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SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

THURSDAY

March 18,  
2010

The Observer & Eccentric  
Newspapers

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# WESTLAND Observer

online at hometownlife.com

## AROUND TOWN

### Guest speaker

Westland's Faust Library is hosting the Innocence Project with Kenneth Wyniemo, who spent 10 years in prison before being exonerated, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 23. The program ties in with the Everyone's Reading selection, Scott Turow's *Presumed Innocent* which involves a wrongful conviction.

The program is free but the library is asking those planning to attend to stop by or call the library at (734) 326-6123 to reserve a seat.

### Reappointed

The council has confirmed two mayoral reappointments to the Downtown Development Authority Board. Margaret Harlow, the current chairperson, and Arnold Shapiro have both been reappointed to four-year terms, ending Feb. 19, 2014.

"They do a great job and serve as leaders on the DDA board. They are original members of the DDA and bring a lot of experience and wisdom to the board," said Mayor William Wild.

### Tootsie Rolls

The Knights of Columbus Notre Dame Council No. 3021 of Wayne will be holding its annual Tootsie Roll sale at the Wayne Road and Cherry Hill on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 26-28. Proceeds from the sale benefit the mentally impaired.

### Waste drop-off

A Household Hazardous Waste Event will be held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 27, at the Redford Township Public Service Yard at 12200 Beech Daly, south of I-96.

Operated by Wayne County, the event is open to only residents of Wayne County and only household waste will be accepted. Proof of residency will be required.

For more information go online to [www.ci.livonia.mi.us](http://www.ci.livonia.mi.us).

### Breakfast

Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church is holding a Spring Fling Pancake Breakfast 8-11 a.m. Saturday at the church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. The cost is \$5 per person.

## 3 unions offer concessions to save jobs

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Early retirements, along with pay freezes and other contract concessions, are expected to help address Westland's projected \$3.5 million deficit and avoid layoffs in the police and fire departments.

"Saving jobs — that was the only concern we had. We're still concerned about staffing levels," said Norm Brooks, president of the Westland

Police Officers Association. "To the mayor's credit, rather than just laying people off, he came to us."

"We did a municipal fund analysis through the union, the budget shortfalls are real. We believed the layoffs weren't threats," said Ed Hosmer, Westland Fire Fighters Local 1279 president.

The council has approved letters

of understanding with both unions, as well as the Westland Lieutenants and Sergeants Association. All three unions are expected to hold ratification votes soon.

The agreements include a pay freeze for the two years that remain on the contracts when 2 percent and 3 percent pay increases were in place. The contracts would be extended two years, giving police and firefighters a 2 percent pay increase in 2012 and a 3 percent increase in 2013.

"We were very fortunate the unions sat down with us. Between the three unions, they represent more than half the city employees," said Mayor William Wild. "They were under contract. Obviously, there were a lot of things we couldn't get — we had to be reasonable. The buyouts will help us short term to avoid layoffs in the units. There will be long-term savings. We are setting ourselves up for the future."

Please see **CONCESSIONS, A2**

## WESTLAND'S 2010 ATHENA AWARD WINNER

### Reyes helps young people 'to be what they want to be'

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



For Margaret Reyes receiving the 2010 Westland ATHENA Award was the "biggest shock" of her life.

Looking at the bronze statue, Margaret Reyes admits she thought the award it stands for was for other people, "that it was beyond me."

But her thinking changed when she was selected by the Women of Westland as their 2010 Westland ATHENA Award winner.

"They called my name and I could have died," said the Westland resident. "It was the biggest shock of my life. I didn't expect to receive it, especially with the competition. It was the best night."

The ATHENA Award is given to a woman or man who demonstrates excellence, creativity and initiative in her or his business or profession, provides valuable service by contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life

Please see **REYES, A2**

## Election panel rejects petition seeking to recall mayor

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A petition seeking to recall Westland Mayor William Wild has been rejected, but the resident who submitted it is planning to try again.

Last week, the Wayne County Election Commission rejected the recall petition submitted by Westland resident Peter Herzberg on the basis being unclear. Under state law, the reasons cited for a

recall don't have to be accurate or true but they must be able to be clearly understood.

On his petition, Herzberg used a quote from Wild regarding the city's projected deficit and layoffs.

"Just the way things are going and people talking, I thought it (a recall) would be a good thing to do," said Herzberg, 18. "I will try to get more specific. They are doing a lot of things I think are wrong. There is foul play that needs to be taken care of with mayoral appointments

and the (Wayne-Westland) school board that are connected with him (Wild)."

Responding to the recall petition, Wild sent a letter noting language in state law which prohibits an elected official from being subject to recall during their first six months in office. Unopposed on the November ballot, Wild began his current term Jan. 1 and his position was that made him ineligible for recall until July, so the recall petition shouldn't be considered by the commission.

"Their corporate counsel had a different opinion — that it was a clarity hearing and that didn't constitute filing. It was denied for clarity," said Wild.

A 2009 Westland John Glenn High School graduate currently attending Henry Ford Community College, Herzberg said he eventually plans to attend law school.

"Within the next month I plan to file another recall petition," he said.

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## Be counted: City ready as census forms arrive

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

### GETTING COUNTED

For people who may have questions or need help filling out their Census 2010 form, there are Questionnaire Assistance Centers, staffed by census employees, at three key locations in the City of Westland.

The centers will be open through Sunday, April 18, unless otherwise specified. Call the specific locations with questions. The locations are:  
• William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, (734) 326-6123 - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays,

assistance completing the census forms.

Thompson and Mayor William Wild will be appearing in public service announcements on WLND cable television to continue the campaign to get every-

3-8 p.m. Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays except when the library is closed on April 3.

• Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, (734) 595-0288 - 9 a.m. to noon Mondays and Fridays, noon to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 2-5 p.m. Wednesdays.

• Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, (734) 722-7620 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, 5-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 18.

one to complete and return their census forms. The census count is used for a variety of purposes including allocation of federal funding to local communities

Please see **CENSUS, A2**

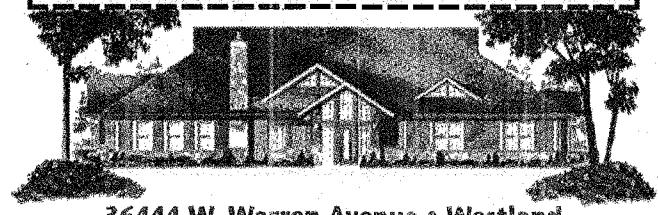
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# Old trunk 'stars' in troupe's musical-comedy revue

Take lots of great music, some all time classic comedy bits, vintage commercials, an Elvis sighting and an old travel trunk and you have the latest installment of Inspire Theatre, *Once Upon a Trunk*.

Westland's only live theater will present the musical-comedy revue at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, March 18-20 and March 26-27, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 28, in The Theater inside the Warren Road Light and Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, east of Wayne Road, Westland.

Included in the show are vintage commercials, songs and sketches from the likes of radio, Broadway, TV and Vaudeville, the comedy of Abbott and Costello, George Burns and Gracie Allen, and movie scenes from *Casablanca*, *The Notebook*, *Star Wars* and *Forrest Gump* and even a surprise appearance from Elvis.

"When our fall show, *KORK-TV*, went into encore performances, we scrapped plans for our Valentine's Day show, pushed the dates back a month, and looked for a new idea," said IT artistic director Len Fisher. "We had purchased this old travel trunk, and I thought it might be fun to do a show of the bygone days of stage entertainment. And so the star of our show is a trunk."

Inspire Theatre traditionally does four shows a year, with one of the shows being a musical-comedy revue. "Our fan base looks forward to this show," states Fisher. "I believe its because our cast has so much fun putting on the show that the audience can't help but have fun themselves."

And if ticket sales are any indication of audience approval, Fisher and IT must be doing something right.

Moving to their present loca-

tion 1 1/2 years ago, Inspire Theatre seems to be one of Westland's best kept secrets. Inquire about Inspire Theatre outside of their fan base and you get an inquisitive look. However, that fan base is growing.

*KORK-TV* not only played to sold out houses, it also went into an encore weekend. Written by Fisher, it's the story of two wayward televangelists serving community service in Cork, Idaho, a fictional town with several quirky residents.

According to Fisher, Inspire Theatre wants to stay in the Westland-Garden City area and is actively seeking an affordable building of its own to call home. Future plans also include a children's program and a concert series.

Tickets are \$12 each and group rates are available. For more information, call (734) 751-7057.



The cast of Inspire Theatre's latest production, "Once Upon a Trunk," strike a pose in advance of opening night.

## He brings New York experience to eatery

BY SUE BUCK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Alex Leahu is bringing his New York restaurant experience to Garden City with his new restaurant called Alex Family Dining.

A Romanian native, Leahu used to run a Coney Island for his father in Queens, New York, where he met his wife, Anamaria.

"Queens is more busy with more people on the street," said the Dearborn Heights resident. "Garden City is nice and more quiet."

Leahu is hoping to increase foot traffic as word gets out that there is a new restaurant in town.

"American food is our specialty," Leahu said. "Breakfast is No. 1."

There are also combo specials for one, two and three people with "more things on one plate."

Alex Special Combos increase in size from \$12.95 for one, to \$19.95 for two and to \$28.95 for three. They include chicken kabob, gyro meat, grape leaves, meat loaf and rice and are served with soup or salad. Appetizers include flaming cheese and calamari.

Customers can watch the news on two large screen TVs while they eat their meals.



Garden City Mayor Randy Walker joins restaurateur Alex Leahu in cutting the ribbon for the grand opening of Alex's Restaurant on Inkster Road in Garden City.

Leahu also cooks at this restaurant which has seven employees, mostly family members.

"We looked and there was no other Coney Island around here, this place is good," said Leahu said, adding that people who come in for the first time often bring a family member or friend the second time.

The restaurant sign also catches the eye with two crossed knives used for the X in Alex.

"We wanted to be different," Leahu said.

He wants everyone to come in and try the specials. Lunch specials at \$4.99 often come

with a piece of cake.

Customers will also recognize the photo on the menu cover which depicts the Detroit River and the Renaissance Center. Leahu recognizes the regionalism shared between Detroit and its suburbs.

"We support the Motor City," said Leahu, 28.

The restaurant is at 465 Inkster Road, Garden City. The hours are 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (734) 367-2000.

sbuck@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2249

## Bandit makes off with man's jewelry, wallet, electronics

BY SUE BUCK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A 28-year-old Romulus man was robbed at gunpoint about 8:30 p.m. March 11 while vacuuming out the interior of his car at Parkway Self-Serve Car Wash, 27845 Ford, near Helen Street.

The victim said that a man came up from behind him, pressed something into the small of his back and escorted him to the front of his 2006

Pontiac Grand Am.

The man ordered the customer to remove his expensive neck chain with diamond globe pendant, his wallet and ring, all of which totaled more than \$8,000.

The suspect then went into the car and stole the GPS unit, laptop, iPod and BlackBerry, totaling another \$1,500.

Shocked by the incident, the victim first went to report the robbery at the Dearborn Heights police station where

he was told he was in the wrong jurisdiction and was redirected to the Garden City police station.

He told police that he was too scared to look directly at the man's face but could see the black pistol in the gunman's hand.

He described the man as black, age 17-20, having a thin build with a medium complexion.

