

TIME TO SHAKE YOUR JOB-SEARCH BLUES

CLASSIFIED, SECTION C



KEEP HOLIDAY SPENDING IN CHECK
USA WEEKEND



Annual meeting

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Wayne Masonic Temple Association, a Michigan non-profit corporation, will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the corporate office at 37137 Palmer, Westland.

On the agenda will be the election of officers and other business that may come up at the meeting.

Traditions

Got a favorite Christmas tradition? Maybe it's an annual caroling party or ethnic-inspired Christmas Eve supper, ornament-making with the kids or a cookie exchange with the neighbors. Perhaps you assist at a soup kitchen on Christmas day or volunteer at an animal shelter, head north to hit the slopes or south to bask in the sun. Whatever your holiday tradition is, we'd love to find out more.

Send us a few paragraphs about your Christmas tradition — include a photo if you'd like — and tell us why it's a mainstay in your holiday celebrating. We'll share it with readers in an upcoming *Observer* edition.

Include your name, phone number, e-mail, and city of residence. E-mailed photos should be jpg attachments. E-mail to Sharon Dargay by Friday, Dec. 14, at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail them to her at 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226.

Dear Santa

Youngsters can be sure Santa knows what they want by writing a letter to Santa and sending it to the *Observer* which will print them in our Thursday, Dec. 20, issue.

Letters should be emailed to smason@hometownlife.com. Parents, be sure to include a photo of your child in a jpg format, with their name, age, address and phone number. Only your child's name and age will be published.

Letters can also be mailed to Letters to Santa, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. The deadline for all Santa letters is Monday, Dec. 10.

INDEX

Community Life.....	B5
Crossword Puzzle.....	C3
Education.....	A4
Health.....	B10
Homes.....	C2
Jobs.....	C1
Obituaries.....	B10
Services.....	C2
Sports.....	B1
Wheels.....	C3

© The Observer & Eccentric
Volume 48 • Number 56

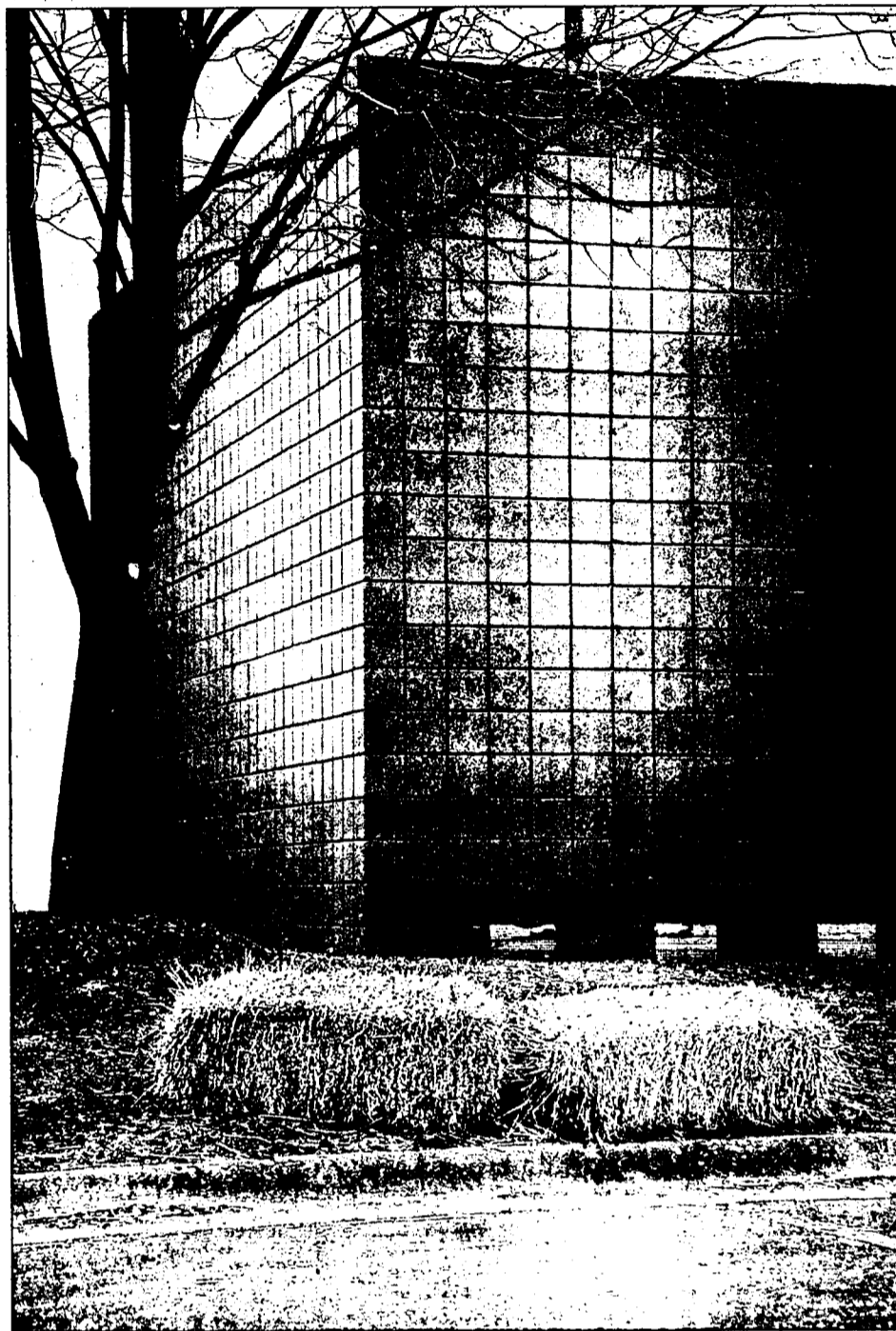
Home Delivery:
(866) 887-2737

Return Address:
41304 Concept Dr.
Plymouth MI 48170



WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

PRICE: \$1 • SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2012 • hometownlife.com



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New paint and cleaning up the landscaping are the most visible signs of new life at the former Sam's Club.

Dynamic Diagnostics fills vacant box store

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Anyone passing by the old Sam's Club north of Westland Shopping Center has likely noticed the building is looking spruced up.

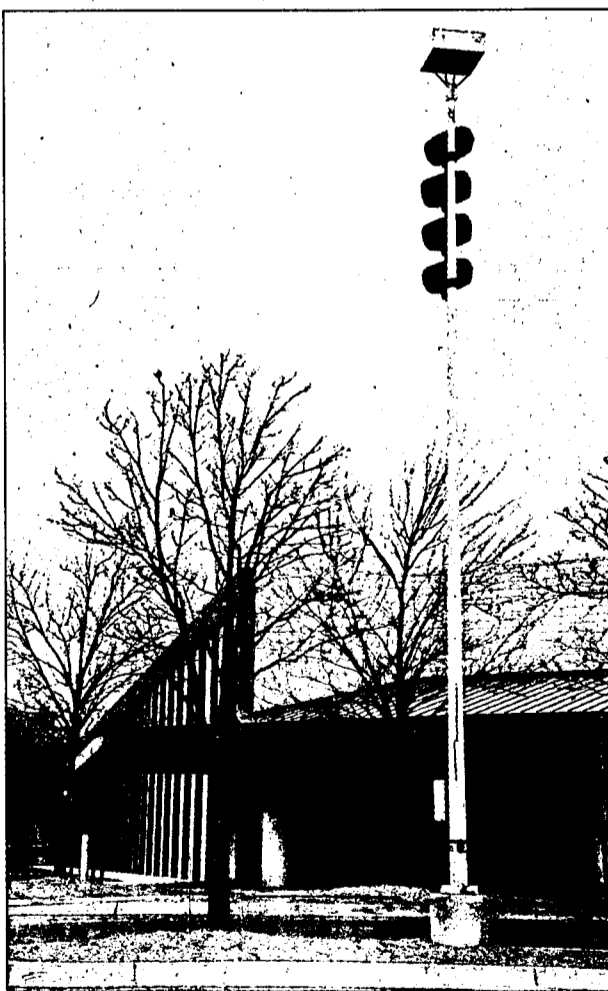
It's the most visible of the work going on at the building which will soon be the new home of Dynamic Diagnostics, Inc., which sells products to medical facilities.

"We have several lines of medical products and looking to expand into more," said company president Corey Brimhall. "We will have warehousing and distribution with the ability to sell retail. We sell to doctors offices, nursing facilities and they will pick up products."

A Pace warehouse store before it was Sam's Club, the building on Central City Parkway has been vacant for more than eight years.

"Getting this building full is one of the things

Please see BUILDING, A2



The former Sam's Club is getting a makeover for new life as the home of Dynamic Diagnostics.

Property tax plan could cost Westland

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

If the phased-in plan for cutting personal property taxes goes forward, Westland's loss could be about \$400,000.

The city annually collects about \$2 million in personal property taxes, Westland Mayor William Wild said, much of that in the Downtown Development Authority and Tax Increment Financing districts.

"This wouldn't necessarily mean a hit for the general fund," Wild said. "They have two more weeks to beat this up, but at the end of the day, it looks like they will go with Lt. Gov. (Brian) Calley's plan."

The current proposal: • Beginning in 2014, all of a taxpayer's industrial and commercial property within a local tax collecting unit will be exempt, as long as

the combined taxable value of such property within the unit is less than \$40,000.

"That means pizza places, gas stations, etc. We have a lot of them," Wild said. "We don't have the industrial base of a city like Livonia. Those folks will be hit most."

• Beginning in 2016, new eligible manufacturing personal property and eligible manufacturing personal property that was new in 2012-15 would be fully

exempt. • Beginning in 2016, eligible manufacturing personal property that was new in 2005 or earlier will be fully exempt. In each subsequent year, one additional year is added to the exemption until all existing eligible manufacturing personal property is exempt in 2022.

"They are kind of

Please see TAX PLAN, A2

Last chance for compost collection

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Westland residents have time to finish any fall yard cleanup still left undone and get the compost collected.

"The last compost collection for the season is the first week of December. That means Friday (Dec. 7)," said Westland Public Services Director Kevin Buford.

After that, there will be no compost collection, except for Christmas trees following the holiday, until April 1. Uncollected compost can't be left at the curb.

"We normally do a sweep after composting ends to make sure nothing is left at the curb," said Buford.

Under Michigan law,

compostable materials - grass clippings, leaves and branches - can't be commingled with household trash. There has been a proposed change in that law to allow yard waste and trash to be sent to the same landfill, but it hasn't been enacted at this point, Buford said.

