE**

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2009 PONTIAC G6

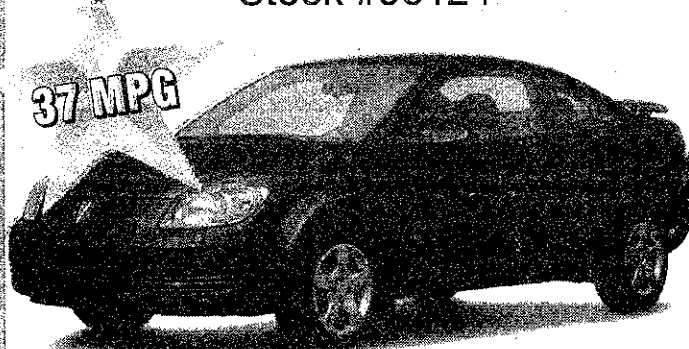
Stk. #90016



33 MPG
Was \$22,505 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$14,559* | **\$209*** PER MO.
36 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

2009 PONTIAC G5

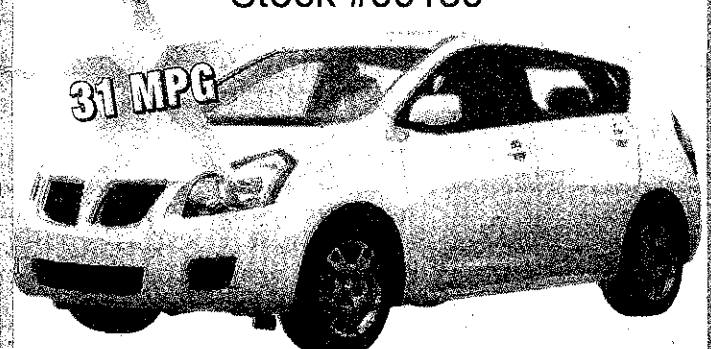
Stock #90124



37 MPG
Was \$17,725 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$11,937* | **\$189*** PER MO.
36 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

2009 PONTIAC VIBE

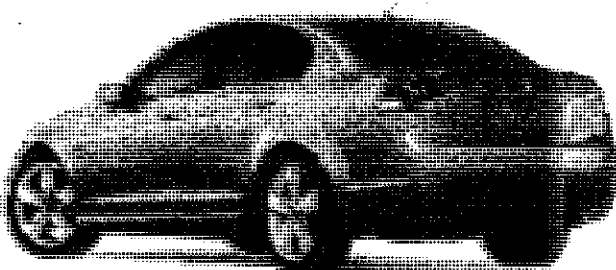
Stock #90139



31 MPG
Was \$19,480 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$14,367* | **\$184*** PER MO.
36 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

2009 PONTIAC G8

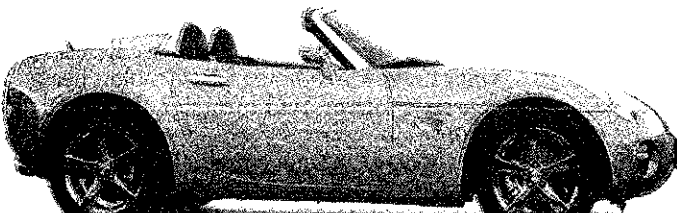
Stock #90177



Was \$28,875 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$20,795* | **\$303*** PER MO.
36 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

2008 PONTIAC SOLSTICE CONVERTIBLE

Stock #6429



Was \$28,915 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$20,995* | **\$299*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

2009 BUICK LUCERNE CX

VIN #131058



Was \$35,385 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$20,212* | **\$319*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

90 Day Deferred Payment Available

2009 BUICK LACROSSE CX

Stk. #93035



Was \$26,390 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$19,880* | **\$299*** PER MO.
60 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

2009 BUICK ENCLAVE CX FWD

Stk. #93048



Was \$35,385 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$29,635* | **\$396*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

2008 GMC ENVOY

Stk. #95013



Was \$30,965 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$20,995* | **\$397*** PER MO.
39 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

2009 GMC ACADIA

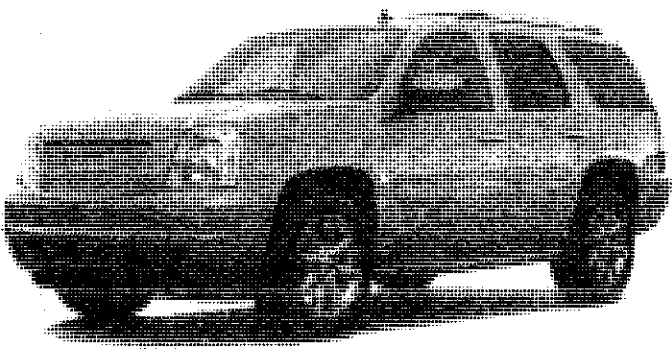
Stock #95004



Was \$32,675 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$24,953* | **\$395*** PER MO.
39 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

2008 GMC YUKON DENALI

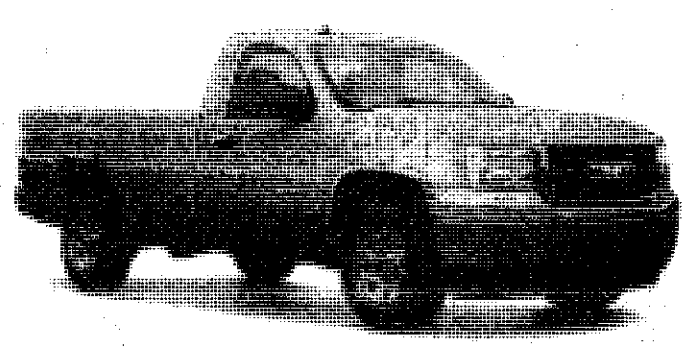
Stock #95113



Was \$56,710 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$38,920* | **\$599*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

2008 SIERRA

Stock #4431



Was \$20,010 **OR- LEASE FOR NOW**
\$10,995* | **\$206*** PER MO.
39 MONTHS \$0 Down Payment

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*MSRP. Excludes tax, title, license, and dealer fees. Dealer sets actual price. All prices and lease payments are based on a 2008-2009 GM vehicle. Lease rates are based on a 2008-2009 GM vehicle. Competition lease ending by 6-30-09. All prices and lease payments are based on a 2008-2009 GM vehicle. Lease rates are based on a 2008-2009 GM vehicle. Competition lease ending by 6-30-09. All prices and lease payments are based on a 2008-2009 GM vehicle. Lease rates are based on a 2008-2009 GM vehicle. Competition lease ending by 6-30-09.