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Golf cart, trailer taken from business

### Trailer stolen

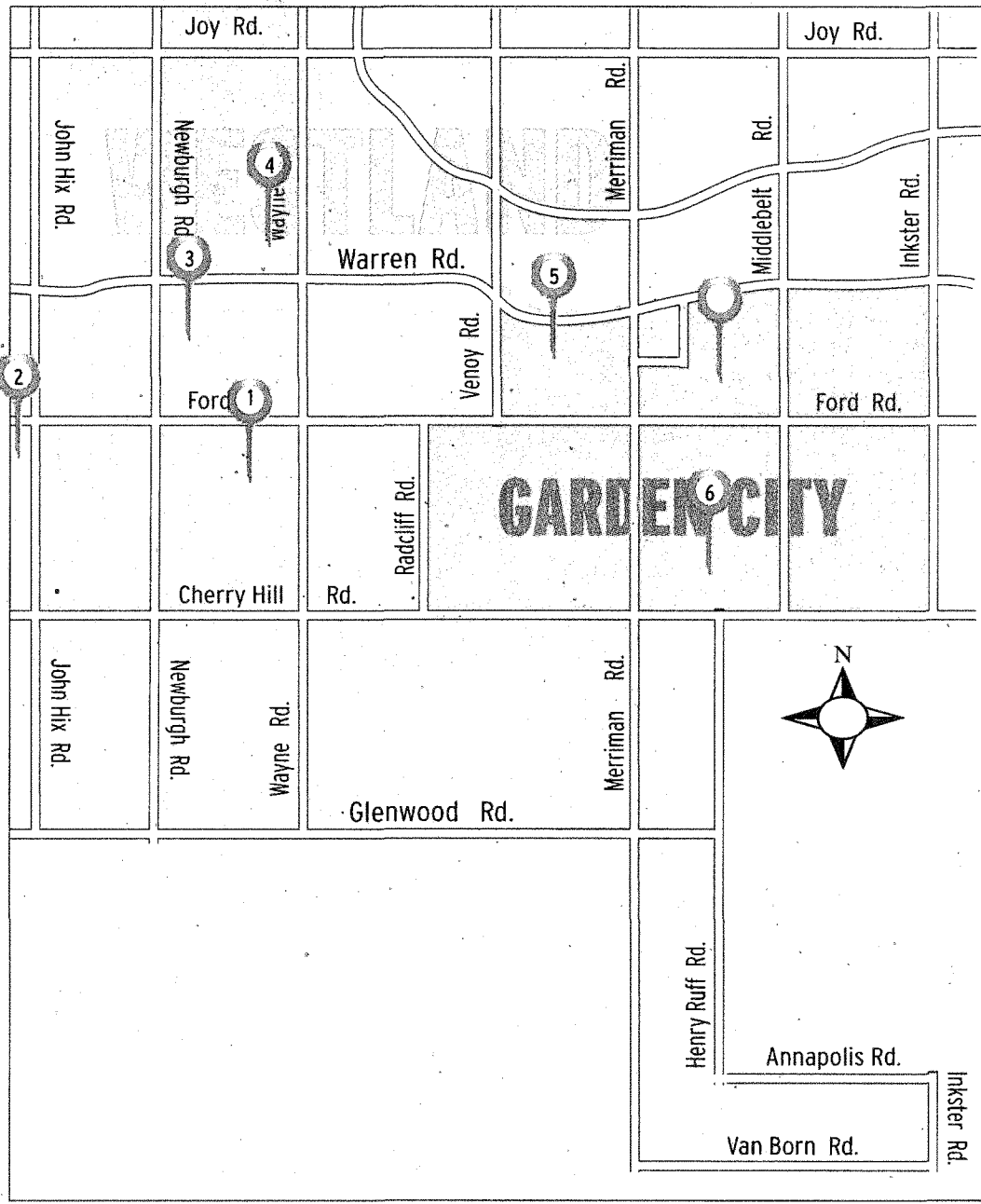
**1** A 29-foot enclosed trailer with a golf cart inside were reported stolen from Westland Transmission, 36125 Ford, March 12. The owner told police someone had cut off a lock to get inside the fenced lot and cut a second lock that was securing the trailer. The trailer was valued at \$28,000, the golf cart \$5,500.

### Vandalism

**2** A Canton man told police March 14 that someone broke into his vehicle and stole stereo equipment valued at \$650 while he was parked at the Emagine Theater, 38535 Ford. The officer viewed surveillance video that showed a white SUV pull up and two people get out. The driver's door handle was broken to get into the vehicle. The suspects couldn't be identified on the video.

### Retail fraud

**3** On March 14, a Westland woman was arrested for shoplifting two bottles of perfume, valued at \$53, from Meijer, 37201 Warren Road. A store employee told police he saw the woman, accompanied by a small child, cutting the boxes with a knife, concealing the perfume in her purse and leaving the empty boxes on the shelf. The employee said that he had learned the woman, who was eight months pregnant, had been arrested previously for shoplifting at the Belleville Meijer store. Since she also



had her 3-year-old son with her, the officer allowed the woman to contact her mother in Detroit who posted her bond.

### Shoplifting

**4** Police were called to Kohl's, 35000 Warren Road March 10 after an employee reported a Canton woman had stolen a pair of earrings and make-up valued at \$57. The employee said the woman went into a dressing

room with the items and a shirt but returned only the shirt to the shelf. Empty boxes for the earrings and make-up were located.

### Vandalism

A resident in the 2300 block of Deerfield Court told police March 10 that someone had smashed the rear window of his 2004 Pontiac Grand Am while it was parked in front of the home. The damage was estimated at \$500 and the

officer said it was unclear what had broken the window.

### Larceny

Two bags of returnable bottles, valued at a total of \$80, were reported stolen from the porch of a home in the 31000 block of Grand Traverse March 10. The owner said several people trespass in her yard, cutting through to the court behind her.

By LeAnne Rogers

## Backpack and computer reported stolen from car

### Break-in

**5** A woman went home to eat lunch in the 6900 block of Burnly about 1 p.m. March 10 and found her adult son had broken into the house and was standing with a piece of luggage in the kitchen.

He had moved from the home almost five years ago. After he admitted to her that he is a drug addict, he fled the house.

His mother believes that his plan was to put items in the luggage and wheel the luggage inconspicuously out of the house. She said that her son has broken into other family members' homes also.

When the police arrived, they found that he used a lawn chair and a brick from the garden to break a kitchen window and enter the house.

### Larceny from vehicle

**6** A resident said that someone stole his backpack, containing his computer, in the short time that he placed it in his car 6:45 a.m. March 9 into his 2002 Chevy Cavalier which was parked in the 30900 block of Sheridan. He left it there while the car warmed up.

He told the police that he would look for the computer serial number and would check the area pawn shops.

### Retail Fraud

**7** A 24-year-old Westland man was arrested about 11:30 a.m. March 9 at the Kmart store at 29600 Ford after he paid for a screwdriver, but didn't pay for other items like a dust remover and glow sticks. He was observed stuffing the items into his sweatshirt.

### GARDEN CITY

### Fraud

The manager at Co-op Service Credit Union, located at 30091 Ford, reported to police that a woman fraudulently opened a checking account on March 1 and on March 2 cashed a fraudulent Target payroll check for about \$875.

Upon investigation, the police found that the same woman also cashed fraudulent checks at the Taylor and Redford Township branches. At her second visit to the Redford branch, she was arrested.

She told police that she never worked for Target. She also told police that she needed the money to pay off a drug debt.

### Retail Fraud

The management at A to Z Comics and Cards, 32647 Ford, said that a frequent customer stole some hard covered comic books about 4 p.m. March 4. Other book thefts have been noticed for some time but weren't reported to police.

### Larceny

When the police responded to a call that there was a fight in progress about 12:30 a.m. March 10 at Rockstars, 33729 Ford, a woman complained that one of the men involved stole her cell phone when she was trying to protect another man. She thought that her phone fell to the ground at that time.

When the police called to a man to stop who was walking across the parking lot, they observed him throw something to the ground in an underhand motion. It was the woman's cell phone which was still warm to the touch.

The man was arrested.

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# Schoolcraft forum focus Michigan's recovery

Attitudes in Michigan need to change before the state can move forward from its economic struggles.

At least that seemed to be the consensus last week at an economic job symposium conducted at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech School in Livonia. The symposium was sponsored by the 11th Congressional District Democratic Organization.

"The mindset in Michigan has to change in order to move forward," said Dr. Soji Adelaja of the Land Policy Institute-Bio Economy. "We need to point assets in the right direction and become a more knowledge based economy."

Adelaja said 95 percent of Michigan residents believe the auto industry has to come back, a statistic he said runs contrary to studies showing a more knowledge-based economy is needed here.

"However, the auto industry could lead us into having the best public transportation system in the country," Adelaja said.

Ron Dzwonkowski, Detroit Free Press associate editor, moderated the forum and talked about how the broad middle class in Michigan grew for most of the 20th century.

"Before the year 2000, Michigan was 18th in per capita income; eight years later it is 37th in the nation," he said. "What made us prosperous in the past, won't in the future."

Other Michigan statistics given by the panel included indications the most prosperous

states are in the north. Though the state is 34th in the country for its universities, speakers pointed out, but only 20 percent of the population in metro Detroit have a four-year degree, compared to 55 percent in other major metropolitan areas with successful economies.

Successful cities, speakers said, need to broadly diversify their employment, similar to Chicago and Minneapolis.

"High tax industries provide good economies," said

Lou Glazer, president of Ann Arbor-based Michigan's Future. "Minnesota has one of the highest taxes in the country, with the lowest unemployment and best economy, while Mississippi has the opposite. We cannot have a Mississippi structure and want Minnesota's economy."

There was a common concern voiced by the audience regarding the slice of population in metropolitan Detroit that came from three or four generations of auto assembly workers. Many

of them are between the ages of 35-55 years and not able to retire yet.

"Community colleges must increase access and affordability for all, including those who have lower skills and need more training," said Mike Hansen, president of Michigan Community College Association. "Colleges have seen a remarkable increase in enrollment in the past few years, with some programs having waiting lists, due to lack of space."



Dr. Soji Adelaja told the audience at last week's economic symposium that the "mindset" in Michigan has to change before the state can move forward.

## Colleges offer motorcycle safety classes

One out of every nine U.S. road fatalities accounted in 2009 involved motorcycle riders. This steady increase in fatalities over the past decade represents one of the nation's greatest highway safety challenges.

In response, the Continuing Education and Professional Development department of Schoolcraft College is continuing to offer its motorcycle safety classes via the Detroit Regional Safety Consortium. The Consortium includes Schoolcraft College, Henry Ford Community College, Macomb Community College, Monroe Community College, Oakland Community College, St. Clair Community College and Wayne County Community College. Classes are available starting Friday, March 19, and run throughout the summer and fall months.

The motorcycle safety program offers a variety of courses from the Basic Rider Course for someone who has minimal knowledge/experience and is looking to get their motorcycle endorsement, to the Experienced Rider Course, which is for licensed cyclists and is specifically designed for large touring motorcycles and sport bikes. Upon successful completion of a state-approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation course, the Secretary of State waives the riding skills test required for a cycle endorsement. A short written test is required for license endorsement and is given at the Secretary of State at the time of endorsement application. In addition to the short written test, a more extensive test will be given as part of the motorcycle course.

The fee for each of these courses is only \$25, which is made possible through a grant administered by the Michigan Department of State. Since the motorcycle safety consortium of seven community colleges was formed in 1999, the program has trained more than 41,771 students.

Registration is going on now and courses run through September. For more information on the Motorcycle Safety Program, visit the Web site at [www.schoolcraft.edu/ces/motorcycle.asp](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/ces/motorcycle.asp) or call (734) 462-4448.

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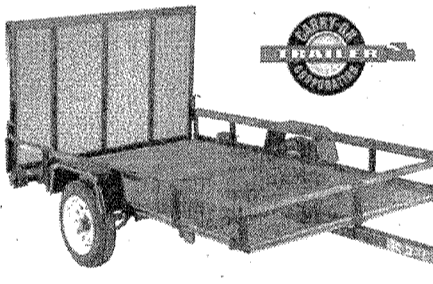


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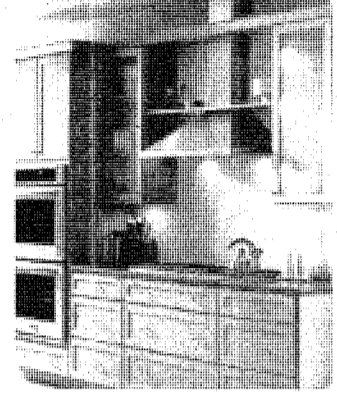
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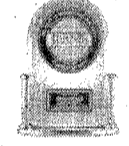
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\$5,000-\$7,499	<b>\$700</b>	\$20,000-\$24,999	<b>\$3,500</b>
\$7,500-\$9,999	<b>\$1,000</b>	\$25,000-\$29,999	<b>\$5,000</b>
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\$12,500-\$14,999	<b>\$2,000</b>		

Discount taken at time of order. Offer valid 2/12/10 - 5/9/10. See a Kitchen Specialist for details.



PLUS SAVE AN ADDITIONAL

**10% off** KraftMaid Specialty SPECIAL ORDER KITCHEN CABINETS



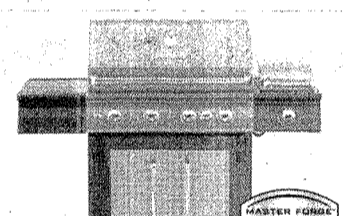
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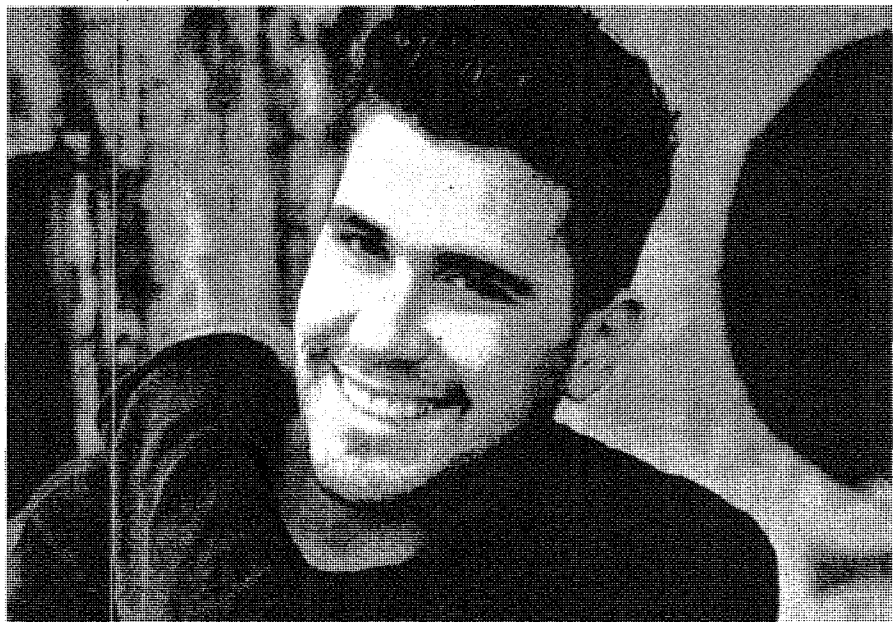
Discount taken at register. Items may be Special Order in select markets. Offer valid 3/18/10 - 3/22/10. See store for details.