Compost collection rules are:

- Compost is grass clippings, leaves, yard and garden waste (excluding pumpkins) pruning debris and brush.
- Contents may be left in the form of five garbage cans or 10 compost bags. The total contents cannot exceed 60 pounds.
- Tree removal is not

Please see COMPOST, A2

Parkside DENTAL TEAM
• Family Dentistry • Orthodontics • Cosmetic Dentistry

ANNUAL DENTAL BENEFITS EXPIRE 12/31
Make your appointment this week!
Use this coupon for
\$100 To Be Used Toward Your First Dental Treatment.
New patients only! Cannot be combined with any other offer.
With Ad • Expires 12/16/12

36444 W. Warren Avenue Westland
At the corner of Warren and Central City Parkway
(734) 261-6060
www.parksidedentalteam.com
• Sedation Dentistry • Dental Implant
• Emergencies Welcome
Evening & Weekend Appointments

TAX PLAN

Continued from page A1

phasing it in. A year ago, they talked about just eliminating it," Wild said. "It's not ideal, but I think it's manageable. They are creating an authority to send back revenue (to the local government)."

With a projected general fund loss of 1.5 percent, Wild said Westland wouldn't qualify for reimbursement for the lost revenue, which has to be a minimum 2.5 percent of the general fund revenues. In the current economic climate, Wild said cutting the personal property taxes will probably be a bigger deal for busi-

nesses than it would have been in the past. "Wearing a business owner hat, the personal property tax doesn't make sense," Wild said. "With my mayor hat on, it was a way to fund municipalities. It makes it tough to fund us."

Irogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

BUILDING

Continued from page A1

we have worked hardest on," said Westland Mayor William Wild. "With MJR Theater last year and this year Dynamic Diagnostics, both are nice projects for our core retail district."

The characteristics of the building that made it hard to market - the 111,000 square-foot size, high ceilings and seven truck wells - made it a good fit for Dynamic Diagnostics.

"The majority of the space is warehouse and shipping and receiving," said Brimhall. "That's very good for us and we got a very competitive price. The ceiling height is what we need. We'll be there for along time."

The goal is to have a certificate of occupancy by March 1 and the business open by end of March. The building is being painted and the landscaping is being cleaned up as Brimhall gets the building in order.

"The walls and structure are poured concrete. The floor is in fantastic shape," said Brimhall. "The roof is a disaster - I'm spending a lot of money on the roof."

Dynamic Diagnostics is relocating from Livonia, where the business has been operating for 20 years. It was housed in rented space for the past 10 years.

"With the low property values, we were able to get into this retail area," said Brimhall, who took over a small side business from his father 21

years ago and made it his career.

Initially, Brimhall said he had been reluctant to look at the former Sam's Club due to it being located in such a retail district.

"My wife grew up at Holiday Park (Cooperative) and remembers walking to the mall," said Brimhall, who had been looking for locations in other areas, including Romulus.

Dynamic Diagnostics currently has 15 employees but Brimhall said he would like to add 10-15 more employees over the next year.

"Long-term I would like to take that number to 60-70 workers. The sky's the limit," he said. "I plan to use the building for the next 20 years. I'm a good neighbor. I want a handsome building and keep things up, plant flowers."

Wild expects Dynamic Diagnostics will be a good fit in their new home.

"This shows you have to be more creative to redevelop these old box stores," Wild said. "Medical-related businesses are very stable. This will bring jobs and add jobs."

Irogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428



Glenn Shaw Jr. (right) listens to Capt. Derek Rose of the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army speak about the needs in the community during last year's Westland Community Foundation's Christmas Reception.

Foundation holds annual Christmas party benefit

The sounds of the season will fill the media center of John Glenn High School as the Westland Community Foundation hosts its annual Christmas Reception Tuesday, Dec. 11.

The annual event, in its 16th year, will be 6-8 p.m. and feature performances by John Glenn High School's Glenn Singers and the Salvation Army Band. Refreshments

and hors d' oeuvres, prepared by Chef Tony Paquette and the students from the culinary arts program of William D. Ford Career Technical Center, also will be served.

The party will serve as a fund-raiser for the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army. Last year the foundation provided \$16,000 in food purchases and spent another

\$8,000 to sponsor families and buy coats.

Guests are being asked to make a donation of \$5 and two unwrapped new toys.

Reservations are needed and can be made through Wednesday, Dec. 5, by calling (734) 595-7727.

John Glenn High School is on Marquette west of Wayne Road in Westland.

COMPOST

Continued from page A1

accepted. Do not compost food scraps, animal waste, chemicals or sod.

Compost will be picked up the same day as regular trash. Compost must be in cans with a yard waste sticker attached or Kraft-type brown bags. Plastic bags

or cardboard boxes will not be accepted.

Compost must be separated from regular household garbage by 10 feet. Mixed compost and garbage will not be picked up.

A separate truck will pick up compost. Brush or limbs must not be longer than four feet nor larger than three inches in diameter and must be tied in small bundles with strong cord (no tape). A maximum of eight bundles per week are allowed. No stumps or roots.

Sod, dirt, wood chips or landscaping material

(wood chips, mulch, gravel, stone, cement, etc.), vines (of any sort), will not be picked up. Residents will have the responsibility of disposal. Bundles of hay/straw must be broken down and put into cans or paper bags.

Christmas trees will be picked up at the curb for two weeks following the Christmas holiday starting in January.

For more information, call the DPS at (734) 728-1770 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Irogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD



HOW TO REACH US

Home Delivery/Customer Service.....1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737)
Newsroom.....(313) 222-2223 Fax.....(313) 223-3318
Classified Advertising.....1-800-579-SELL (800-579-7355)
Display Advertising.....(734) 582-8363

visit us online at hometownlife.com

615 West Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226

CHECK US OUT DAILY ONLINE

hometownlife.com

WESTLAND GOODFELLOWS

"2012~
No Child
Without a
Christmas"

The Westland Goodfellows is holding a toy and food drive. Donations of toys, hats & gloves, and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any of the following locations

All donated items will be distributed to Westland families this Christmas.

Donation boxes available November 1 to December 7th, 2012

Participating Goodfellows' Partners

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 7-11 | 126 S. John Hix, at Cherry Hill, Westland |
| Allstate Insurance, Hassan Farhat | 956 N. Newburgh, Westland |
| Back to the Beach Tanning | 390 S. Venoy Rd., Westland |
| B & G Tax Service | 32508 Michigan Ave., Wayne |
| Biggby Coffee | 37644 Ford Rd., Westland |
| Catherine's | 34764 Warren Rd., Westland |
| Chief Financial Credit Union | 31100 Palmer Rd., Westland |
| Community Dental | 820 N. Wayne Rd., Westland |
| Daniel Sharpmart | 5770 N. Hix Rd., Westland |
| DAV Thrift Store | 8050 N. Middlebelt Rd., Westland |
| Fountain Park Apartments | 37410 Fountain Park Circle, Westland |
| Family Video | 146 S. Venoy, Westland |
| Gentle Dental Family Dentistry | 35270 Nankin Blvd., Ste 502, Westland |
| Hampton Court Apartments | 5800 N. Christine, Westland |
| Harlow Tire & Racing | 1845 N. Wayne Rd., Westland |
| Independent Carpet One | 1400 N. Wayne Rd., Westland |
| Mancino's | 37636 Ford Rd., Westland |
| McSweeney's Nascar Collectibles | 8045 N. Middlebelt, Westland |
| Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church | 39851 W. Five Mile Rd., Plymouth |
| Orchards of Newburgh Apartments | 37140 S. Orchard Cr., Westland |
| Our Savior's Manor | 29495 Annapolis, Westland |
| Parkside Credit Union | 1747 S. Newburgh, Westland |
| Red Holman Buick-GMC | 35300 Ford Rd., Westland |
| Speedy Auto Repair | 1803 N. Wayne Rd., Westland |
| Tanabed Island | 35041 Cherry Hill, Westland |
| Taylor Towers | 36500 Marquette, Westland |
| Tooling & Equipment International | 12550 Tech Center Dr., Livonia |
| Venoy Pine Apartments | 7127 E. Bonnie Dr. Westland |
| Victory Honda | 315 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth |
| Wayne Ford Civic League | 1661 N. Wayne Rd., Westland |
| Wayne-Westland Fed. Credit Union | 500 S. Wayne Rd., Westland |
| Westland Car Care | 7666 N. Wayne Rd., Westland |
| Westland Chamber of Commerce | 36900 Ford Rd., Westland |
| Westland City Hall | 36601 Ford Rd., Westland |
| Westland Fire Station-Main | Ford Rd at Central City Pkwy, Westland |
| Westland Library | 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland |
| Westland Nursing & Rehab Centre | 36137 W. Warren Rd., Westland |
| Westland Police Dept.-Lobby | 36701 Ford Rd., Westland |
| Westland Senior Center | 1119 Newburgh Rd., Westland |

www.westlandgoodfellows.org

32715 Dorsey St., Westland, MI 48186 734-788-2270

Join us for a Free Seminar on planning your funeral in advance



Your life.
Your legacy.

Plan to make it right.

- Discover 4 simple steps to planning your final arrangements
- Bring peace of mind to yourself and your family
- Opportunity to receive a **FREE Personal Planning Guide**
- Conversation and helpful advice
- Complimentary Chicken Dinner with dessert, coffee and tea will be served at each seminar
- Enter to win a 42" Flat Panel Hi-Definition TV... drawing to be held December 23, 2012

Join us for our **FREE** upcoming Seminar and Luncheon

Will Harry J. Will
Funeral Homes
Integrity, Respect, Service Excellence & Enduring Relationships

In the Harry J. Will Funeral Home Banquet Room
37000 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152

Free Luncheon Seminar on the following dates:

- Thurs., Dec. 6th 5-7pm
- Mon., Dec. 10th noon-2pm
- Tues., Dec. 18th noon-2pm

Seating is limited. Call now to reserve your space.

(734) 591-3700

Sponsored by: Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Kevin Bullock - Manager

Dignity



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

Andra Rush of Rush Trucking in Wayne (in black and white dress) waits to meet President Barack Obama before his meeting with small business owners to discuss a balanced approach to the debt limit and deficit reduction, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Nov. 27.

Wayne business owner talks money with President Obama

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

It's not every day that someone is invited to the White House to meet with the president and his advisers.

But that's the call Andra Rush received just before Thanksgiving. The founder of Rush Trucking in Wayne, Rush was in Washington, D.C., last week as one of 15 business owners meeting with President Barack Obama to talk about the impending fiscal cliff facing the nation, if a budget deal isn't in place before the end of the year.

"I was very humbled and thrilled to have my voice heard," Rush said. "There were small business owners from all across America — different states, different size businesses."

The mandated tax increases and severe budget cuts that would result at the start of the new year without a budget agreement were the focus of the meeting, which lasted two hours, including time with staff.

"The president explained his view on the fiscal cliff. We expressed our views and concerns," Rush said. "Government revenues are historically at a low level and expenditures are at a high level — that gap has to be closed."

Both parties need to work together to resolve the budget situation, Rush said, adding certainty about the federal budget is needed by businesses.