**\$99** BASIC WINDOW INSTALLATION

Offer limited to basic installation. Additional charges may apply. See below or store for details.

**Details on our policies and services:** Prices may vary after 3/22/10 if there are market variations. "Was" prices in this advertisement were in effect on 3/12/10 and may vary based on Lowe's Everyday Low Price policy. See store for details regarding product warranties. We reserve the right to limit quantities. While Lowe's strives to be accurate, unintentional errors may occur. We reserve the right to correct any error. Prices and promotions apply to US locations only, and are available while supplies last. \*Offer limited to Basic Replacement Window Installation only. Price is quoted on a per window basis and is available on vinyl replacement windows and wood renovation windows up to 108 united inches. Basic Replacement Window Installation includes delivery of windows, removal and haul-away of old windows (local disposal fees may be required), and caulking and insulating around openings. The \$99 installation price does not include the cost of the products to be installed. The installation price is only valid for single-family residential properties and cannot be used on multi-family and/or commercial properties. Additional charges will apply for services not included in Basic Replacement Window Installation such as metal frame removal, removal of storm windows, wrapping and capping of trim and necessary repairs to window opening. Not valid on prior purchases. Mandatory in-home measurement fee (refundable upon project purchase) is required. Offer may not be available in all markets. See store for details. +\$97 offer requires purchase of carpet and pad from Lowe's and only includes labor for installation. Offer is limited to single-family residential homes. Additional charges may apply, as offer does not include any customization, installation on steps, or any other optional labor such as removal, haul-away, or moving of furniture. Multi-family and commercial properties will be priced by quote only. Offer not valid on glue-down carpet, prior purchases, and may not be available in your area. See store for additional information and listing of all available carpet. All installation services are guaranteed by Lowe's warranty. Professional installation available through independent contractors, licensed and registered where applicable. Licenses issued to or on behalf of Lowe's Home Centers, Inc.: AL-#10185(HB), Mobile #080129, Tuscaloosa #103298; AR #0037290510; CT #HIC0558162; DE #1993102010; FL-#CCC1326824, #GC1508417, #CRC1327732, #QB0017683; IL-#058-092578, #104014837; KY-Lexington#11562; IN-Griffith #C000725; LA-#LMP 4649(MSTR), CBC#16533; MD-MHIC #91680; MA #148688; MI-Lowe's Home Centers, Inc., 6122 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014, #2102144445; MN #20629859; MS #R03152; NE #23319; NM #84381; NY-Staten Island #1291730, Brooklyn #1291733, Nassau #H1777890000, Suffolk #43906-H, Buffalo #538744, Putnam # PC2742-A; Tonawanda #CN0391; ND #30316; OH-Columbus #G5872, Lancaster #500596, Warren #4266, Whitehall #2599; PA-Sunbury #751, Johnstown #0467; RI #20575; SC #21547; TN #00003070; TX #48110; VA #2701036596A; WV-WV014656, Bridgeport #30067, Charleston #1043, Morgantown #2010 470, Ranson #556; WI #996016. Licenses issued to or on behalf of Lowe's HiW, Inc.: AK #28341; AZ #R0C195516; CA #803295; HI-#23784(C53), #23786(C53); NV-#C14-0059292, #C16-0059296, #C8-0059296, #C4-0059296, #C25-0059294, #C3-0059293, #C15-0059291; OR #144017 WA #LOWESH982BN. © 2010 by Lowe's. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LFLC. R6902

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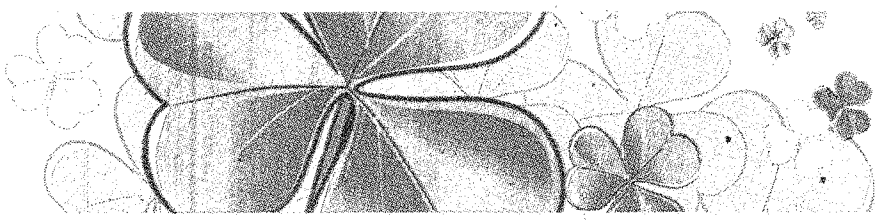
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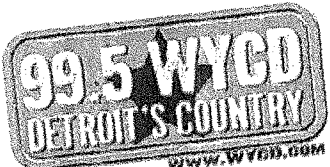
Thursday, March 25  
5:00-6:00 pm  
41941 Garfield, Clinton Twp.

Thursday, March 25  
7:30-8:30 pm  
5111 Highland Road, Waterford



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# Rabbit rescue offers beer, chocolate samples

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Plymouth-based rabbit rescue organization is getting ready for one of its biggest annual fund-raisers.

Hops for Hope, a beer- and chocolate-tasting event that benefits Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home, is planned for 1-5 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 3, at The Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti.

The event, which is limited to 100 participants, will offer samples of a half-dozen or so beers, samples of organic chocolates, fair-trade coffee and a silent auction of donated Easter baskets.

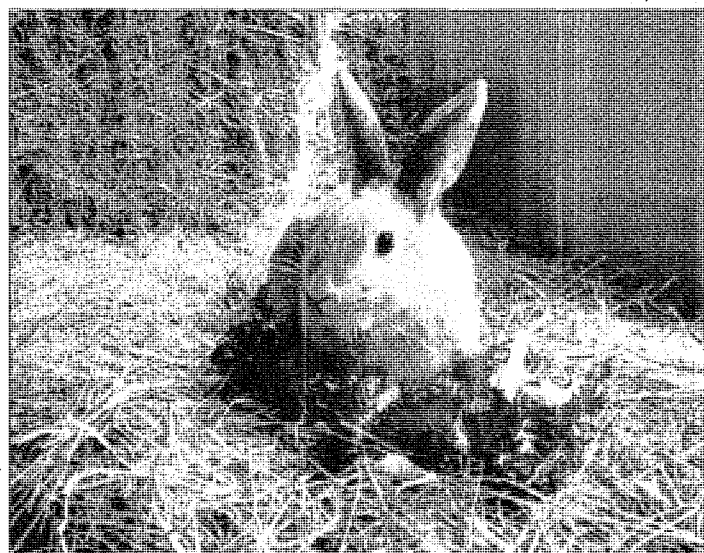
They'll even serve "rabbit food" — a vegetarian appetizer buffet.

Hops for Hope typically sells out, said Lisa Powell, a Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home board member.

"This is a very good fundraiser for us," she said. The organization relies heavily on donations.

Hops for Hope will also be promoting the nationwide Make Mine Chocolate campaign, which encourages people to buy chocolate rabbits, rather than real ones, for Easter presents.

Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home shelters abandoned domesticated rabbits, adopts them out to applicants who pass



Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-Home's "spokesbunny" hopes for a successful fund-raiser to benefit the Plymouth-based shelter.

a screening process, and provides people with free education on rabbit care. The group has a no-kill policy for the rabbits it shelters.

According to Powell, the group has found homes for more than 750 rabbits and helped more than 1,000 rabbits in not quite five years of existence. Volunteers — there are no paid employees — donate more than 1,100 hours a month to the group.

Rabbit "surrenders" usually climb in the months after Easter, Powell said, as the bunnies grow and the novelty wears off for people who've purchased them. Surrenders have grown

with the downturn in the economy, she said, as people are less able to afford their pets, and Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home even rescues rabbits from houses that struggling families have abandoned.

Tickets to Hops for Hope can be purchased by calling (734) 717-8545, or on line at [www.rabbitrr.org](http://www.rabbitrr.org). Tickets are \$20 each; those who don't drink alcohol can sample the chocolates, coffee and buffet for \$10 each. Drinkers must be 21 or older; children under 12 can get in free. No tickets will be sold at the door. The Corner Brewery is at 720 Norris Street, Ypsilanti.

[mjachman@hometownlife.com](mailto:mjachman@hometownlife.com) | (313) 222-2405

# Plymouth-based rabbit rescue offers education to owners

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Think a baby bunny rabbit might make a cute Easter present? The Plymouth-based Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home wants you to think again.

While adorable and intelligent, a pet bunny represents a 10-year commitment that many people find — after the fact — they aren't ready to make, said Lisa Powell, a board member and spokeswoman for Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home.

"Easter isn't the time to, on a whim, adopt a rabbit," said Powell, of Canton Township. "They're cute and they're hard to resist, but if you're not ready for that commitment..."

Rabbits need attention, Powell said, can be aggressive if not spayed or neutered, and are potentially destructive (they love to chew electrical cords). If kept outside, they're vulnerable to predators, disease and the elements, she said.

Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home, which marks its fifth anniversary this year, shelters unwanted domesticated rabbits and adopts out rabbits to applicants who pass its screening process.



"Hops for Hope" at The Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti benefits Plymouth-based Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-Home.

Just as importantly, the group provides education and support to rabbit owners who want to keep and care for their rabbits responsibly.

"I want people to understand that they've made a commitment to the animal," said Powell, who has two rabbits at her home.

The shelter, on Holbrook in Old Village, has regular open houses from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Visitors can learn about the care and feeding of rabbits, and even have their rabbits' nails trimmed.

"Our ideal situation, is to have someone, rather than just come and drop their rabbit on our doorstep, come in and

learn about their rabbit," said Powell.

Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home relies entirely on volunteer support and heavily on donations. There is a core group of about 25 volunteers, Powell said, who keep the place running. Powell herself has volunteered for about two years, since losing her job.

"I needed somewhere to go," she said. "I needed something to do with my time."

Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Re-home is at 882 North Holbrook, near Spring Street, Plymouth. The phone number is (248) 912-7976 and the Web site is [midwestrabbitrr@yahoo.com](http://midwestrabbitrr@yahoo.com).

[mjachman@hometownlife.com](mailto:mjachman@hometownlife.com) | (313) 222-8899

# Easter activities keep kids hoppin'

Get your kids in mood for Easter with some very bunny activities being offered in Westland.

• Westland Civitan Bunny Brunch, sponsored by the Westland Civitan Club and Westland Parks and Recreation, will be held 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 27, at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post Hall at 3323 S. Wayne Road.

The cost is \$3 for children 1-12 years and \$5 for ages 13 and older. All ages are welcome, but all children must have adult supervision.

Included is all-you-can-eat homemade, hot off the griddle pancakes with butter, syrup, breakfast sausage, juice, coffee, tea and milk. Besides the wonderful brunch, there will be a special visit by the Easter Bunny. Children are encouraged to make and wear an Easter bonnet or hat for their picture with the Easter Bunny. Bring your own camera to take photos.

For more information, call Donna Jensen at (734) 729-8075.

• Lunch with Easter Bunny noon-2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27, at the Maplewood Community Center on Maplewood west of Merriman.

The lunch is for children ages 3-12 and includes lunch of pizza, salad, cookies and beverage; photos with the Easter Bunny (bring your camera), face painting, games, entertainment in the gym, and a really Egg-citing Egg Hunt.

Seats are limited. Tickets cost \$6 and must be purchased in advance at Maplewood Community Center. Last day to purchase tickets is March 30.

The lunch is made possible by the support of the Garden City Kiwanis Club and senior volunteers. For more information call (734) 793-1850.

• The Westland Jaycees Easter Egg Scramble, co-sponsored by the Jaycees and Westland Parks and Recreation Department, is scheduled for 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 27, in Jaycee Park, at Wildwood and Hunter. The event is open to youngsters age 14 and younger. For more information con-

tact the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620 or the Westland Jaycee Hotline at (734) 226-0400.

• Easter Delight Night at the Bailey Recreation Center 4:30-6 p.m. Monday, March 2, will give kids a chance to make Easter eggs and their very own Easter basket. Youngsters will decorate a basket and then make different types of Easter eggs. All supplies are included. The program is open to children 3-12 years old; children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$25 per child - \$5 payable to the City of Westland and \$20 payable to the teacher at the class.

The Westland Civitan Club has arranged for the Easter Bunny to visit briefly on his way to decorate his own eggs. Parents are encouraged to bring a camera, if you would like pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Pre-register by March 25 at the Bailey Center is required. Supplies for your projects will not be available, if you do not pre-register.







# You can check credit report for free; fix errors

I was doing some research online and what caught my attention was the number of ads for credit reports.

In the past, a credit report was only important when you were thinking of obtaining credit (i.e., applying for a credit card or mortgage.) Fast forward to today and you will find that credit reports are used for much more than obtaining credit. Credit reports have been used to determine auto insurance premiums. I don't know what credit has to do with whether you are a good driver, but the reality is it does factor into the equation in determining your premium.

In addition, more employers have been using credit reports in making hiring decisions. In fact, I recently read where a man was explaining that he obtains credit reports on the women he dates because he doesn't want to marry anyone with poor credit. It's sometimes hard to figure out why

someone's credit report enters into the equation, but it does. Because credit reports are used so often and for a variety of different reasons, it is important to occasionally check on the status of your report.

There are three main credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. These are all independent of each other, which means just because one company may show your credit report as clean doesn't mean the others will. Therefore, it is important to review your credit report with all three companies.

Several years ago a federal law was passed which requires the credit reporting bureaus to provide consumers with a free credit report once every 12 months. It is this law that has caused some confusion.

There are many ads on television and online offering free credit reports. The commercial I've seen the most is by FreeCreditReport.com which is owned by Experian.

Although many of these companies are legitimate, they offer a service at a cost. Typically, the free credit report is used to get you to sign up for other services. Then there are other com-

panies that are not legitimate. They are either trying to trick you into signing up for a service that you don't need or, worse, some are attempting to steal your identity.

The one place you can be assured is on the up-and-up is AnnualCreditReport.com. This is the only place that you can go where the three credit bureaus are required by law to provide you with a free credit report.

In using AnnualCreditReport.com you are allowed one free report every 12 months from the three credit reporting bureaus. The question is do you obtain them at once or do you spread them out getting one report every four months? I see solid reasons for both strategies. By receiving all your credit reports at once it does allow you to compare all three reports at once which you cannot do if you spread the reports out over time. On the other hand, if you do spread the reports out over a four-month period, it may allow you to catch some erroneous information that has been placed on your credit report.

I really do not know which strategy is better than the other. I think whatever one you use is fine. The key is to just do some-

thing. What if you discover mistakes on your credit report? Although it is time-consuming and somewhat tedious, there are set procedures to correct misinformation. The key is to dot your "I's" and cross your "T's." AnnualCreditReport.com has very good information about how to correct errors. Of course, this is different than the companies advertising about fixing your credit. It is those companies that I am leery. There are legitimate companies that help repair credit. However, if anyone tells you there is an easy fix, the red flag ought to go up.

Take advantage of the law and obtain your free credit reports on a year-by-year basis. Obviously, I am very skeptical of free products. However, you can be assured that when you go to AnnualCreditReport.com you actually can obtain your credit reports for free without strings attached.

Good luck!

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



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

# Chili cook-off benefits Tail Waggers

Calling all chili lovers. Do you, or someone you know, have the best tasting chili in the world?

If so, you will want to enter the Chili, Hoops & Hounds chili cook-off. Tail Waggers USA, a local non-profit animal-welfare organization, is going to be the proud recipient of funds that are raised at Chili, Hoops & Hounds, a Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, March 28, at UAW Local 182 at 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia. The cook-off begins at 1 p.m.

Interested participants can enter for only \$25 and receive a signature Chili, Hoops & Hounds apron. Grand prizes will be awarded in each of the three categories: red meat, white meat and vegetarian. The winner of the People's Choice Award, voted on by the general public, will receive a Char-Broil Commercial Series 3-Burner Quantum LP gas grill, valued

at \$399.

The public is invited to come out and enjoy a variety of up to 30 different chili samples for only \$1 or an all-you-can-eat special of \$15. French bread is also included.

Bring the kids as there will be an interactive basketball challenge, face-painting, and origami for the little ones to enjoy.

Interested participants must register by contacting Marilu Reznik at www.taVilwaggersusa@aol.com or by calling (248) 231-2842. Register early, space is limited to 30 participants.

Tail Waggers USA is a non-profit organization, committed to helping people help animals. It is their ultimate goal to be able to support dedicated pet owners who are in need of assistance along with providing necessary funding for those animals in emergency situations.

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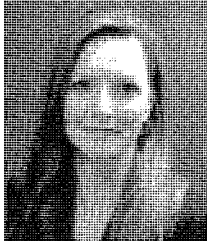
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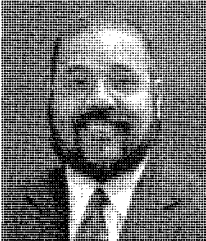
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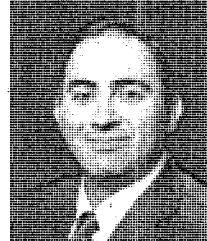
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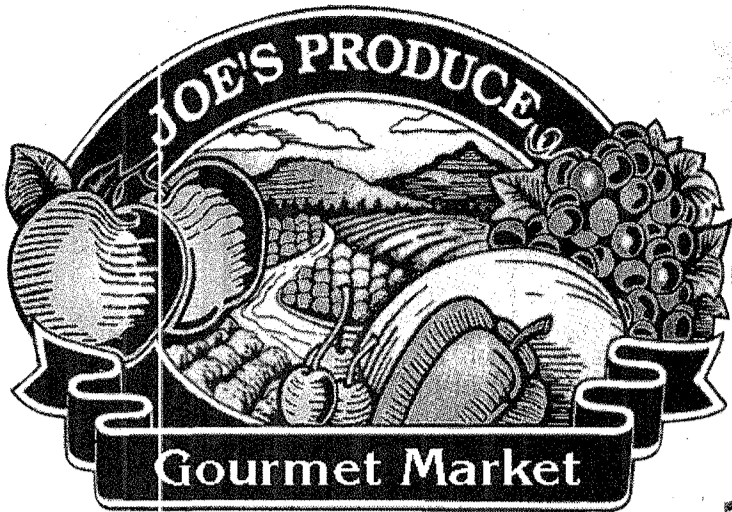
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Brad Emmons, editor, (313) 222-6851  
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## Dunk-a-thon

### Patriots no match for high-rising Denby, 85-50

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin's first trip in 34 years to the Class A boys basketball regional tournament received quite an initiation.

Courtesy of the Detroit Public School League's own version of Phi Slama Jama, the Patriots were ousted by Detroit Denby, 85-50, in the semifinals Monday at Detroit Cass Tech.

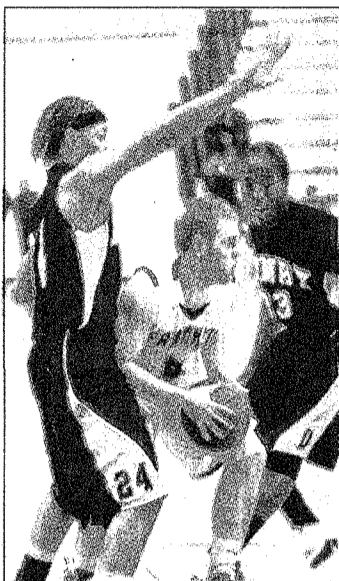
The Tars, who improved to 13-9 overall, registered eight dunks on the night and shot 53.8 percent from the floor (35-of-65).

The high-flying duo of 6-foot-6 senior Isaiah Sykes and 6-3 senior guard Derrick Barden did their best impression of Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde "The Glide" Drexler as they combined for 49 points with 25 and 24, respectively.

"I was just really impressed with their play (Barden and Sykes)," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "What we saw vs. (Detroit) Cooley, the pace wasn't that fast, but it was at a different level than us. We haven't faced anybody like that. You could piece together a couple of the best teams in our league and they don't compare to that."

Denby wasted little time pouncing on the Patriots.

The Tars went on an 11-0 run to start the game and led



Franklin's Tom Percin (5) is trapped by Detroit Denby defenders Isaiah Sykes (left) and D'Ante Perkins in Monday's Class A regional semifinal at Cass Tech.

27-8 after one quarter.

"The kids knew it on the court," Rheault said. "They were talking about it like: 'These kids are outstanding.' Each one of them was trying to tell a different story in between every timeout. They were very, very talented. They play at that next level that we just don't have."

Denby increased its lead to 47-20 at intermission.

"We're starting to play at a high level that I thought we would be capable of playing," said Denby first-year

coach Chuck Albright, a 1985 Redford Bishop Borgess grad. "I told our kids we wanted to be playing our best basketball around February and March. We've come together as a team because we had three different schools blended together. Me coming from Cleveland, a couple of Finney transfers and the Denby kids, but we're all starting to come together now. We're starting to peak and playing well together as a unit."

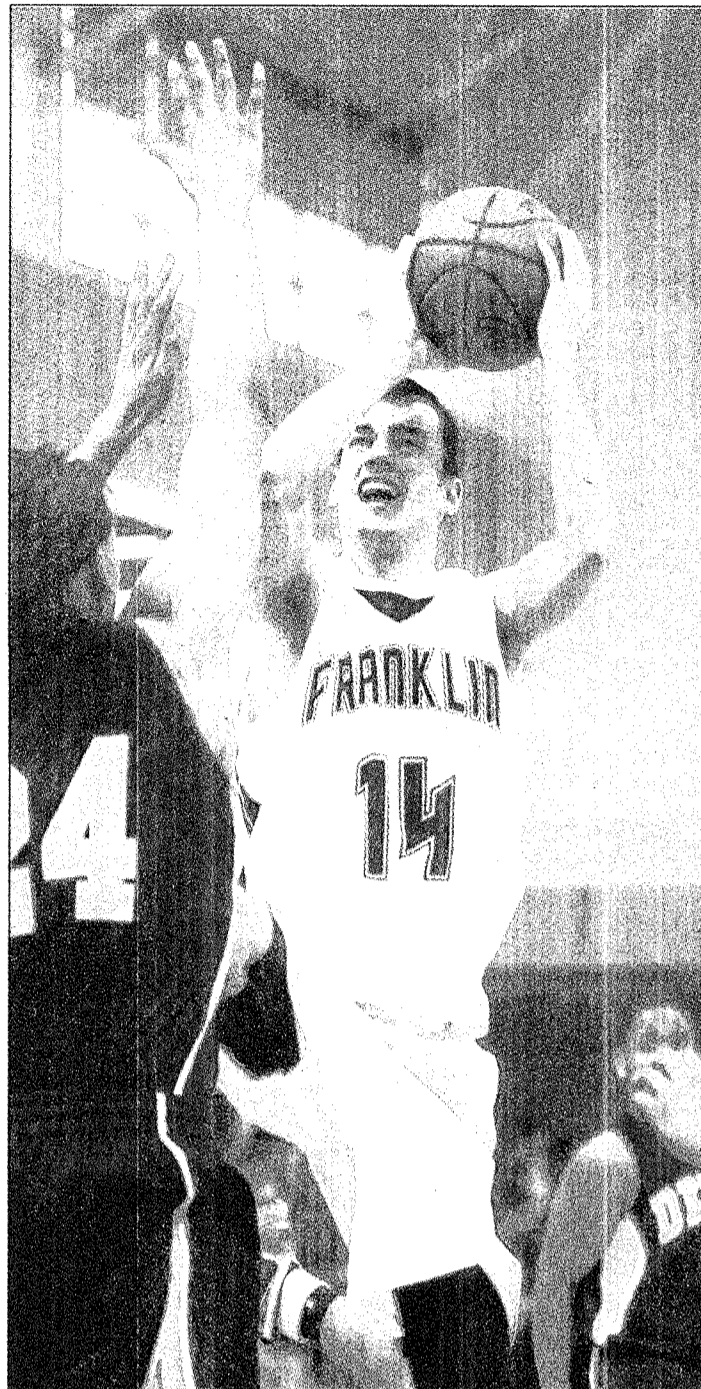
Franklin got its offense untracked in the second half, but the damage had already been done.

Rheault's halftime message was simple.

"We're going to move the ball better," he told his team. "We're not going to put it on the floor as much. We're going to pass it more. We're going to shorten the passes. We're going to help each other out of those traps. We're not going to leave a teammate alone. I hope you could see the ball started to move better in the second half and we were able to get some easier opportunities that we didn't have in the first half. It was handling their pressure and we had to deal with it the whole night. They didn't do anything special — they just have that size."