"I hope that the Democrats and Republicans will come together and do what is right and best for the American people," Rush said.

Under the president's proposal, along with \$1 trillion in budget cuts, existing tax cuts for 98 percent of the population would remain in place, with a 2-percent tax increase for those making more than \$250,000.

"The tax formula would be the same as during the Clinton administration and lower than during the Reagan administration," Rush said. "The impact on the average taxpayer (of the higher tax rate) would be \$3,000 in discretionary income. That could severely impact us — my company depends on the auto industry."

The concern for Rush,

who would be personally impacted as part of the 2 percent paying higher taxes, is that the austere budget and higher taxes would chill the improving economy and trigger a recession.

It wasn't Rush's first time to talk with Obama — she had briefly met him during his first campaign and again in Washington in 2008-09 during the auto industry downturn.

"I'm on the minori-

ty business roundtable. Some of the White House staff was aware of my company," Rush said.

When he entered the meeting, Rush said Obama shook hands and spoke with each of the business owners.

"The president is very engaging and sincere. He listens very well and was well-versed," Rush said.

lrogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

Parks and Rec has something for everyone this holiday season

Whether you're looking to get into the holiday spirit or take a break from all the festivities and shopping, the Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department has something for everyone.

Upcoming holiday programs include:

- **Holiday Tree Lighting - Join Wayne Mayor Al Haidous and Santa Claus 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4,** at the Wayne Historical Museum to light the tree. St. Mary's Catholic Church Youth Choir will lead the gathering with Christmas songs.

At 7:15 p.m., the event will move into the historical museum to visit with Santa and have some cookies and hot chocolate served by the Wayne Beautification Committee.

The museum is located at One Town Square.

- **Cup of Christmas Tea - This annual event will be held on 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6,** at the Wayne Community Center. This year the proceeds will benefit the Business and Professional Women's Wayne Memorial High School Scholarship and the Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Youth Programs.

- **Lunch with Santa - Join the Jolly Old Elf for lunch 10:45 a.m. to**

noon Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Wayne Community Center. The cost is \$4 for Wayne and Westland residents and \$5 for non-residents, children 2 and under are free.

The cost includes pizza, salad, bread sticks, arts and crafts and face painting. Photo packages with Santa will be available. Tickets are limited.

Proceeds from the Santa lunch will benefit the figure skating program.

- **Kids Night Out - Need to finish some last minute shopping? Drop the kids off at the Wayne Community Center 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15.** Bring a lined bathing suit, towel and lots of energy. Activities will include swimming, arts and crafts, games, pizza and pop. The cost is \$13 for Wayne-Westland residents and \$16 for non-residents.

- **Golden Hour Christmas Party - The Wayne Golden Hour Christmas Party will be held at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 20,** at the Wayne Community Center. The event begins with a punch reception. Lunch will be served at noon. Tickets can be purchased for \$12 at the Wayne Community Center.

- **Member Appreciation Day - The Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Holiday Member Appreciation Day at the Wayne Community Center will be 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26.** Enjoy free usage of all amenities including the indoor pool, exercise club, ice arena, indoor track, dry/wet saunas, health snacks, gifts and more.

- **Family Winter Lock-In Visit - A Lock-in visit allows families to pay \$5 per visit per family and enjoy their choice of swimming, ice skating or using the indoor track. A visit is good 10 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday and 3:30-6 p.m. Sunday and is valid through March 31.**

- **Winter Walker/Skating/Swim Passes - Get 30 visits to use the track, go to open skate or open swim for \$30 for Wayne-Westland residents, \$60 for non-residents. Visits can be used through March 31.**

- **Unwind - Get a 10-minute chair massage or foot reflexology for \$5 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Wayne Community Center. The massage is provided by Strength and Spirit.**

Visit www.ci.wayne.mi.us or call (734) 721-7400 for more information.

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY | INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING



Independence Village

Home for the Holidays...
and All Year Long




Alzheimer's Seminar
Tuesday, December 4
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

"Know the Ten Signs of Alzheimer's Disease" presented by Roxanne Chang who is a member of the Speaker's Bureau of the Greater Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, and an elder law attorney in Plymouth. Any Social Workers who attend will be eligible for one CEU.

RSVP by December 2.

Winter Holiday Vocal Ensemble
Saturday, December 8
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

All you who are young at heart, come sip eggnog & enjoy holiday cookies while be entertained by the "Backbeat Boys" from Northville High School!

Christmas in Connecticut Feature Film
Friday, December 28
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Get cozy in front of the fireplace with your favorite movie theatre treats and join us for a heart-warming holiday matinee presented by Movies to U on the 80" big screen.

Receive One Month FREE!
Independence Village of Plymouth is wanting to give you One Month Free if you lease by December 31, 2012. Call 734-453-2600 for details. *Certain Conditions may apply.

It's that time of year when family and friends gather to embrace the season in the comforts of a warm, cozy environment they call home. Our residents enjoy these comforts year round with luxurious apartment homes, exceptional services and amenities, and a staff that's focused on residents' happiness and well-being. Be sure to visit us this season and share in the holiday cheer!

RSVP
Don't miss out on the fun!

Independence Village of Plymouth

14707 Northville Road, Plymouth, MI
South of 5 Mile Road

www.SeniorVillages.com

734-453-2600

©2012 Independence Villages are managed and lovingly cared for by Senior Village Management.

THINKING ABOUT...
A NEW FURNACE?
LENNOX

FREE ESTIMATES
(734) 525-1930

Our 38th Year!
UNITED TEMPERATURE
8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA
www.unitedtemperatureservices.com



Project Ace gets grant renewal

Project ACE (Access to College for Everyone) will receive a grant renewal to continue its efforts in embedding the collective impact framework with the overarching goal of increasing the college attainment rates within the community, according to the Michigan College Access Network.

Project ACE was one of four communities awarded a \$20,000 collective impact grant renewal. The network is expected to report annual progress on key metrics on their local college access and success dashboard and continue to develop and execute data-driven collaborative action plans based on community priority areas. Project ACE serves the communities of Inkster, Wayne-Westland and Romulus.

Eighteen communities will collectively receive \$474,000 through planning, startup and collective impact grants to support college access and success initiatives. The three types of grants are designed to help Michigan communities establish cross-sector collaborative leadership teams and action plans to dramatically increase their college-going rates.

"Serving as both an Advisory Board Member for Project ACE and as a business leader in the communities which Project ACE serves, I am especially proud of what our network has been able to accomplish to date," said James H. Allen, Fifth Third Bank officer. "This commitment will allow us to build upon the strong foundation we have established and move us further towards our goal of increasing college enrollment rates to 62 percent by the year 2015."

Local College Access Net-

works set goals focused on student success, establish a system of data gathering and analysis, report results, and hold partners accountable for performance. The LCANs coordinate programs, services and resources that lower the barriers preventing students, particularly low-income and first-generation college going students and students of color, from pursuing postsecondary educational opportunities.

"This was our most competitive round of LCAN grants to date, the caliber of the proposals submitted made it extremely difficult to decide which communities to fund," said Brandy Johnson, executive director of the Michigan College Access Network. "Each local college access network plays a critical role in sparking systematic change necessary to increase college readiness, participation and completion within their community."

Michigan has recently experienced a modest increase in its college attainment rate - from 35.6 percent of 25-to-64-year-olds possessing at least an associate's degree, to 36.4 percent. However, Michigan's rate still lags behind the national average of 37.9 percent.

It is MCAN's goal to increase Michigan's postsecondary educational attainment rate to 60 percent by the year 2025. With the newest planning grant recipients, MCAN now supports 51 local college access networks across the state. Funding from the State of Michigan made this round of MCAN grants possible.

For more information, visit www.micollegeaccess.org. MCAN also is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/micollegeaccess

Superintendent: Educational reform is 'runaway horse'

By Sue Buck
 Observer Staff Writer

The push to reform teacher evaluations is a stressful topic in Garden City Public Schools.

Garden City Superintendent Michelle Cline said that the fervor begun by Gov. Rick Snyder to reform public education has become "a runaway horse" with the Republican Party.

"They have taken it and run with it," said Cline, who spoke Thursday to members of the Garden City Kiwanis Club. "He was the driving force."

She acknowledged that some Republicans in the Legislature have said, "Hold on a minute."

"It is a crazy thing," Cline said.

In 2011, the governor and the Legislature decided that there should be a formal teacher evaluation tool. Previously teachers were evaluated every year until they receive tenure at four years. After the fourth year, evaluations are every third year.

The reform change calls for evaluations every year.

"Last summer, if you did not have a teacher contract negotiated and signed, you had to start (the new procedure) right away," she said. "In Garden City, it was a huge cultural change for our teaching staff."

Ratings changed from the previous satisfactory or non-satisfactory grades to highly effective, effective, minimally effective and ineffective.

Garden City Public Schools is among 14 districts across the state that are participating in a pilot study of educator evaluation involving four different methods. It's using the Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching along with Montrose Community Schools in Genesee County and the Port Huron Area district in St. Clair County.

The work done in the pilot



Garden City Superintendent Michelle Cline

districts will help the state understand the feasibility of each tool and learn about the types and uses of data generated from the tools. Garden City school officials were trained in the use of the Danielson model just prior to the start of the new school year.

"It's not very different from what we had used," Cline said. "We used Charlotte Danielson as the basis for our evaluations, so there's not a big difference from what we had been doing."

Cline said that Danielson did a lot of work in improving teacher performance, but not to evaluate them. A rubric

defines different levels of effectiveness.

"We were one of the few in the state of Michigan who had to utilize the tool," she said.

Administrators have to be consistent in their evaluations. A major criticism was the time spent by administrators for more intense teacher evaluation, which "takes time away from everything," she said.

She agreed that teachers need to be held accountable, but a one-time test is not accurate.

"It makes our teachers very uncomfortable," Cline said.

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



LET CENTURION BEAUTIFY YOUR HOME

 <p>TILE & GROUT CLEANING</p> <p>\$25.00 OFF</p>	 <p>CARPET CLEANING</p> <p>ONLY \$24.95</p>	 <p>UPHOLSTERY CLEANING</p> <p>10% OFF</p>
 <p>If Cleaning 400^{sq} ft. or More Over time, soils take residence in the porous surfaces of your tile and grout. Let us remove them with our safe and effective cleaning process. Call for details.</p>	 <p>Per Room (2 Room Minimum) Why wait. Let us pre-treat spots and traffic areas, then steam with truck-mounted extraction equipment for the very best results. \$5.00 fuel service charge applies. Call for details.</p>	 <p>No Minimum Requirement Enjoy 10% off your upholstery cleaning by Centurion. Any and all fabrics, leather, all of your fine furniture cleaned and restored. Call for details.</p>

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!






Must mention this ad. Call for details.