Senior guard Andy McCaffery had some good

Please see PATRIOTS, B3



Franklin senior guard Andy McCaffery, who scored a team-high 22 points, goes inside against Detroit Denby's D'Ante Perkins in Monday's Class A regional at Cass Tech.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## SIDELINES

### Wydryck lauded

Tabatha Wydryck, a 6-foot-1 junior guard for the Madonna University women's basketball team, earned honorable mention accolades for the 2010 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II All-America women's basketball team.

Wydryck, a Wyandotte native who averaged 11.1 points and 8.2 rebounds this year, is the second Crusader in as many seasons to receive such an honor joining 2009 third-team selection Kim Olech (Plymouth).

A first-team Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference pick, Wydryck ranked in the top 18 in steals per game (3.07), total steals (89) and defensive rebounds per game (6.8).

She helped MU to a 14-15 overall record and a berth in the WHAC title game.

### Haldane saluted

Madonna University junior Sam Haldane was selected as the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's Pitcher of the Week in baseball (ending March 14).

Haldane, a transfer from Lake Land Community College (Ill.), went 1-0 for the No. 21-ranked Crusaders last week, throwing a complete game against Calumet College of St. Joseph (Ind.).

The St. Thomas, Ontario, native struck out a career-high 10 batters while allowing just three hits in a 4-0 win to improve to 1-1 on the year.

### Graves signs cager

Madonna University women's basketball coach Carl Graves announced the signing Monday of 5-foot-10 forward Kayleigh McCollum of Muskegon Catholic Central to an NAIA letter-of-intent.

McCollum averaged 13.1 points and 6.8 rebounds per game this season for the Crusaders.

The three-year letter winner has scored 642 career points and pulled 334 career rebounds as Muskegon CC captured two River Valley Conference titles, a pair of Class C districts and one regional crown.

She has also earned four letters in soccer where she was selected All-Conference, All-District, All-Region, All-Area and All-State as a junior.

"Kayleigh brings a new dimension with her ability to score the basketball," Graves said. "She is an incredible student who will fit well with our returners. We are confident that she can be an impact player fairly quickly."



Livonia native Aaron Lewicki (right) has helped propel Ferris State into the Central Collegiate Hockey Association Mason Cup semifinals this Friday at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena.

FERRIS STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

## Hockey at the Joe

### Ferris State's Lewicki eyes Mason Cup, NCAA trip

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ferris State University men's hockey coach Bob Daniels can't offer enough superlatives when talking about senior center Aaron Lewicki.

"If you were to design a blueprint, he'd be the perfect Bulldog hockey player," said Daniels, a Churchill High grad now in his 18th season as FSU coach. "On the ice he scores goals. He's an excellent student. He's excellent in the community and never turns down a request. And considering what he's been able to overcome, he's the total package."



Lewicki

Daniels

Lewicki and Daniels are Livonia's link to the Central Collegiate Hockey Association's Mason Cup aspirations when they return home this weekend at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena.

The Bulldogs, 21-11-6 overall, will take on Northern Michigan at 4:30 p.m. Friday

in one CCHA semifinal. The second game of the double-header pits Michigan against CCHA regular season champion and No. 1-ranked Miami of Ohio. The winners face off at 7:35 p.m. on Saturday at the Joe for the title.

Ferris is seeking its first CCHA crown since 2003 when Chris Kunitz, now with the defending Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins, led the Bulldogs to the title.

"It's pretty much the same group of core guys from last year that have matured and come together with a business-

Please see FERRIS, B2

## Stevenson takes home 6th-place finish in Division 1

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson boys swim coach Jeff Shoemaker had a lot to smile about following last Saturday's sixth-place team finish in the MHSAA Division 1 Boys Swimming and Diving Championships in Holland.

The Spartans did not match last year's fifth-place total of 177 points, but managed to still score a respectable 106.

Saline captured the team title with

325 points followed by Ann Arbor Pioneer (254.5), Northville (166), Grandville (147), Zeeland (134) and the Spartans.

"It was a real good showing considering the amount we lost from last year," said Shoemaker, who has three top 10 finishes in five years. "Actually I consider it a great showing because we lost 18 seniors, which is over half the team."



Schoff



Marecki

Junior Kellen Schoff had a big day for the Spartans taking third in the 100-yard backstroke in a school-record 52.87 seconds along with a sixth in the 200 individual medley (1:56.20).

Schoff was seeded fifth going into the 100 backstroke finals.

"He has an unbelievable amount of talent," Shoemaker said.

### BOYS SWIMMING

Senior Aaren Marecki closed out his career with an All-State performance in the 50 freestyle by taking third in 21.52 (second fastest in school history).

Marecki also scored points in the 100 freestyle by taking ninth in 47.73.

The Spartans added a pair of sevenths in the relay events.

Marecki teamed up with senior

Please see SWIMMING, B2



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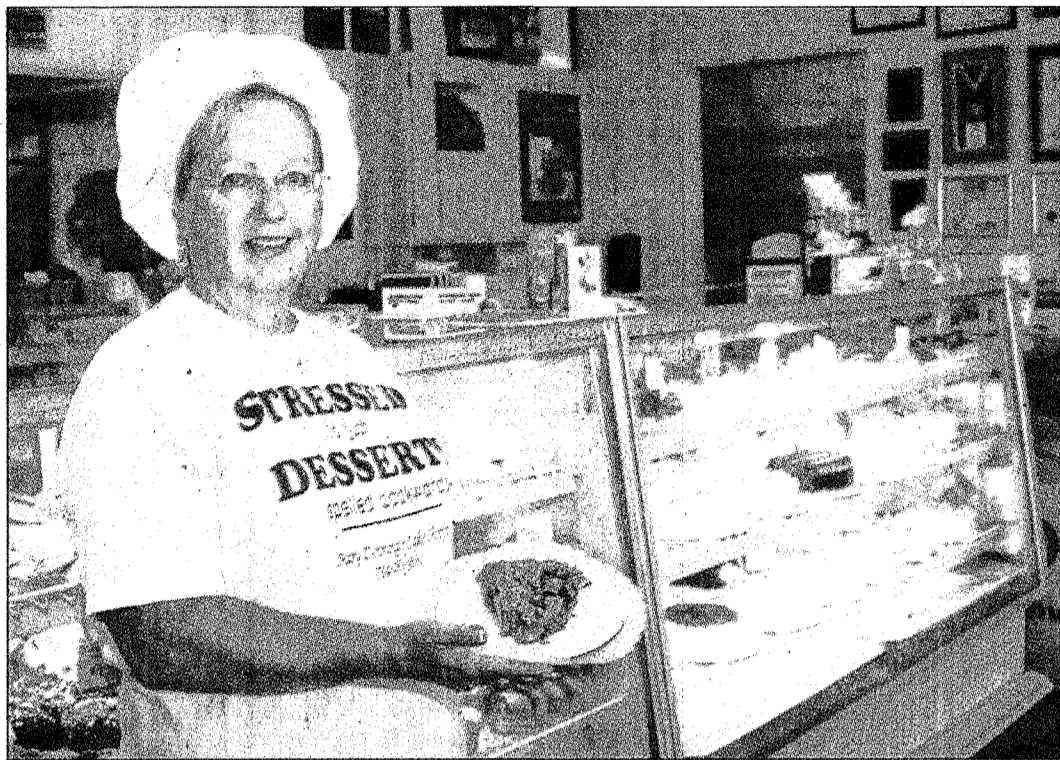
\*Subject to a \$49 one-time start-up fee. Offer expires March 26, 2010. Billed monthly to a credit card or checking account.





# Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

## IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Mary Denning's name is synonymous with delicious cakes, cookies and pastries made at her cake shop on North Wayne Road in Westland.

## Cake shop is Denning's sweet dream

**Observer:** Tell us about your business, including they types of services and/or products you feature.

Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe is a family owned and run business. Baker Charlie, my husband, starts very early every day, baking all of our product, using only the freshest and top quality ingredients. Fresh eggs, real butter, dairy fresh whipping cream all from Michigan, make all of our products delicious.

**Observer:** How did you decide to open your own business?

I always dreamed of starting my own cake shop. Starting out doing cakes out of my home for friends and family, I eventually got a job in local bakeries. I learned so much watching how the pro's do cakes and run their businesses. I think I learned the most from Andy Lesnock at Iversen's Danish Bakery in Redford. Andy believed in only using the best ingredients. He would only use real butter, real chocolate and fresh whipping cream. His cakes and pastries were amazing. I gained 50 pounds the first year I worked for him. Andy demanded the highest standards for everything that went out of his bakery, and we were all very proud of our work. Andy has since passed, but I hope he is proud of all that he taught me. I know I am

**Observer:** How did you decide to locate in the Westland community?

### MARY DENNING'S CAKE SHOPPE

**Business Name:** Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe

**Business Address:** 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland

**Your Name and Title:** Mary Denning, president

**Your Hometown:** Born in Hancock, Mich., raised in Westland. Married and lived in Garden City 30 years and recently moved to Howell

**Business Opened:** October 1992

**Number of Employees:** Family-owned and run business, Bakery Charlie, my husband, and five employees

I always knew I would open my cake shop in Westland. I was raised in Westland. It is my roots and my family. I move here when I was 8 years old and am still here 52 years later. Both my parents have passed along with my two brothers; I have so many great friends in Westland, they are my family. It is great being apart of all the happy times in my customer's family lives. Starting with weddings, baby showers, first birthdays, baptisms, confirmations, birthdays, graduations and weddings, for 18 years I have been able to celebrate with all of my friends. Isn't that a wonderful thing!

**Observer:** Do you have a funny

**Business Specialty:** We specialize in decorated cakes, wedding cakes and pastries and pastry filled gift baskets. We also have copper country style pasties, using my Mother's recipe, and chicken pot pies, made with chicken breasts and vegetables.

**Hours of Operation:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday  
**Business Phone/Web site:** (734) 261-3680, www.marydenning.com

**tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience as a small business owner?**

We have bakery tours with children every week. The kids are always a real treat. I was explaining about sanitation and the purpose of wearing a hat. One little girl wanted to know why I had on a white baker's hat. I told her that I was Mary Denning, so I wear a baker's hat. She was amazed. She says, "I thought you were dead! They always name things after dead people." I told her, "I am not dead yet." Kids are so cute. We had another say after I told them I had been in business for 18 years, "Boy, you must be really tired!"

## BUSINESS MILESTONES

### My Trivia

**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m. Sundays  
**Location:** Albert's On the Alley, 5651 Middlebelt, just north of Ford, Garden City  
**Details:** Grab your team and test your knowledge playing our free trivia game, "My Trivia Live." Check them out at mytrivialive.com  
**Contact:** (734) 525-5231 or online at www.albertsonthealley.com

### Business Property Tour

**Time/Date:** 4 p.m. Thursday, April 15  
**Location:** Garden City Downtown Development Office, 29213 Ford, east of Middlebelt, Garden City

**Details:** As part of its recruitment and retention plan, the Downtown Development Authority is planning a tour of the available business property. The tour will begin at the DDA office with a package of information and site maps for prospective businesses who will then visit the specific property they are interested in and meet with the owner or representative. To participate in the tour, the property owner agrees to have the property open to show and someone on site to meet with the prospect.  
**Contact:** (734) 261-2830

### Sing a song

**Time/Date:** 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday-Friday

**Location:** Vision Lanes, 38250 Ford, west of Newburgh, Westland

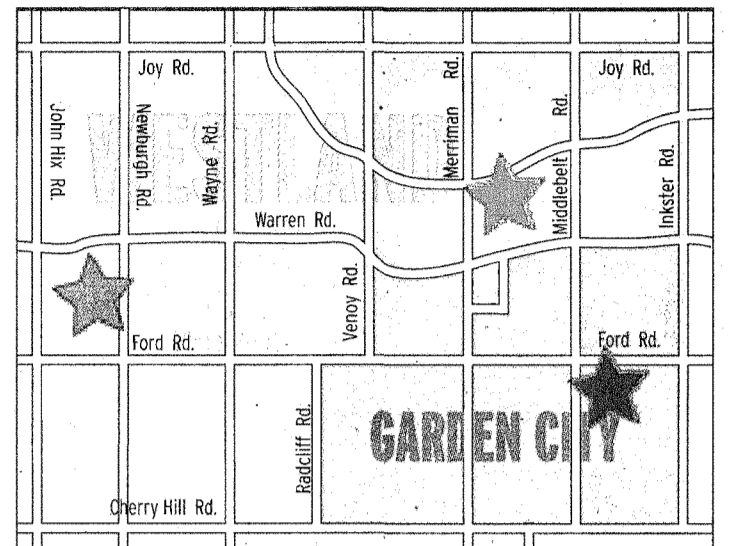
**Details:** Drop by and test your voice with DDS Karaoke in the All-Star Grille and Music Bar inside the All-Star Grille and Music Bar inside Vision Lanes. The Music Bar also has live music on Saturdays, beginning at 9 p.m.

**Contact:** (734) 641-8181 or www.visionlanes.com

### Easter Brunch

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for breakfast and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for dinner  
Sunday, April 4

**Location:** Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300



Merriman, north of Warren Road, Westland

**Details:** Enjoy a breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browned potatoes, french toast sticks and syrup, biscuits and gravy, sweet rolls and orange juice, or a dinner featuring carved top round of beef, baked chicken, baked Brickmann's ham, cod, polish sausage and sauerkraut, meatballs, mostaccioli, whipped and sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, assorted cold salads, bakery rolls, fresh fruits and sweet table. The Easter Bunny will be here too! The cost is \$16.95 for adults, \$9.95 for children 10 years and under and free for children three years and under.  
**Contact:** (734) 422-3440

### Ticket give-away

**Date:** Contest is open April 2-15

**Location:** all Art Van stores, including the Westland store at 8300 N. Wayne Road, north of Cowan.

**Details:** Art Van guests can register to win a family four pack of tickets to the new Nickelodeon show, "Storytime Live!," coming to the Fox Theatre April 23-25. The show features "Dora the Explorer," The "Backyardigans," "Wonder Pets" and "Ni-Hao, Kai-lan." The show. Register at the store. One family four pack will be awarded per store. The Art Van Taylor store is hosting a

"Storytime Live!" Breakfast. Doors open for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served starting at 9 a.m., with Dora stopping by at 10:30 a.m. Kids will go on an adventure and be able to take a photo with Dora. The morning will include a continental breakfast, story telling and party favors. Reservations are currently being taken for the limited seating event. Call (888) 619-2199. Tickets are \$5.

**Contact:** the Westland store at (734) 425-9600

### A bit of Prestige

**Time/Days:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday  
**Location:** Prestige Eyewear, 27854 Ford, east of Middlebelt, Garden City

**Details:** Prestige Eyewear carries a great selection of basic and designer eyewear for the whole family, and has packaged many to give customers value-added pricing. The store offers the largest selection of Safilo Frames in the area. It supplies most of the leading lens brands; and what is not in stock can normally be delivered the next business day. Its premium A/R coatings include CRIZAL, UTMC, VIVIX and Teflon. It also offers I-Coat's high quality Fusion 5, multi-layer A/R coating, eye exams and contact lenses.

**Contact:** (734) 525-1145 or mfearon@fearonprestigeeyewear.com

## BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

### Tax savings

Precision Tax is offering members of the Garden City Chamber of Commerce and their employees 25 percent off on their tax and accounting services.

Precision Tax has been operating in Garden City for six years and is a full service income tax and accounting business. It has a CPA on staff who can handle all of a business's accounting and tax planning needs. The business, which started in 2002, also is able to provide tax saving suggestions and financial consulting.

Precision Tax is at 6719 Middlebelt, Garden City. For more information, call 734-421-7950 or go online to www.precision-tax.com.

### Co-op Cares Project

After months of voting and donating, the results are in. Three local charities have received \$1,000 each from the Co-op Cares Project. The winning charities were announced at a special ceremony at Co-op Services Credit Union's Livonia branch. The winning charities are Gleaners Community Food

Bank, HAVEN and Second Chance at Life.

"We were so excited to announce and present the money to Gleaners Community Food Bank, HAVEN and Second Chance at Life, charities that give back to our community every day," said Lisa Fawcett, marketing director for Co-op Services Credit Union. "We were also very happy to see that charities of all sizes, large and small, were able to benefit from this project. Every one of the eight charities worked very hard to make this project a success."

For the past few months, Co-op Services Credit Union administered a program called the Co-op Cares Project. During that time, anyone who opened a new checking account as part of a promotion received \$100 dollars. Members were encouraged to donate a portion of this money to local charities. Co-op then partnered with eight local charities, all of which were featured on a credit union Web site at www.whatproject100.com.

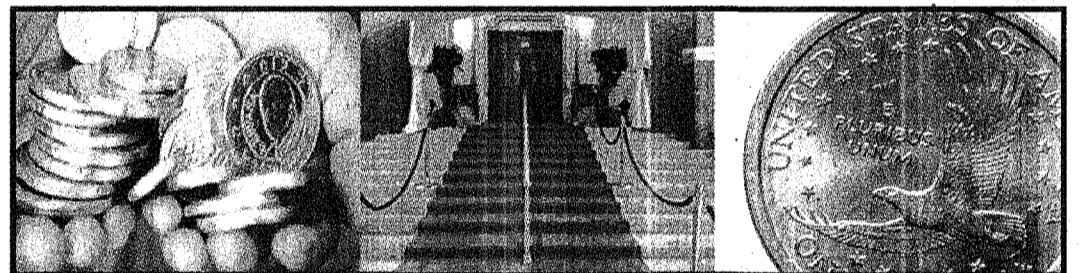
Credit Union members, as well as people within the community, were encouraged to visit the site to vote

for their favorite charity. The three charities that received the highest votes were each awarded one-third of the total donations collected throughout the project.

"We've received tremendous feedback from all eight charities participating in the project," said Fawcett. "They've told us that the exposure alone has helped them at a time when they really need it. It's been inspiring to see the amount of people who have visited the site to vote for their favorite cause, and perhaps then stopped to think about what they could do to give back as well."

The eight participating Co-op Cares Charities were Alternatives for Girls, Arts & Scraps, Common Ground, Covenant House Michigan, Gleaners Community Food Bank, HAVEN, MYLead and Second Chance at Life.

"All eight participating charities are excellent examples of the commitment to giving back that exists in our communities," said Fawcett. "I encourage everyone to read more about each charity online at www.whatproject100.com and support them in any way you can."



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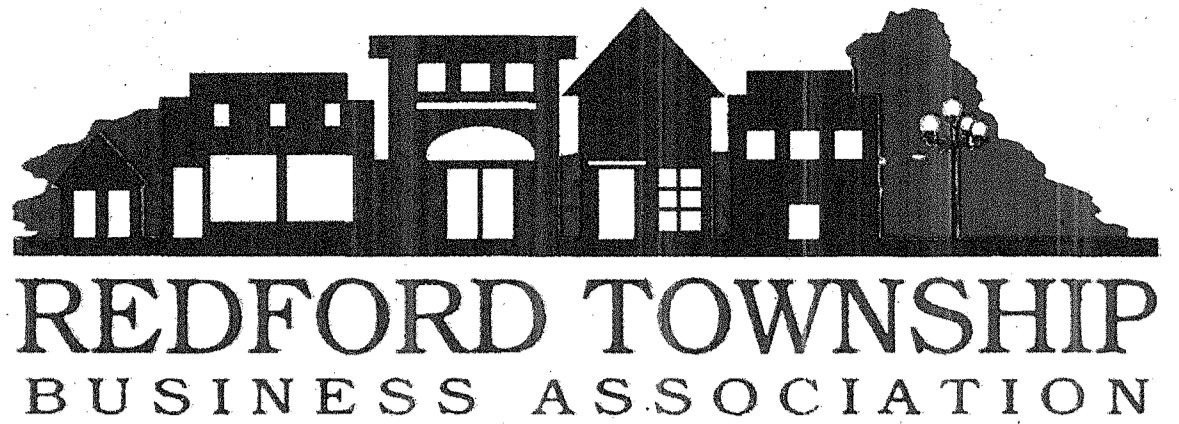
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# Shop, eat, pamper yourself during Diva Day

Comedy documentary release in time for laugh fest

The Jim Dudek film, *Detroit International Comedy Festival* — which made its debut at the Imagine Theatres in January — was released for home viewing on Tuesday, March 16.

This mixed performance and documentary style independent film captured what the 2nd annual 2009 comedy festival was all about, not only for the audience, but also for the comedians. It shows the best 44 standup comics from the U.S., Canada and England onstage, backstage and off-stage.

The DVD is being released at this time to create excitement for the 3rd Annual Detroit International Comedy Festival "Laugh Detroit" which runs March 21-27, 2010, at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak.

The DVD will be sold during the 2010 festival for \$11.95 but it's available now for \$9.95, including shipping, from [www.ArkDistribution.com](http://www.ArkDistribution.com)

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Nothing says "diva" better than a sparkling piece of finger bling.

Or an armful of bright pink roses and head-turning tankini.

Add a free feather boa, food, and special drinks, and divas will discover their own little paradise Saturday, March 27 in downtown Plymouth.

The 2nd Annual Diva Day, offering discounts, giveaways and fun for women will run 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

"It's a day to be pampered," said Terri Fry, events manager for the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce. "We get boas for the ladies. Last year they were pink. This year they are turquoise. The restaurants have special drinks and appetizers and shops will have drawings for gift certificates or baskets. Some put out snacks and sample-sized stuff."

"It's a nice day for women this time of year. They are ready for spring."

Come early for one of the free 500 feather boas. Last year they were distributed by noon.

But if you miss that giveaway, a string of Mardi Gras beads or princess crown from Genuine Toy Company, 550 Forest, might be just what you need to complete your Diva attire.

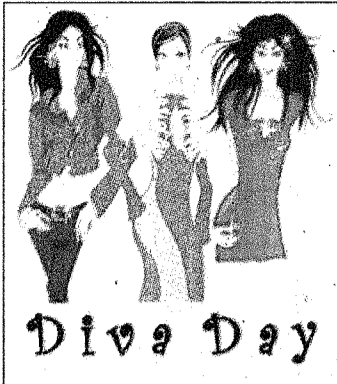
"We're still trying to put together a giveaway," said Charles Dare, co-owner. He opened the shop in August last year and underestimated the crowd for Ladies Night Out, which is held every autumn, figuring a toy store wouldn't draw many women.

"We got swamped. We were really busy. People were coming in and finding the store. We're trying to be better prepared for city events," he said.

The store sells puzzles, board games, craft kits, dress up items, science kits and retro toys.

But Dare said divas might be more interested in mood rings, "bling rings" and costume jewelry.

"They are fun and retro."



Plymouth Chamber of Commerce sponsors its 2nd Annual Diva Day, Saturday, March 27.

### PINK FOR DIVAS

Sarah Klatt, one of the co-owners of Magnolia, fresh flower market, said her store will have "a lot of food" on hand, along with a sale and free drawing with purchase.

"We're very excited to have it again. It was great for us last year and the women who came in enjoyed it and the extra freebies. They had a good time," Klatt noted.

Although turquoise is the official Diva Day color this year, Klatt said she'd opt "hot pink roses" as the perfect diva flower.

What does a diva wear? Rachele Fanelli, owner of Sunny J's, says it's all a matter of personal taste.

"One person might say a matching bra and panty set. Someone else might think a chemise is sexy," said Fanelli, who sells swimwear and lingerie. "People are hooked on the tankini. Once some women discover it, they never go back to a one-piece. It gives you the confidence to go out and wear it."

### PERFECT FITTING

Fanelli said many of her customers consider "every day is Diva Day" at Sunny J's because the store's niche is custom-fitting and sizing swimsuits.

"We make them feel good about themselves."

And isn't that what being a diva is all about?

Other stores, restaurants and salons participating in Diva Day are: All Dressed Up, Basket Creations, Brass & Iron Bed Shop



Shoppers received pink feather boas during the first Diva Day. The first 500 women who attend this year's event will get a free turquoise boa.

& Gift Boutique, Candy Trail, Creatopia Pottery, Dearborn Jewelers, Gabrial's, Genuine Toy, Gigi's Mode, Hands on Leather, Home Sweet Home, Jill Andra Young

Photography, Magnolia, Penniman Gallery, Plymouth Yoga Room, R.S.V.P., sideways, Sun & Snow, Sunny J's, Sweets 21, That's Awesome, TranquiliTea,

Wilcox Consignment, Merle Norman, Salon 550, 1999 Tavern, 336 Main, Compari's, E.G. Nicks, Ironwood Grill, Sean O'Callaghan's, and The Rock Bar & Grill.