800.722.8855

www.CenturionServices.com



scan to have these specials on your phone.




Woman's Advocate

WOMEN AND PELVIC HEALTH

The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth

Wednesday, Dec. 12

6-8 p.m.



REGISTER NOW!

Registration is required.


Please call 734-655-1980.

Refreshments and giveaways.



Featured Speaker:

Paul R. Makela, MD
 Medical Director, Gynecological Robotic Surgery, St. Mary Mercy Hospital

Approximately one-third of U.S. women will have a pelvic health problem by age 60. This includes stress urinary incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, abnormally heavy menstrual periods and uterine fibroids. These conditions become more common with age. Pregnancy, childbirth or being overweight can stretch and weaken muscles that support your pelvic organs. Dr. Makela will discuss pelvic health, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment options.



The da Vinci® Surgical System is a sophisticated robotic platform designed to enable our surgeons to perform precise minimally invasive procedures.

REMARKABLE MEDICINE. REMARKABLE CARE.

Write on ...

Authors tackle NaNoWriMo's 500,000-word challenge

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Somewhere in Redford Friday, budding writers gathered for a "one last push party" and champagne toast at midnight to say farewell to the month of novel writing.

At 11:59:59 Friday, National Novel Writing Month, a "fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to novel writing" event ended. While how many of the hundreds of thousands of people who logged on for NaNoWriMo finished remains to be seen, Cheryl Vatcher Martin already knew she was a winner on Thursday.

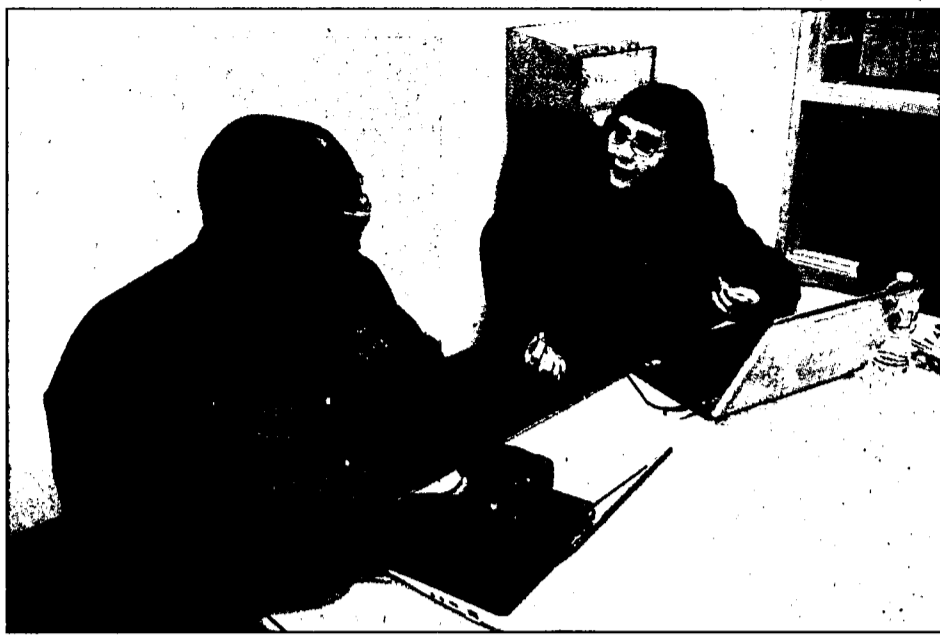
"That was my goal, I had to win early this month," said the Canton resident who was at the William P. Faust Public Library Thursday evening for the final NaNoWriMo write-in. "I hit 50,752 words and became a winner on Nov. 25."

Joining her was Terry Sample of Westland who needed less than 1,000 to hit the 50,000-word count required by NaNoWriMo.

"In 2011, I signed up, registered and never typed a word," said Sample. "I'm very bad with procrastination and a lack of self-discipline. I had 49,019 words when I walked in here tonight. My daughter was very instrumental in keeping me online."

Keeping track

NaNoWriMo, which got its start in 1999 with 21 writers, requires participants write a 50,000-word, or approximately 175-page novel, by 11:59:59 Nov. 30. Its web-



Cheryl Vatcher Martin of Canton talks to Terry Sample of Westland about writing during the final National Novel Writing Month drop-in at the William P. Faust Library Thursday.

site helps participants track where they are and counts the words in their completed manuscript. Those who meet the word count are declared winners, but there's nothing attached to that other than a feeling of accomplishment.

Last year, 256,618 participants sign up for NaNoWriMo and 36,843 of them crossed the 50-word finish line by the midnight deadline.

Andy Schuck, head of library programs and adult services, started NaNoWriMo at the Westland library three years ago. Fellow librarian Marilyn Kwik had listened to a program about it and suggested he check it out. He did and introduced NaNoWriMo to patrons.

"We like to open cultural doors for people, this one has seemed to stick," he said. "We have people ask about it, it's almost

like a cult. They say about 10 percent of the people who enlist get to 50,000 words. It's more about the journey than getting to the finish line."

Schuck isn't certain how many of the 12 writers who showed up for the NaNoWriMo kick-off event, were still doing it. The Thursday evening write-ins have been drop-in programs.

"It's a daunting task, and people need to do their writing where they feel comfortable," he said. "For some, that's the library."

Vatcher, a published author, understands that. She started doing NaNoWriMo in 2004, but didn't meet the word count for the first time until 2006. She was on track to have this year's submission done by Nov. 14, but her computer died and she had to start over.

"I don't think any of us are frustrated writers,

we all just love to write," said Vatcher who runs the writer's club at the library.

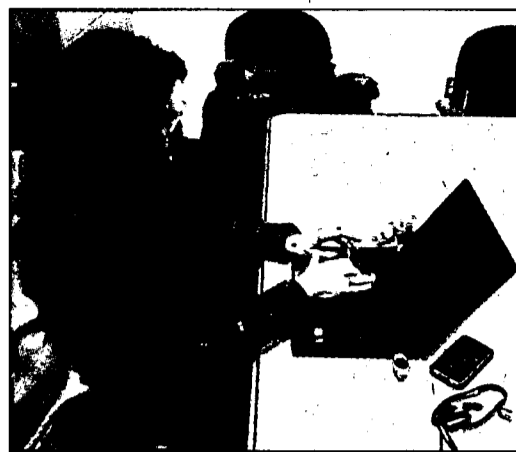
"We're all writers and have stories in our heads and without this we wouldn't write them," added Diana Hirsch of Canton, who was almost 10,000 words short of finishing her novel by the deadline.

Requirements

Writers need to type at least 1,667 words a day to hit 50,000 by the deadlines. The NaNoWriMo website tracks participants' work online and lets them know what their word count is.

"The website says that on Day 29, I should be at 48,333 words," Hirsch said. "I need to do 5,815 words a day to finish. Last year I actually wrote 50,000 plus words, I know I can do that this year."

Each of the three NaNoWriMo partici-



Snufflet and Fin keep Diana Hirsch of Canton company as she works on her novel

pants had a different topic for their novels. Hirsch was writing about a woman who struggles with weight loss her whole life and how factors in her childhood affected that. Martin was writing a science fiction piece about time travel back to the Civil War. Sample was doing a murder mystery.

They all admitted that they started writing at a young age. Martin started at age 8, while Hirsch remembers doing a picture book about Noah's Arc when she was four. Sample used his father's manual typewriter to write a play for his kindergarten class.

They helped each other as much as they spent writing during the final two-hour write-in. Hirsch shared her idea of not using contractions in her story.

Pointers

"Someone told me last year not to use contractions. Don't is one word, but do not is two," said Hirsch who has two stuffed NaNo pals - Snufflet and Fin - who keep her company when she writes. "My husband

gave them to me to motivate me."

Martin pointed out the need to write more than the required 50,000 words. The counter she said isn't accurate. Hirsch agreed. Last year, the counter added 33 words to her total.

Martin already sees this year's NaNoWriMo novel becoming a trilogy, and Sample plans to start writing his second novel in this month. The subject is the "White Hurricane," a massive storm that hit the Great Lakes in 1913.

"It'll be a big tragedy with a fictional love story as the backdrop, like what John Cameron did with *Titanic*," he said.

And even though she needed to write more than 10,000 words in the closing hours, Hirsch was confident of finishing in time.

"I've been doing a lot of writing the last few days, it's easier to write 5,000 a day at the end," she said. "I've told enough people about it, I have to do this. I wrote about it on Facebook and my blog."

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751

MOVE TO WALTONWOOD BY DECEMBER 31ST AND WE'LL FREEZE YOUR RENT AT 2012 RATES!

Don't Get Left Out in the Cold this Winter

Move to Waltonwood, Where the Only Thing Freezing is Our Rates!

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

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

Call and schedule a tour at Waltonwood Carriage Park today - Bring a friend!
(734) 386-0811

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

WALTONWOOD

Redefining Retirement Living®

SINGH

Holiday Stop & Shop
FREE Admission!
December 8th
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
at Waltonwood Cherry Hill
Enjoy stress free holiday shopping.
Candles • Crafts • Jewelry • And more!
Refreshments & community tours.
RSVP today
(734) 335-1554

CARRIAGE PARK

Independent Living and Licensed Assisted Living
(734) 386-0811
2000 N Canton Center Road

CHERRY HILL

Independent Living, Licensed Assisted Living and Memory Care
(734) 335-1554
42600 Cherry Hill

*Rate freeze offer applies only to Independent Living move-ins by December 31, 2012. See community for complete details.

www.Waltonwood.com

Wayne County judge shifts residency, owes property taxes in Birmingham

By Jay M. Grossman
Staff Writer

Before Dana Hathaway takes the bench on the Wayne County Circuit Court, she might want to get her house in order. Two homes, actually.

Hathaway owes Birmingham Schools approximately \$6,500 in additional taxes, plus penalties and interest to Oakland Coun-

ty and the city of Birmingham after she rescinded a house at 174 Catalpa as her principal residence for the past three years.

Birmingham Billing Manager Janet Laing said Hathaway purchased the house in 2010 and had been paying taxes at the principal residence rate. She came into Birmingham City Hall on Nov. 5 with an affidavit declaring the

Catalpa Street house as a non-principal residence.

Laing said Hathaway has to pay the additional taxes because in Michigan, a property owner is not allowed to declare two homes as their primary residence.

Hathaway was elected in November to serve a six-year term on the Wayne County Third Circuit Court. She's the daugh-

ter of Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway, who's being investigated by the FBI over allegations of mortgage fraud.

Dana Hathaway declined to comment on this story. She's listing a house in Grosse Pointe Farms as her principal residence, a necessary move since she ran for office in Wayne County.

According to real estate

records, she and her husband purchased the house in March 2010 for about \$310,000. It was placed into foreclosure by the previous owner. The 3,657-square-foot house was built in 2000.