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**ART**

**Lotus Arts Gallery**

**Location:** 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth  
**Details:** 3rd annual Michigan Local Artist Exhibit runs through March  
**Contact:** (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734)453-5400

**Northville Art House**

**Time/Date:** Through March 21  
**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville  
**Details:** "Under the Influence" exhibit showcasing the influential artistic relationship between teachers and students at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. The exhibit illustrates that art is not done in a vacuum

**Coming up:** Dollmaking class taught by Charlie Patricolo, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., April 24-25. The two-day class costs \$100, along with a \$10 kit fee. Registration is available now

**Contact:** (248) 344-0497 or visit www.northvillearts.org

**Village Theater at Cherry Hill**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday-Friday, through March 29  
**Location:** 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

**Details:** Works by Plymouth resident and self-taught artist Tony Roko on display

**Contact:** (734) 394-5300

**AUDITIONS**

**University of Detroit Mercy**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m., March 29  
**Location:** 4001 W. McNichols, Detroit; in Studio 164 in Reno Hall

**Details:** Non-equity auditions for the theater's 2010-2011, 40th season. Provide a recent headshot, resume and two monologues: one classical and one modern. RSVP at the theater's Facebook page; search "UDM Theatre Company" on Facebook  
**Contact:** Greg Grobis at grobisgj@udmercy.edu or at (313) 993-3273

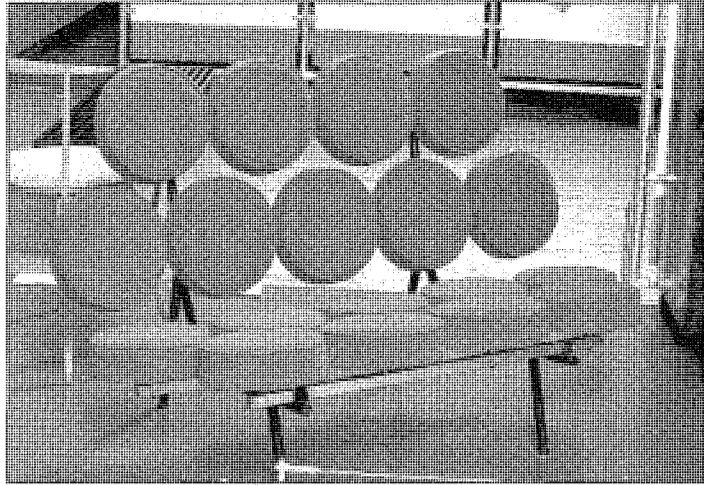
**COMEDY**

**Go Comedy!**

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays  
**Location:** 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale  
**Details:** Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays  
**Contact:** (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

**JD's House of Comedy**

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings  
**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield



"Marshmallow" sofa is on display in the "Good Design Stories from Herman Miller" exhibit through April 25 at Henry Ford Museum.

**Details:** Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday  
**Contact:** (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

**Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia**

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays  
**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Details:** Jay Black, March 17-20; Myq Kaplan, March 24-27  
**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

**Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle**

**Time/Date:** Bret Ernst, who appeared in the movie "Beer League," and hosted MTVs "Wrestling Society X," March 18-20; 3rd Annual International Comedy Festival - Laugh Detroit, March 21-27  
**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak  
**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

**CONCERTS**

**The Ark**

**Time/Date:** Grant-Lee Phillips, March 18; John Oates, March 19; Jer Coons, March 20; The Boxcars, March 21; The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, March 22; Sweet Talk Radio, March 23; Adrian Legg, March 24; Altan, March 25; Paul Thorn, March 26; South Memphis String Band, March 27; Gemini, March 29; The Fabulous Thunderbirds, March 29; Celtic Crossroads, March 30; Bitch, March 31  
**Location:** 316 South Main, Ann Arbor  
**Contact:** (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

**Location:** 316 South Main, Ann Arbor  
**Contact:** (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

**Detroit Institute of Arts**

**Time/Date:** Friday Night Live concerts, 7 and 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** 5200 Woodward Ave  
**Contact:** (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

**JWH Center for the Arts**

**Time/Date:** 6:15-6:45 p.m., open mic sign up; performances, 7 p.m.

**Location:** 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** Host is Cathy Fitzpatrick and featured performers are Alex and Maggie Zakem on March 20. BaseLine Folk Society open mic is for acoustic, folk and traditional musicians. Admission is \$5. BaseLine Folk Society open mic runs every third Saturday of the month through May  
**Contact:** Mike Mullen, founder, mjimmullen@yahoo.com

**Magic Bag**

**Time/Dates:** Satin Peaches, The Fake Take, March 19; The Mega 80's, March 20; The Killer Flamingos, March 26

**Location:** 22920 Woodward, Ferndale  
**Contact:** (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com

**Plymouth Coffee Bean Company**

**Time/Date:** The Skinny Raccoons, with Justin Erion, March 20  
**Location:** 884 Penniman Avenue, Plymouth  
**Contact:** (734) 454-0178

**Schoolcraft College**

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Friday, March 19  
**Location:** Presentation Room at VisTaTech Center on the campus, located at 18600 Haggerty, Livonia

**Details:** Emmanuelle Boisvert on violin and Pauline Martin on piano perform music by Beethoven, Bloch, Grieg and Corelli; admission \$20, \$10 for students  
**Contact:** Schoolcraft Book store at (734) 462-4409 or www.scboxoffice.com

**Seligman Performing Arts Center**

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m., March 20  
**Location:** 22305 West 13 Mile, on

the campus of Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills

**Details:** Violinist Arnold Steinhardt will be joined by actor Alan Alda for an evening of conversation and performance entitled "A Celebration of the Bach Chaconne." The discussion and concert is presented by the Chamber Music Society of Detroit. Tickets are \$43 - \$75; students \$25  
**Coming up:** The Chamber Music Society of Detroit presents Steven Isserlis, on cello and Dénes Várjon, on piano, 8 p.m., March 27, in a program that consists of sonatas by composers Barber, Dohnanyi, Schumann and Chopin. Tickets range from \$43-\$75; students pay \$25  
**Contact:** (248) 855-6070

**Trinity House Theater**

**Time/Date:** Brooks Williams and Beaucoup Blue, 8 p.m. March 19, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Annie and Rod Capps, 8 p.m., March 20, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Gemini, 8 p.m., March 27, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers  
**Location:** 38840 West Six Mile, Livonia  
**Contact:** (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

**FAMILY**

**Bakers Keyboard Lounge**

**Time/Dates:** 2-5 p.m. Sundays  
**Details:** Jazz for Kids Program  
**Location:** 20510 Livernois Ave.,

Detroit  
**Contact:** (313) 345-6300, www.bakerskeyboardlounge.com

**Detroit Institute of Arts**

**Time/Dates:** 2 p.m. Sundays  
**Details:** Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission  
**Location:** 5200 Woodward, Detroit  
**Contact:** (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

**Detroit Zoo**

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March  
**Location:** I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

**Details:** Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free.  
**Contact:** (248) 541-5717

**Marquis Theatre**

**Time/Dates:** 2:30 p.m. all shows; Saturday, March 20, 27, April 10, 17, 24 and May 1; Monday-Friday, April 5-9; and Sunday, March 14, 21, 28, April 11, 18, 25 and May 2

**Location:** 135 E. Main, Northville  
**Details:** "Peter Cottontail," tickets, \$8.50, ages 3 and up  
**Contact:** (248) 349-8110, www.northvillemarquisttheatre.com

**FILM**

**Penn Theatre**

**Time/Dates:** "Mr. and Mrs. Smith,"

with Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery, 7 p.m., Thursday, March 18

**Location:** 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

**Details:** \$3 admission  
**Coming up:** "The Blind Side" 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m., Friday, March 19, 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m., Saturday, March 20 and 5 p.m. and 7:20 p.m., Sunday, March 21  
**Contact:** (734) 453-0870, www.penntheatre.com

**Redford Theatre**

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. March 26 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., March 27

**Location:** 17360 Lahser, Detroit  
**Details:** "Rio Bravo," with John Wayne, Dean Martin, Ricky Nelson and Walter Brennan, admission \$4  
**Coming up:** "Spartacus," with Kirk Douglas, Laurence Olivier and Tony Curtis, 8 p.m. April 2 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., April 3  
**Contact:** www.redfordtheatre.com

**MUSEUMS**

**Cranbrook Institute of Science**

**Time/Date:** "Artology: The Fusion of Art and Science at Cranbrook" showcases the work of artists whose creations intersect with science; through June 4

**Location:** 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills  
**Contact:** (248) 645-3200, http://science.cranbrook.edu

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Youngsters collect eggs at the annual event at First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville.

# Churches plan egg hunts, kids' Easter programs

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Bring on the Easter Bunny. It's nearly time to play hide and seek with goody-filled plastic eggs at local churches.

Eager egg-hunters will find 8,000 of them hidden around the grounds at the Detroit First Church of the Nazarene's annual Easter Eggstravaganza, 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 3. The church is located in Northville at 21260 Haggerty, but draws a lot of children from across the street in Livonia and Farmington Hills.

"People come from all over, really," said Lisa Harris, a church secretary in charge of hospitality. "We have repeat people come just for the egg hunt because it's so fun and popular. We always draw new guests who have never been to the church."

"Last year we broke our record with 420 children. Over 1,000 people attended when you count the adults." The church has sponsored a hunt for 15 years as an outreach to the community. Youngsters, age 1-11 hunt in separate groups according to

their ages. Eggs are strewn on the lawn in plain view for toddlers and hidden outside around the church for older children.

Participants bring their own baskets to collect eggs. The church also has decorated bags on hand for those who forget to bring their own containers. All eggs include goodies and some can be redeemed for prizes. "At the end there's a lunch and there's always a really nice message," Harris added.

Hot dogs, chips, cookies and beverages will be served while youngsters watch a special show from Big Blast Ministries.

"Some years we've had puppets and we had a yo-yo group that came and gave a special message regarding Easter and the Lord. It's always entertaining with a colorful and upbeat message."

The church is accepting online registration through March 31 at [dfcnazarene.org](http://dfcnazarene.org). After that registration is accepted at the event.

Here's a sampling of Easter egg hunts at other local churches:

- St. Paul's Presbyterian

Easter Fun Day runs 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 27, at the church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia. The event will include games, crafts, an Easter egg hunt, prizes and more for children ages 3 to 13. The event is free and open to the public. (734) 422-1470

• Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia, holds its hunt, rain or shine, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 27. The event is aimed at toddlers through age 10. Register by Monday, March 22 by calling (734) 421-7359.

• Bethel Baptist of Livonia offers an egg hunt for children who attend noon Good Friday services at the church, located at 29475 Six Mile, Livonia. The event, for youngsters, sixth grade and younger, begins at approximately 1 p.m. (734) 525-3664.

• St. Michael, 7000 Sheldon, Canton, plans an egg hunt, along with crafts and stories, for children up to fifth grade, beginning at 9:30 a.m., April 3. Non-parishioners may attend, but should call (734) 459-3333, so the church can get an accurate count.

# Passages

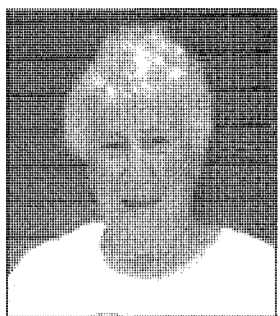
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**ROBERT BROOKES**  
Age 67, formerly of Westland, died March 12, 2010. Retired gas linesman from Consumer's Power Company. Survived by wife, Joan; children, Michael (Catherine) & Cathy, all of Redford & Mark (Dawn) of Roscommon; 15 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren & their grandfather, Andy Sambrook of Redford. Walsh Funeral Home, Roscommon 989-275-3600



**MARGARET I. KOENINGER (nee BERG)**  
March 10, 2010, age 85. Beloved wife of the late Pastor Leonard J. Koeningner and loving mother of the late Pastor Philip J. Koeningner and baby Paul Koeningner. Survivors include her daughter Kristine Wolfe, grandchildren Katherine and Mark Tiefel, Scott and Lindsey Wolfe, Abigail Wolfe and sister Catherine Thomas. Visitation will be at 10am, Saturday, March 20th, immediately followed by a noon Memorial Service at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1343 Penniman, Plymouth, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution suggestions may be found at: [www.schrader-howell.com](http://www.schrader-howell.com).

**MARY BUNKER**  
Age 79, March 12, 2010, of Garden City. Beloved wife of 50 years of Thorton M. "Ted" Bunker. Loving sister of Virginia McNut, Jean Foster, Robert Armentrout and Richard Armentrout. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Arrangements by R.G. & G. R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. Memorial contribution may be made to Angela Hospice.

**FLORENCE T. DUNEC**  
Age 91, March 12, 2010. Beloved wife of the late Joseph "Ed" Nycek, Mitchell Nycek and Sylvia Fary. Dearest aunt of Mary Ann Dixon, Fran Braum, Toni Hill, Frank Fary, Vince Fary, Pat Fary, Anita Moseley and Ken Nycek. Also survived by brother-in-law Frank Fary, Sr. Second mother and great aunt of many. Her great and great-great nieces and nephews were her joy. Visitation Friday 3-8pm with a 7pm Rosary at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd. (bet. Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). In state Saturday 10am until 10:30am Mass at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh (just south of 5 Mile), Livonia. In lieu of flowers memorials suggested to Angela Hospice or St. Edith Church.

**BETTY JEAN BURKHART**  
March 14, 2010, age 78. Beloved wife of Donald. Dear mother of Lee Burkhardt, Joyce (Kevin) Abraham, Denise (Mark) Bair and Susan (Al) Bednarski. Also leaves six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Services will be held on Thursday at 11am at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Share your special thoughts and memories at: [www.schrader-howell.com](http://www.schrader-howell.com)

**BEVERLY A. HINSCH**  
Age 72, formerly of Livonia, Michigan, passed away Friday, March 12, 2010 at her home in Bonita Springs, Florida. She was born in Detroit, Michigan on July 31, 1937 the daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth (nee Franke) Corner. Beverly attended Wayne State University and was a proud member of the Delta Zeta Sorority. She was also an avid bridge player. She is survived by her loving husband of 51 years James E. "Jim" Hinsch; sons, James Hinsch Jr., Robert Hinsch; daughters, Kathryn (Ben) Hinsch, Debra Renauer; brother, Charles; sisters, Betty Lou Corner, and Dorothy (Mike) Kotzan. Also surviving are her two granddaughters, Morgan and Renee Renauer. In accordance with her wishes funeral services will be private. Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home (239) 992-4982 Family Owned Since 1978

**GERALD CREWDSON**  
Age 65, of Novi, March 15, 2010. Gerald was a proud Army Veteran. He retired from Ford Motor Co. after 38 years. He is survived by many cousins. Funeral Friday 11 AM at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Farmington. Visitation Thursday 2-8 PM. [www.thayer-rock.com](http://www.thayer-rock.com)

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

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The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

**Deadlines:**  
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday  
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to [oeobits@hometownlife.com](mailto:oeobits@hometownlife.com) or fax to: **Char Wilson 313-496-4968**

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**KNOW THE SCORE:** Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

# Your Invitation to Worship

<p><b>CATHOLIC</b></p> <p><b>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 482-3200 Mass Schedule: Fri. 7:00 p.m. Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p> <p><b>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church</b> St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile &amp; Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a</p> <p><b>St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church</b> 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a</p>	<p><b>UNITED METHODIST</b></p> <p><b>Redford Aldersgate</b> 2 blocks South of Plymouth United Methodist 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170 9:30 - Trad. Worship &amp; Sunday School 11:00 - Contemp Family Worship <a href="http://www.redfordaldersgate.org">www.redfordaldersgate.org</a></p> <p><b>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills <a href="http://www.orchardumc.org">www.orchardumc.org</a> 248-626-3620</p> <p><b>Worship:</b> 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter</p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</b></p> <p><b>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</b> 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit <a href="http://www.rosedalegardens.org">www.rosedalegardens.org</a> For information about our many programs</p> <p><b>GREEK ORTHODOX</b></p> <p><b>NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH</b> 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. George Vaparis Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm <a href="http://www.nativitygochurch.org">www.nativitygochurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</b></p> <p><b>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church</b> 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830</p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available</p> <p>Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413</p> <p>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Senior Pastor: Rev. Dean Davenport Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden</p>	<p><b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</b> 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.</p> <p>Worship Service 9:15 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy P. Halboeth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboeth, Assistant Pastor</p>	<p><b>Risen Christ Lutheran</b> David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 mile W. of Sheldon) (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 &amp; 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are. <a href="http://www.risenchrist.info">www.risenchrist.info</a></p>
<p><b>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</b></p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1926 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b></p> <p><b>Fellowship Presbyterian Church</b> Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • <a href="http://www.fellowship-presbyterian.org">www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</a></p>	<p><b>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</b></p> <p><b>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church</b> 40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400</p> <p>Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 &amp; 11:00 A.M. Nursery &amp; Sunday School During the 9:30 &amp; 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The Wmuz Word Station For additional information visit <a href="http://www.wardchurch.org">www.wardchurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</b></p> <p><b>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1380 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. &amp; 11:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY 6:30 P.M. website: <a href="http://www.stpaulsilivonia.org">www.stpaulsilivonia.org</a></p>		
<p><b>LUTHERAN-ELCA</b></p> <p><b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA</b> Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584 SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 PM Sunday Worship &amp; Sunday School 9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE 10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES 11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE NURSERY AVAILABLE BILL &amp; LAUREN KIRSH-CARR, PASTORS</p>	<p><b>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:dhart@dnp.com">dhart@dnp.com</a></b></p>	<p><b>CONGREGATIONAL</b></p> <p><b>North Congregational Church</b> 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake &amp; Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship &amp; Church School Faith - Freedom-Fellowship Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron</p>			

# Easy home entertaining

## Keep your party simple yet chic with these hostess hints

Hosting get-togethers at home can be stressful with all of the elements to consider — the invitation, the décor, and most importantly, the food and beverages. Planning the perfect party can overwhelm even the most seasoned hostess, but there are easy solutions for making your event memorable without becoming inundated.

Jen Isham, entertaining expert and finalist on *The Next Food Network Star*, offers her suggestions for hosting a hassle-free social gathering:

- Chances are that your guests won't recall the design of your invitations or the color of your cocktail napkins, so use an eco-friendly electronic invitation with an appropriate theme and stick with matching monochrome plates and flatware. That leaves you time to focus on the factors that will stick in their minds most — the cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

- If you're not exactly a master mixologist but still want to wow your guests with drinks, try serving Godiva Liqueur on the rocks. Isham notes, "This simple drink can be prepared before guests arrive so that they have a beverage in hand within minutes of arriving. Try chilling the bottle beforehand, then just add ice when they enter the party." Your visitors will undoubtedly be grateful for the warm (or cool) welcome.

Once guests have arrived and mingling has commenced, you'll have a bit of time to use your creativity behind the bar. Your arrival drink can easily become the beverage du jour with some festive garnishes.

- Try using melted chocolate or different colored sugars to rim glasses of Godiva Liqueur over ice," suggests Isham.

- Moisten the rim of the glass and fill a shallow bowl or plate with your garnish of



Greet guests with a glass of flavored liqueur.

choice.

- Hold the glass sideways and dab the rim into the garnish while slowly turning so that only the outer edge is covered.

- Then simply add ice, using tongs, and pour liqueur into the glass for a tempting and festive drink.

Consider stocking up on all varieties so your guests can have their pick of chocolate, white chocolate, mocha and caramel flavors. For those who are looking to go above and beyond in delivering the perfect cocktail presentation, use different forms of ice and glassware to provide variety.

When it comes to planning party food, the trick is to keep it simple.

- No-cook appetizers are a perfect no-fuss option for entertaining, which leaves more time for socializing with guests. Isham says, "Assorted nuts, cheeses, olives and preserved fruits in silver or gold bowls make for a lovely and chic appetizer spread with no time wasted slaving away in the kitchen." For an upscale hors d'oeuvre that still saves time, try Isham's Bruschetta Bar with Toppings Trio recipes.

- Rather than serving buffet-style in your dining room, Isham suggests using all areas of the house with food and



Photo courtesy of Fotolia  
Bruschetta with Kalamata Tapenade Topping

beverage stations. This will lead to your guests mingling and moving about so no one has the chance to be a wallflower.

- Another way to encourage guests to get to know each other is to organize carpools according to neighborhood. This not only will forge new

friendships but also promotes having designated drivers so everyone will get home safely. It is, in fact, possible to entertain with ease and still keep it chic — just remember to focus your energy and creativity where it matters and keep the rest simple.

### BRUSCHETTA BAR WITH TOPPING TRIO

By Jen Isham

Toast slices of baguette in the oven. Toppings can be added to bruschetta before serving or can be displayed in bowls for guests to top themselves.

#### KALAMATA TAPENADE TOPPING

- 1 jar kalamata olives (drained and pitted)
- 1 jar capers (drained)
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 3 anchovies

1. Blend to a rough paste.
2. Top toasted baguette slices with mixture and serve on decorative plate.

#### HERBED MUSHROOM TOPPING

- 1/2 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cups sliced mushrooms (any variety will work, mix varieties if you choose)
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 small shallot, chopped
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme
- Crumbled goat cheese

- Salt and pepper to taste
1. Heat butter and olive oil in sauté pan and sear sliced mushroom, garlic, shallots and thyme sprigs until browned on each side.
  2. Top toasted baguette slices with warm mushrooms and crumble goat cheese on top.

#### BALSAMIC RED ONION TOPPING

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 red onions, sliced thinly
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- Coarse black pepper

1. Heat olive oil in sauté pan and cook onions down over medium high heat until soft.

2. Turn down heat to medium, add balsamic vinegar and sugar.
3. Stir constantly until vinegar is thickened.
4. Top toasted baguettes with onion mixture and garnish with coarse ground black pepper.

Courtesy of Family Features

### CITY BITES

#### Go Gluten-free

Plymouth — Hiller's Markets will hold its largest-ever Gluten-Free Foods Fair 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 20 at its Plymouth location, 15455 Haggerty.

The event is designed to educate and enlighten the public about the benefits of embracing a gluten-free lifestyle and the cuisine options available at Hiller's Markets' seven stores. Two dozen vendors will be on hand with samples of gluten-free fare.

"The fair is a great way for people to taste a wide variety of menu items before purchasing the products," says Michelle Fuller, co-president of Tri-County Celiac Support. "It really saves time and money."

Celiac disease prevents individuals from digesting foods containing gluten and other related proteins found in wheat, barley and rye.

New gluten-free foods are constantly added to Hiller's Markets' shelves and all items are clearly labeled in every aisle of its stores. The family-owned chain now carries desserts and sweets made by Rumi's Passion, and authentic pizzas, chicken strips and Italian entrees made by G.F. Cucina. Both companies are local to Michigan.

"We want our valued customers to also know that Hiller's Markets will take back a food item if they don't like it and give them store credit," said Lynn Lederman, Director of Community Services at Hiller's Markets. "We also like to remind our shoppers that they may be able to get a tax deduction or rebates if they are on a gluten-free diet."

Hiller's Markets are located in Ann Arbor, Berkley, Commerce Township, Northville, Plymouth, Union Lake and West Bloomfield.

#### Celebrity Chefs Dinner

Farmington — Community Living Centers of Farmington will serve up its annual fundraiser, *Celebrity Chefs Dinner*, 6:30 p.m., Friday, April 16 at the Detroit Athletic Club, 241 Madison Ave., Detroit. Metropolitan Detroit's finest chefs will assemble and prepare a feast, describing their creations between each course. The evening will begin with



Gluten-free products at Hiller's Market

appetizers, followed by five courses, wine and dessert.

The chefs will include Milos Cihelka, formerly of the Golden Mushroom, Steven Allen of Steve and Rocky's, Joseph Beato of Restaurant Via Nove, Brian Beland of Country Club of Detroit, James Bologna of The Townsend Hotel, Kevin Brennan and Jeffrey Hammer of the Detroit Athletic Club, Randy Emert of Great Oaks Country Club, Michael Green of Lochmoor Country Club, Gerald Matthes of Give Thanks Bakery, Brian Polcyn of Forest Grill and Cinco Lagos, Charles Rachwitz of Rocky's, and Daniel Vallone of Tam O'Shanter Country Club. Chef Milos chairs the annual event.

The dinner admission price is \$125 per person of which \$75 is tax deductible. Proceeds from this annual fund-raiser help Community Living Centers of Farmington serve developmentally disabled adults through its seven licensed group homes, one apartment training site, one senior home and two independent living programs. The non-profit organization currently cares for 116 adults with more than 94 trained staff members.

Call Barb Schuler at the CLC office at (248) 478-0870 for more information or to make a reservation. A group discount is available for parties of 10.

For more about Community Living Centers, visit [www.clchomes.org](http://www.clchomes.org).

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Northville High School

- Give-aways, prizes and raffle items
- Vote for best restaurant and business displays
- Free samples from the area's top restaurants and caterers including:
  - Aubree's of Northville
  - Bread Basket Bakery & Cafe
  - Brann's Steakhouse
  - Buca Di Beppo
  - Busch's - Plymouth/Northville
  - Edward's Cafe and Caterers
  - George's Senate Restaurant
  - Jet's Pizza
  - Lake Street Tavern
  - Northville Sports Den
  - Red Pepper Deli
  - Rusty Bucket Corner Tavern
  - Starting Gate Saloon and Restaurant
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Admission: \$5.00 • Seniors (65 & older): \$4.00  
Children (under 12): \$2.00  
Tickets available at the door

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For more information contact the Northville Chamber of Commerce:  
Phone: 248-349-7640  
[www.northville.org](http://www.northville.org)

# Alternative Energy Summit

## Pathways to Green Jobs

presented by

# Henry Ford Community College

## Friday, March 19, 2010

### 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Administrative Services and Conference Center  
5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn

Join us as we explore energy solutions  
for our region and nation.

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Robert Ficano** - Wayne County Executive  
**Peter Sinclair** - Greenman Studio  
**Matt Rousch** - WWJ News Radio  
**Beth Sommers** - State of Michigan

#### BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

**CRESIT Energy** - Renewable Solutions  
**DTE Energy** - Energy Optimizations Program  
**Lumasmart** - LED Lighting  
**Newman Consultants** - Sustainable Building  
**DELEG** - Wind Projects in Michigan  
**WARM** - Home Solutions  
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