It's now back on the back on the market with a listed selling price of \$560,000.

jgrossman@hometownlife.com
(586) 826-7030



For the past three years, newly-elected Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Dana Hathaway said this Birmingham house was her primary residence. Earlier this month, she changed her tune and now lists a house in Grosse Pointe Farms as her primary residence.

Everything you want...



AVON

the company for women

Westland Mall, 35000 Warren Road
Westland • 734-326-4266

Jill and Leanne Lezotte,
Independent Sales Representatives

CHRISTMAS COUPON SPECIALS

- Bubble Bath 24 oz...\$4.99 each
- Roll On Deodorants...\$1.89 each
- Perfumed Talc & Skin Softeners...3/\$5.00
- Full Size MT & Silicone Glove Hand Creams or Eye Make Up Remover...\$.99 each
- Glimmerslicks Brow, Eye & Lip Liners...\$3.49 each

EXPIRES 12-31-12



Shop & Dine Westland

Shop & Dine Westland

Everything You Want ~ Everything You Need

**Over 160 Stores & Restaurants • Big Retailers & Unique Local Shops
Easy Access from I-96, I-275 & I-94 • Easy No-Hassle Parking**



WESTLAND
An All AMERICAN City

www.CityofWestland.com/shop-dine

Friends invite families to mill lighting

Wayne County Parks and the Friends of Nankin Mills is inviting families to the 25th annual Family Holiday Fest and Mill Lighting at Nankin Mills on Saturday, Dec. 8.

From 4 to 5:15 p.m., there will be several holiday crafts, games, prizes and refreshments in the Nankin Mills Inter-

pretive Center.

Immediately following, there will be a short outdoor ceremony with the mill lighting and sing-a-long, ending at 6 p.m.

Throughout the program, children will have the opportunity to visit Santa.

There is no charge for the mill lighting and

Santa visit, however, there is a cost of \$6 per child and \$2 per adult to participate in crafts and games. Space is limited, and preregistration is required. Call Wayne County Parks at (734) 261-1990.

The Nankin Mills Interpretive Center is located at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland.



Christmas caroling will be part of the festivities at lighting of Nankin Mills Saturday, Dec. 8.



Everything you need – Right here in Westland

SINCE 1968
WESTLAND
DOG FOOD COMPANY

37687 Ford Road • Westland • 734-728-5244
1 1/2 Miles East of I-275 • Open Mon.-Sat. 9-7; Sun. 11-5

Get Your Pets Favorite Gifts & Keep Them Looking & Smelling Great!
Best Prices Around on EVERYTHING you need to keep Fido happy & healthy!

- Beds • Crates • Collars • Leashes • Toys • Training Needs • Apparel & more!
- Fresh Bales of Clean, Dry Straw... Make Sure Outdoor Pets Have Warm, Clean Winter Beds!
- USA Made Dog Treats, Rawhide & Biscuits
- Baked Dog Cookies & Biscuits with All Natural Ingredients/ Joint Supplements
- Wild Birdseed (40 lb. bags) • Thistle • Suet & Peanuts

All Holistic & Grain Free Dog Foods on Sale!

\$10.00 OFF

any \$50 purchase

Excludes food.

May not be combined with other coupons. Expires Dec. 16, 2012

\$5.00 OFF

any 15 lb. or larger BAG OF DRY DOG FOOD

from: Canidae • Taste of the Wild • Fromms • Diamond • EVO • Natural Balance • Royal Canin • Pro Pet • Blue Buffalo Wilderness

May not be combined with other coupons. Limit 1 with this coupon. Expires Dec. 16, 2012

\$5.00 OFF

ANY FULL SERVICE GROOMING

Includes Bathing, Blow Dry, Haircut, Nail Trim & Ear Cleaning

May not be combined with other coupons. Expires Dec. 16, 2012

NAIL TRIM \$2.00

Save \$3.00

No Purchase Necessary

May not be combined with other coupons. Expires Dec. 16, 2012

WESTLAND DOG FOOD

Now Makes Low Cost DOG GROOMING

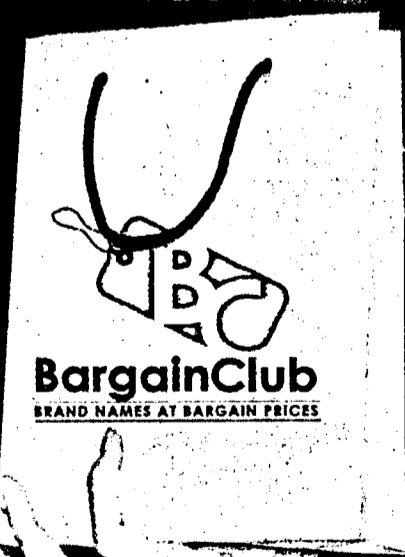
Available **7 DAYS A WEEK**

Call 734-728-5244 or 734-329-3357 For Appointment

@bargainclub
MO-SA 11AM-9PM, SU 11AM-7PM facebook.com/bargainclubmi


GRAND OPENING

Brand Names at Bargain Prices




BargainClub
BRAND NAMES AT BARGAIN PRICES

NO MEMBERSHIP FEES




Arizona Ice Tea 23 Fl Oz **50¢**

Limit 6 per family, while supplies last.



Webkinz by Ganz **\$2.95**

While supplies last.



4 LB Domino Sugar **\$1.95**

Limit 4 per family, while supplies last.

POLO NAUTICA Tommy Bahama ROCKPORT JONES NEW YORK
and hundreds of other brands

MJR DIGITAL CINEMAS
It's More Fun at MJR!

GIFT CARD

www.MJRTHEATRES.com

FAMILY, FRIENDS & ALL YOUR ACQUAINTANCES THIS YEAR ENTERTAIN THEM!

NO EXPIRATION DATES OR FEES! EVER!

MJR GIFT CARDS ARE SOLD IN INCREMENTS OF \$10 TO \$100. AVAILABLE ONLINE AT MJRTHEATRES.COM OR AT ANY MJR DIGITAL CINEMA BOX OFFICE.

With 8 LOCATIONS to serve you, there's always an MJR DIGITAL CINEMA near YOU!

- ADRIAN DIGITAL CINEMA 10
3150 N. Adrian Hwy., Adrian, MI 48106
517.265.3077
- BRIGHTON TOWNE SQUARE DIGITAL CINEMA 20
6200 Hartung Blvd., Brighton, MI 48116
810.227.6327
- CHESTERFIELD CROSSING DIGITAL CINEMA 19
70675 Central Avenue, Chesterfield, MI 48041
586.598.2505
- MARKETPLACE DIGITAL CINEMA 20
30400 Van Dyke Ave., Sterling Heights, MI 48312
586.264.1533
- PARTRIDGE CREEK DIGITAL CINEMA 19
17400 Hill Road, Clinton Twp., MI 48035
586.263.0059
- SOUTHGATE DIGITAL CINEMA 20
15651 Tremont Road, Southgate, MI 48193
734.284.8083
- WATERFORD DIGITAL CINEMA 19
7601 Highland Road, Waterford, MI 48327
248.666.7908
- WESTLAND GRAND DIGITAL CINEMA 19
2000 N. Wayne Street, Westland, MI 48186
734.798.2668

www.MJRTHEATRES.com Find us on Facebook

A MICHIGAN COMPANY
Locally Owned & Operated

Project brings warmth, cheer to veterans, soldiers

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Friday may be packing day, but there's still plenty to do for St. John's Veterans Project volunteers. Much like Santa Claus, they've made a list and are checking it twice to be sure they have everything they need to bring a smile to veterans at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, a bit of warmth and food to homeless veterans and a bit of home to soldiers serving overseas.

In its sixth year, the project aims to give back to the veterans who have given so much for their country. The group out of St. John's Lutheran Church and School in Westland has already distributed 122 winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves. And, God willing, they will deliver 125 boxes for men and 10 bags for women at the hospital, 100 boxes to a center that works with homeless veterans and send 50 boxes to active duty soldiers. "It's like giving a lit-

tle bit of a thank you for all they've given us," said Kendra Schaffer, who chairs the project. "When we go to the hospital, we see how important this is. Some of the patients, we've been told, don't get any visitors. We go in and thank them for giving us our freedom.

"It's amazing how appreciative they are of the things we take for granted," she added. But the state's sluggish economy has made getting donations difficult this year. With less than a week to go, the project is in need of cash donations to buy 50 pairs of men's pajama bottoms and another 10 pairs of women's lounge pants. "We have no clothing donated for the women yet," Schaffer said. "We make up special bags for the women."

The project started with providing boxes for the patients. The boxes contain pajama bottoms, T-shirts, socks, underwear, playing cards, puzzle books and other personal care items.

The boxes are assembled at St. John's School, where students wrap them in Christmas paper to resemble presents. They also pitch in to form a human assembly line to help load a truck, donated by Glenn and Karen Stockdale of Westland, and go to the hospital, where they help put the packages on carts and deliver them to patients.

"We hear from the veterans how amazing it is to see young people take time out of their lives to do this," said Schaffer's husband Fred. "They know that it's something good they're doing, but it also instills in young people how important freedom is and at what cost it comes."

Among the veterans they encounter is one known only as "Cookie Monster." He's the longest resident at the hospital and sits at the door to the activities room. He always asks them if they have cookies.

"I think he's in his 80s," Schaffer said. "We're not allowed to bring food in,

but we always sneak in cookies for Cookie Monster."

Over the years, the project has expanded. The first thing added was boxes for homeless veterans. Those packages are also wrapped in Christmas paper and include canned meals, desserts, crackers and other food and personal care items.

"We want every one of them to have at least one day of three good meals, so we provide three different pull tab foods — soup, meat and a meal," Schaffer said.

Volunteers had hoped to be able to donate 100 blankets and tarps this year, but fell short of the mark. They were only able to do 25. Three years ago, the volunteers started sending packages to active duty troops. The first two years, they had a member of the congregation who had someone stationed overseas and they adopted the soldier. This year they're planning on doing 50 boxes, but are having a hard time getting names

and addresses, Schaffer said.

They also are looking for such items as hand warmers, flavorings for water and beef jerky to put in the boxes. The school children make homemade cards for the all of the boxes and church members are given envelopes to put their own personal notes in for the troops. They also make beaded candy canes with a card about the story of the candy cane that's given to the patients. Real candy canes are used for the troops and the homeless veterans.

Help has come from many places. Buffalo Wild Wings hosted a fundraiser and is providing food for packing day. The Westland Kmart store has been "wonderful about giving us things at sale prices." Thrivent Financial of Western Wayne County has been a "huge supporter," providing \$1,600.

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Livonia has "given us a

ton of food and goods we can use," and Ken and Carol Sharp donated boxes of magazines and more than 100 pairs of gloves, Schaffer said.

"One lady made 300 scarves for us," she added.

But more is needed, if the project is to get everything it needs by Friday. Donations can be dropped off at the school at 2602 Wayne Road, north of Glenwood. They also can be made by using the PayPal option on the project's website at www.stjohnsveteransproject.com.

People can also call Schaffer at (734) 891-8575 or her husband Fred at (734) 891-8166.

"I thank God we've been given the ability to do this," Schaffer said. "I hope we can continue to do this, but it wouldn't happen without all of the volunteers. We're a committee of eight, but on packing day we have 20 or more and it's the same on delivery day."

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751

Volunteers needed to help with TSA's Bank Day

Volunteers are needed to help sell cards that will put a hot meal on the table of home-bound seniors on Christmas Day.

Each year The Senior Alliance holds Bank Day in which volunteers sell \$5 holiday cards at banks around the area. The \$5 represents the cost for delivering a holiday meal to a home-bound senior, and the card, signed by the donor, is included with the holiday meal.

This year The Senior Alliance will hold Bank Day on Friday, Dec. 14.

The seniors receive food through the Meals on Wheels program which provides a hot meal Monday through Friday. However, the program does not operate on holidays. The Senior Alliance Hol-

iday Meals Program was created to provide hot, delivered meals to home-bound seniors on four holidays out of the year, including Christmas.

The Holiday Meals Program is financed entirely through private donations, as well as various fund-raising activities, such as Holiday Card Program, Bank Day and The Senior Alliance's Annual Golf Classic.

To volunteer on Bank Day, or to make a donation to SAHM, contact Heather Pinage at hpinage@tsalink.org or (734) 727-2063.

The Senior Alliance (TSA) is a 501(c)(3) organization. Its mission is to help older adults remain as independent as possible within the commu-

nity of their choice. TSA provides services free of charge to thousands of senior citizens and caregivers across southern and western Wayne County, including the home delivered meals, holiday meals to home-bound seniors, care management, information and assistance, along with other crucial wellness and life supporting services.

The Senior Alliance, with offices at 3850 Second St., Suite 201, Wayne, provides services to western Wayne County, including the communities of Wayne, Westland, Garden City, Canton, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Livonia, Redford and Northville. For more information, call (800) 815-1112.

Help area children have a happy holiday season

Scoop the Newshound is asking local families to join the O&E Media toy drive to benefit youth served by Methodist Children's Home Society and Orchards Children's Services.

"Both organizations help protect abused and neglected children by providing housing, education and other services," said Choya Jordan, O&E Media marketing manager and project organizer. "Please consider donating a new unwrapped gift this year. Your gift will help brighten a youth's holiday season."

Donate a new unwrapped toy and you will receive a voucher for a free Buddy's four-square cheese pizza.

Drop off gifts at these O&E Media and partner locations:

- Plymouth Office and Distribution Center, 41304 Concept Drive (east of Haggerty between Schoolcraft and Plymouth roads).
- South Lyon Office, 101 N. Lafayette (corner of Pontiac Trail and Lafay-



ette in downtown South Lyon).

- Southfield Chamber of Commerce, 24300 Southfield Road, Suite 101 (248) 557-6661 (from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays).
- The Birmingham Community House, 380 Bates Street, in downtown Birmingham (248) 644-5832 (from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays).

All gifts must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7.

This is the second year the O&E has sponsored a toy drive to benefit these local organizations and help brighten the holidays for area children.

The Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford has been successfully helping children for 95 years, but right now foster children are in dire straits. The

cost of caring for these children has increased, but state funding has not. In these hard economic times, these children need help now, more than ever.

Last year MCHS served more than 270 children through residential, foster care, adoption and literacy programs.

Orchards Children's Services has been a beacon of hope for children and families for more than 50 years.

Orchards seeks to protect and nurture children and youth by providing shelter, sustenance, life and educational skills and opportunities. Orchards programs and services touch children from birth to young adulthood, and the agency remains committed to them every step of the way.

Orchards was also recognized in 2011 as one of three agencies nationwide to receive the highest score in every category of assessment from the Council on Accreditation. This is a national accrediting body that demands the highest standards of service and care.

For more information contact Choya Jordan via email at cbjordan@hometownlife.com.

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland, 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before the date of **December 20, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.** for the following (no exceptions will be made for late filings):

Power Stretchers for a Type 3 ambulance

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, 48185, or at www.cityofwestland.com. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Robert Arbini, Deputy Chief at (734) 467-3252. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Robert Arbini
Deputy Chief

Publish: November 30, 2012

AT8791829 2x3

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

REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 19, 2012

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for December 19, 2012 has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items.

The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on January 16, 2013 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI at 5:30 p.m.

Publish December 2, 2012

AT8791607 2x2.5

"The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Wayne Masonic Temple Association, a Michigan non-profit corporation, will be held at the corporate office at 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland Michigan on Tuesday December 11, 2012 at eight o'clock P.M. for the election of officers and such other business as may properly come before said meeting."

Publish: November 25, 2012

AT_060879118_2x1.4

Jack Demmer Ford



is pleased to announce the arrival of **Sue Sharkas**. Sue would like to invite all of her clients to see her at her new home.

734-641-6138
ssharkas1@yahoo.com



37300 Michigan Ave. • Wayne • MI • 734.721.2600

AT-8791833



The Center for Joint Replacement

Re-Discover Freedom

Learn more at our **FREE Education Seminar** 6 to 8 p.m. St. Mary Mercy Livonia

Wednesday, January 23, Classroom 10

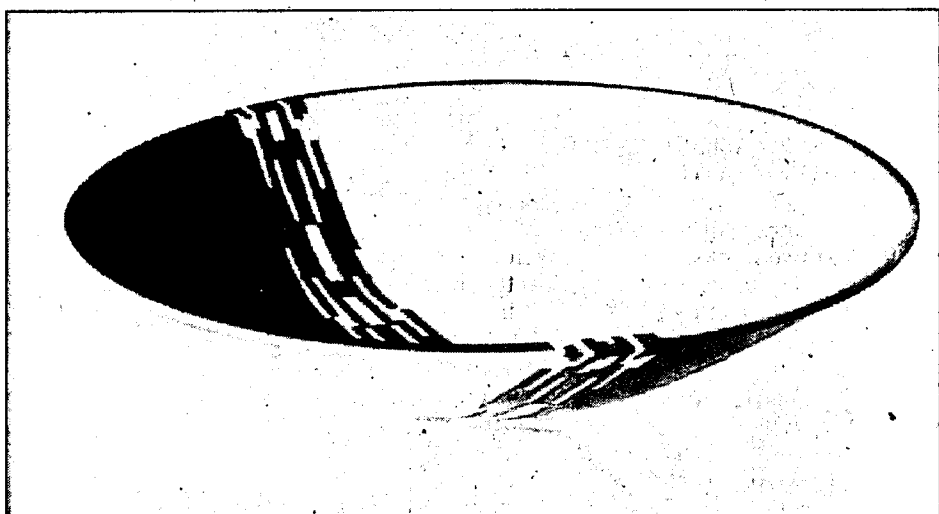
To register call 734-655-2345 smarymercy.org

Are you living in pain? Now is the time to **Rediscover your mobility.**

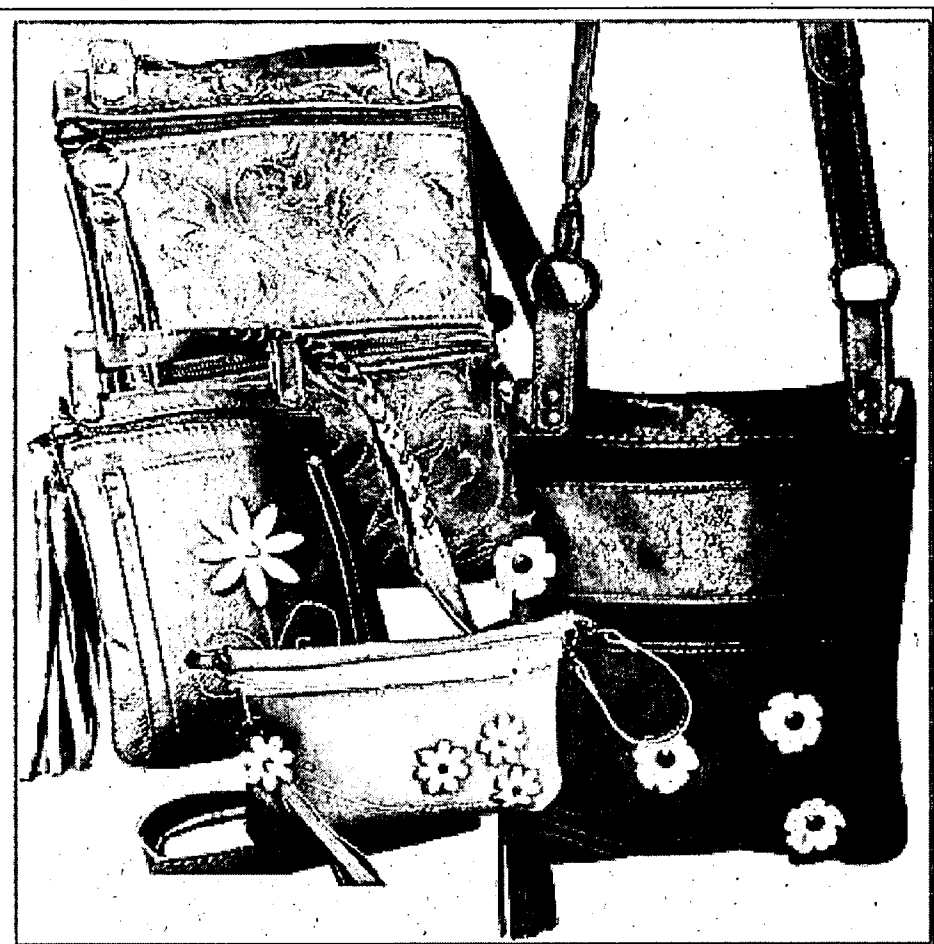
The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital has a comprehensive team approach which results in shorter hospital stays, better pain management and faster recovery.

AT-8790960

Support local business, state economy



The Huron Valley Council for the Arts in Highland features a variety of works by Michigan artists. Seen here is Eclipse by Susan Murdock.



Bazl bags by Bev Larsen can be purchased at Huron Valley Council for the Arts in Highland.

By Mary Quinley
Correspondent

The next time you head out to tackle the holiday shopping crowds, think Michigan. From apparel and fine art to jewelry, edibles and toys, the possibilities are endless of made-in-the-state products appropriate for holiday gift giving. An added perk — you'll be supporting Michigan's economy.

Here are some local businesses that feature Michigan made merchandise.

The holidays are extra special at the Huron Valley Council for the Arts in Highland. Gift seekers will find a vast selection of "pottery, jewelry, paintings, note cards, glassware, baskets, sweaters, scarves, purses, quilts and more," said Dianne Deinek, events and communications committee member.

The gallery will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each Saturday through Dec. 21 for the Festival of Trees Holiday Artist Market.

Got pets? Maestros Dog



MARY QUINLEY

Wine, hard cider and a non-alcoholic sparkling cider produced by The Northville Winery make great holiday gifts.

Haus in Bloomfield Hills features made-in-house goodies for furry friends. "I make my own chicken jerky. Dogs love it — and people do, too!" said Ken Platt, who is co-owner

with his wife Janet. Custom gift baskets, as well as chicken breast chips, apple chips, cheese bits with flaxseed, pup cakes and bone cakes, are other options.

In Plymouth, the Three Dog Bakery also specializes in edibles, like cookies, biscuits and personalized birthday cakes, for dogs and cats. Custom orders are welcome.

If you're in the market for a diamond ring, consider Jeffrey Allen Jewelers in Milford. "The stone setting and all of the repair work is done by me," owner Jeffrey Orzech said. Halo and pave, he said, are the most popular settings, especially for customers looking for engagement rings.

Michigan goodies

A stroll through Canton's Holiday Market reveals a variety of state-made goodies, from Petoskey-based Amer-

ican Spoon Preserves and Jams and 15 flavors of Detroit's Towne Club Soda, to bottles of Saginaw's Billy Bones BBQ sauces and rubs and Michigan wines and beers. Made-in-Canton Mama Mucci's Pasta and Pasta Sauce is also available.

Other area grocers, like Hiller's in Northville, Plymouth and West Bloomfield; the Westborn Market in Livonia and Berkley; and Livonia's Joe's Produce, sell a wide variety of Michigan edibles, beverages and sweet treats. Kroger, Meijer and Costco carry products (salsa, guacamole and tortilla chips) from the Ferndale-based Garden Fresh.

When Maggie Cytacki and friends visited The


Northville Winery recently, the foursome sampled wine and shopped.

"I bought a bottle of red, raspberry-flavored sweet wine and a CD produced by local musicians. It was nice that part of the proceeds for both items went to charity," said Cytacki of Livonia.

Hard cider and a non-alcoholic sparkling cider are other festive holiday gifts produced by the winery.


Cytacki, as well as Bernadette Diroff, like to purchase Sanders products from Aco in Westland for out-of-state relatives. "My daughter in Florida — who used to live in Michigan — loves Sanders hot fudge. I like

Please see SHOPPING, A12




I WANT YOU

Attention WWII Veterans and Defense Workers!!

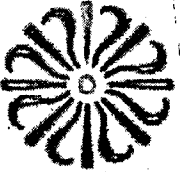


We Can Do It!

John Glenn High School students are interviewing WWII veterans and defense workers as part of an oral history project. These interviews will be videotaped and submitted to the Library of Congress. Participants will also receive a copy at the WWII USO Dance on May 8th to share with their families. To have your story preserved for posterity please contact Michele Anderson at 734 419-2300 or AndersonM@wwcsd.net




Michigan Humanities Council
our stories, our lives



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Sponsored by **JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL**
36105 Marquette, Westland, MI



The Wayne Westland WWII USO Dance and Oral History Project is made possible in part by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

SHOPPING

Continued from page A11

to send the fudge to her and her family for Christmas," said Diroff of Westland.

Fun Stuff! in Birmingham carries a slew of varied Michigan products. "We have poly clay costume jewelry that is whimsical and colorful; the 1st & Roll football board game made by a father and son team; and dysfunctional chair sculptures — you can't sit on them — made of cast bronze and steel," owner Denise Kulak said.

Toys too!

Another Birmingham shop, Adventures in Toys, also carries the 1st & Roll game and wooden baby blocks made in the state.

Foam football and soccer balls by Poof-Slinky® in Plymouth make great stocking stuffers. The balls are available at major chain stores.

If you wander into Sisters Art and Gifts at Westland Shopping Center, chances are you'll meet a Michigan-based artist or two to help you pick out a gift. "Everything I do, I incorporate poetry," artist Michelle E. Alford said. Poetry books, plaques and frames and stuffed animals are some of her creations.

The shop overflows with handmade items like hats, mittens, glassware, jewelry, coasters and paintings. Artist Kathy Sheeran talked about her textured paintings that hang on the walls of Sisters: "Everything comes from my heart right onto the canvass." Also on display are pictures of local historical sites — Michigan Central Station and Grande Ballroom, to name a few — created by photographer Richard Spitzer.

Kilwin's (there are shops in Plymouth and

- Maestros Dog Haus, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 341-3731
- Detroit Popcorn Co., Redford, (313) 387-1600, www.detroitpopcorn.com
- Adventures in Toys, Birmingham, (248) 646-5550, www.advintoys.com
- Holiday Market, Canton, (734) 844-2200; Royal Oak (248) 541-1414, www.holidaymarkets.com
- Gigi's Mode, Plymouth, (734) 254-8774, www.gigismode.webs.com
- Victorian Lace Elegance, Farmington Hills, (248) 474-4690, www.sandisangels.com
- The Wine Guy, Bloomfield Township, (248) 977-4893
- Rude Trendz, Westland, (734) 728-1012, www.rude-trendz.net
- Your Michigan Connection, Northville, (248) 380-9292, www.yourmiconn.com
- Zodiac Ranch, Milford,

- (248) 202-0178, www.backtobackalpaca.com
- Park West Gallery, Southfield, (800) 521-9654, www.parkwestgallery.com
- Just Baked, several locations, www.justbakedshop.com
- Jeffrey Allen Jewelers, Milford, (248) 684-4483
- Basket Kreations, Plymouth, (734) 354-9156, www.basketkreationsandgifts.com
- The Old Winery Farmers Market, Farmington, www.theoldwinerymarket.com
- Fun Stuff!, Birmingham, (248) 760-9749, www.oth-erfunstuff.com
- Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Birmingham, (248) 644-0866, www.bb-art.org
- Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, (877) GO CRANBROOK, www.cranbrook.edu
- Achatz Handmade Pie Co., Beverly Hills, (248) 594-

- 6111, www.achatzpies.com
- The Northville Winery, (248) 344-2131, www.thenorthvillwinery.com
- Main Street Art, Milford, (248) 684-1004, www.mainstreetartmilford.com
- Huron Valley Council for the Arts, Highland, (248) 889-8660, www.huronvalleyarts.org
- Hiller's, Northville (248) 344-4001, Plymouth (734) 420-5555 and West Bloomfield (248) 851-7100, www.hillers.com
- Westborn Market, Livonia (734) 524-1000, Berkley (248) 547-1000, www.westbornmarket.com
- Keg & Wine, Redford, (313) 538-1888
- The Rust Belt Market, Ferndale, www.rustbelt-market.com
- State of Mind Gallery, Northville, www.stateof-mindgallery.com
- Art-is-in Market, Twelve Oaks Mall, Novi, (248) 380-

- 4992 and Laurel Park Place Mall, Livonia, (734) 432-9177, www.artisanmarket.com
- ACO Hardware, 12-plus stores in the area; go to www.acohardware.com
- Busch's, www.buschs.com (locations in Plymouth, Farmington Hills, Livonia, South Lyon and more)
- Kroger, www.krogers.com (locations throughout metro area)
- Meijer, www.meijer.com (locations throughout metro area)
- Northville Public Library, (248) 348-5001, www.northvillelibrary.org
- Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, (248) 898-5000, www.beaumont.edu
- Providence Hospital, Southfield, (248) 849-3000, www.stjohnprovidence.org
- Three Dog Bakery, Plymouth, (734) 453-9663, www.threedogbakeryplymouth.com

- McK's Wine Shoppe, Garden City, (734) 427-7071
- Sisters Art and Gifts, Westland Shopping Center, no phone or web address
- After the Rain, Milford, (248) 685-9100
- City Style, Berkley, (248) 548-2489, www.citystyleinc.com
- The Shirt Box, Farmington Hills, (248) 851-6770, www.theshirtbox.com
- Lafayette Party Store, South Lyon, (248) 437-3666
- Joe's Produce and Gourmet Market, Livonia, (248) 477-4333, www.joesproduce.com
- Kilwin's, Plymouth (734) 404-6719; Birmingham (248) 646-5940, www.kilwins.com
- Guernsey Farms Dairy, Northville, (248) 349-1466, www.guernseymilksdairy.com
- Poof-Slinky®, Plymouth, (734) 454-9552, www.poof-slinky.com

Where to find made in Michigan products



Your Michigan Connection in downtown Northville carries gift baskets filled with made in Michigan goodies.

Birmingham) is a great spot to purchase sweet treats for chocoholics. For the eggnog lovers on your list, pick up a carton or two of the holiday drink at Guernsey Farms Dairy. The made-in-Northville beverage and almost three dozen flavors of ice cream, includ-

ing Blue Moon, Chocolate Chip and Butter Pecan, are also available at many neighborhood grocers. According to Stella Delap, owner of Basket Kreations in Plymouth, "gift boxes are the most popular" for holiday shoppers at her store. The Love from Michigan box,

filled with pretzels, Fayo and Sanders products, cherries, taffy, chocolate candy bars and Mucky Duck mustard, is a favorite. The shop also carries a nice selection of Michigan made salsas, cherry butter, jams, BBQ sauce, hand soaps and Pewabic Pottery.

Made in Detroit

Made in Detroit, a brand of Detroit-themed apparel, beer and accessories, can be purchased from many local retailers. After the Rain in Milford, Berkley's City Style and The Shirt Box in Farmington Hills are stores that carry the popular logo.

Weary souls in the mood for a boost might try a beer-based malt, milkshake or slider at The Rust Belt Market. This Ferndale haven for holiday shoppers features soaps, chocolates, makeup, re-purposed domino game piece bracelets and other jewelry, snowboards, apparel, hair accessories, purses, prints, paintings and soy candles. It is open week-ends year-round and each Friday during December. "I carry up north items in downtown Northville,"

said owner Geri Turnbull of Your Michigan Connection, referring to the slew of made in the state goods in her compact, six-foot-wide store. Popular items include a Michigan oven mitt printed with city names; cherry salsa from American Spoon, Cherry Republic and Cherry Stop; and Benjamin Twig's pancake mix with dried cherries.

At the Zodiac Ranch in Milford, Linda Lundstrom raises alpacas and sheep. Craft savvy customers who are interested in making holiday gifts, like felt snowmen or penguins, can purchase kits from the farm's shop and/or attend a craft class. Call for an appointment.

Finally, be sure to check out local library and hospital gift shops for state-made merchandise.

Happy holiday shopping!

GIFT GIVING MADE EASY!

This year, consider giving a subscription to a Hometown, Observer or Eccentric Newspaper to a friend or family member.

You'll save 25% off the regular home delivery price!

and... you'll receive a \$10 Gift Card to regift or keep for yourself!

Call: 1.866.887.2737 and ask for our Holiday Special! We'll also send you a card to give the subscription recipient.



OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
hometownlife.com MEDIA
A GANNETT COMPANY

UDM donation honors brother's legacy to helping others

When the new University of Detroit Mercy George J. Asher Law Clinic Center opens for business later this month, it will mark 47 years since the law school's first urban clinic was founded and nearly 50 years since the passing of its namesake, a man who was known for his service to others during a very short yet extremely meaningful 40 years of life.

"The construction and dedication of the George J. Asher Law Clinic Center reflects both George's and U of D's legacy of serving others with competence and compassion," said George's younger brother, Anthony Asher, managing partner of the law firm of Sullivan, Ward, Asher and Patton, P.C. based in Southfield.

The Bloomfield Hills resident, a UDM and UDM Law alumnus, made a principal gift for the purchase and renovation of the new facility in memory of his late brother who passed away as a result of complications from hemophilia in 1963.

A historic Detroit firehouse, the two-story building will provide more than 6,000 square feet of space for the school's 10 legal aid clinics - Urban Clinic, Immigration, Mortgage Foreclosure, Veterans/Project SALUTE, Veterans Appellate, Criminal Trial, Criminal Appellate, Juvenile Appellate, Youth Justice, and Mediation - in downtown Detroit.

Additional support for the purchase and renovation of the building came from the heirs of Walter Buhl Ford III, who were the immediate past owners of the building, and



George Asher (left) was with his younger brother Anthony at his University of Detroit commencement ceremonies in 1961.

the McGregor Fund. "Service is one of the pillars of University of Detroit Mercy's mission, and for 47 years UDM's School of Law clinics have made a significant impact on the lives of many individuals in this community and across the country," said UDM President Antoine M. Garibaldi. "And, as a result of this new facility, more pro bono legal services will be able to be provided through the clinics due to the generosity of donors, many of whom are dedicated UDM alumni."

Anthony Asher was a first-year law student and his brother was just few months shy of graduating from the School

of Law when he died. Anthony Asher continued his studies with his brother's inspiration spurring him towards success.

As the eldest child of Syrian Catholic immigrants in Detroit, George Asher quit high school at the age of 16 to become head of a large household and support his family after both of his parents passed away. Anthony Asher, then 10 years old, looked to George as his surrogate father, and he was humbled by the sacrifices his older brother made for him and their siblings.

Despite the personal sacrifices he made for his family, George Asher went on to earn his GED

degree.

and became a highly successful non-lawyer union negotiator for a local law firm. At the urging of the attorneys at the firm, he completed high school and began law school at the University of Detroit in the evening program while serving as a defender of workers' rights as a labor negotiator for the Hotel Bar and Restaurant Union.

It was during this time when he was representing the union's Local 705 members that he met his future wife, Pearl, who also was raising a younger sibling at the time. They met on the picket line at Richard's Drive-In in 1951. The labor dis-



A former Detroit firehouse has been transformed into the University of Detroit Mercy's George J. Asher Law Clinic Center.

pute landed the pair in jail for a short time for contempt of court although it only strengthened their budding love affair. Pearl Asher, a Westland resident who passed away in February 2012, is remembered as an "uncompromising union activist," along with her late husband.

In 1957, George Asher, by then a veteran of years in the building trades, turned his attention towards service to home owners after becoming the executive secretary of the Better Heating and Cooling Bureau, a consumer and customer protection agency for the heating, cooling and ventilating industry.

Shortly after his death, the City of Detroit took action, passing a heating ordinance which protected consumers from inadequate installations. The ordinance required city inspectors to get tough on code violations and forced contractors to follow installation guidelines created by the BHCBC.

Suburban communities soon followed suit, forming the Reciprocal

Heating and Refrigeration Council. The watchdog group was formed to protect consumers from improper and possibly dangerous installations by enforcing the use of uniform codes throughout the state that were initially established by George Asher and his BHCBC colleagues.

"My brother always promoted the industry and George wanted to protect the consumer and the homeowner," his younger brother recalled.

Until the opening of the George J. Asher Law Clinic Center, the most recent epitaph to George Asher's legacy was the dedication in the second edition printing of the labor negotiations book, *Employer's Handbook for Labor Negotiations*, published in 1964. On the first page of the book, which sits on the shelves of 137 libraries worldwide, Richard J. Fritz and Arthur M. Stringari, authors and former colleagues of George Asher, wrote, "To George J. Asher, a keen student of human behavior who taught us all many valuable lessons."

GET FREE FORECLOSURE HELP YOU CAN TRUST!

SAVE YOUR HOME

KNOW. ACT. NOW.

- Concerned about paying your mortgage?
- Missed one or more mortgage payment?
- Had a change in employment?
- Underwater in your mortgage?

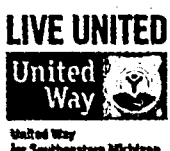
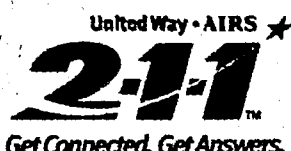
Call 2-1-1

Or go to:

LiveUnitedSEM.org/GetHelp

Free, confidential help is available.

A certified housing counselor can help you sort through the options. The sooner you take action, the more options you have.



Foreclosure Detroit.org

One trusted source for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Open 7 Days
10 am - 8 pm

oleman's
Farm Markets

734-483-1783

10 Varieties of Premium Christmas Trees

From \$19.00

A little better tree...
lot
for a little less money!

Many Wreaths & Roping

NOTICE

The Offices of the Wayne County Clerk
Vitals Statistics Division
and
Westland Satellite Office
Will Be Closed On the Below Dates
Due to Mandatory Furlough Days

December 3, 2012

Services Affected By These Closings:
Birth and Death Certificates
Marriage Licenses
Assumed Names
Notary Publics
Concealed Weapons

Westland rider saddles up for annual parade

Westland resident Lauren Chytry joined Harmony Acres in celebrating their 20th anniversary of riding in one of the country's oldest and most celebrated parades, America's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit, with a return appearance that included two of the original horses.

Chytry was among three Westland residents joined the parade horse group this year. Chytry completed her 12th parade ride on parade horse veteran Harmony Diamond. She is a student at Schoolcraft College. Tom Kush of Westland served as the

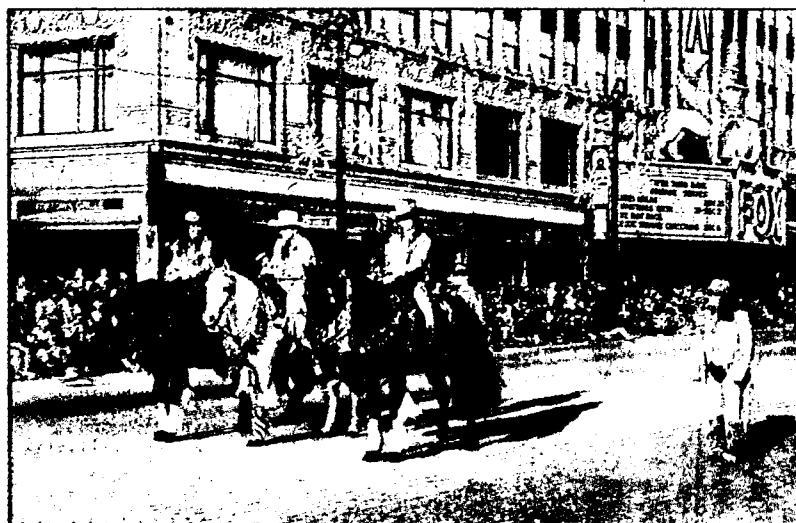
group's credentialed official photographer, and Dough Kurlovich of Westland served as security escort.

This year was Harmony Acres' 10th appearance in the 86th annual America's Thanksgiving Day Parade which marched down Woodward Avenue from Mack to Congress in Detroit on Nov. 22. The Arabian horses and their riders were decked out in their finest Christmas costumes as they marched down the 2.5 mile parade route.

The Harmony Acres Arabian Parade Horses, all siblings, wore matching red saddle blankets



Riders Lauren Chytry of Westland and Alyssa Laeder of Findlay, Ohio, share a hug with their mount, Harmony Diamond during the parade.



Riding past the Fox Theater are Lauren Chytry (from left), Nancy Harm and Elizabeth Richards. Dough Kurlovich and Ashley Laeder walk behind the riders as escorts.

decorated with 4-inch silver Chonchos enhanced with Swarovski Crystals. Red and silver tinsel topped by silk poinsettia flowers were attached to the horses' manes and tails. Garlands of silk poinsettia flowers and sleigh bells circled

their necks. Red sports medicine boot covers with fringe and crystals topped hooves polished and accented with crystal snowflake designs. All horses wore sterling bridles, breast collars, and saddles with Tapadaro stirrups.

The group has ridden in nearly 500 of the country's largest parades,

including all of Detroit's major parades, the Toledo Holiday Parade, Michigan Parades into the 21st Century Parade, Oldsmobile's 100th Anniversary Parade, Rochester's Christmas Parade, Benton Harbor's Great Floral Parade, Lansing's 150th Anniversary Parade and Milwaukee's Great Circus Parade.

Riders in Detroit included Nancy Harm of Salem Township who is breeder and trainer of the horses; Elizabeth Richards and Ashley Laeder, both of Salem, who shared the ride on Harmony Sadefa, and Chytry and Alyssa Toupin of Findlay, Ohio, who shared the ride on Harmony Diamond.

Holiday Furniture Sale

10% Off in December

AMISH TABLES

236 N. Main St. Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 927-1110 | amishfurniture.com | amishfh.com

Funerals Only Have to Look Expensive

\$3,450⁰⁰

Complete

Including: Funeral Director, Staff, Cosmetology, Full Preparation, Use of Facilities, All Transportation, Fine Metal Casket, Registry, Acknowledgement Cards, All necessary Documentation, Death Certificates (3) and Chapel use with Organ.

"They went above and beyond my expectations"

- Dr. Larry Carson, Livonia, Mich.

Roger Husband/Director
Husband Family Funeral Home
2401 S. Wayne Road • Westland, MI
734-331-3349
Stop In for a Tour of Our Facility

KENNY
Christmas & Hits Tour

www.kennycorps.com

December 13, 2012

FOX

verizon

SHARE MORE HOLIDAY FACE-TO-FACE TIME WITH A VERIZON SMARTPHONE.

With shareable data on America's Largest 4G LTE Network, your family can share the joy of the season with video chat.

SHAREEverythingSM Plan

Unlimited TALK
Unlimited TEXT
Shareable DATA on up to 10 devices

4G LTE DROID RAZR M by MOTOROLA
Exclusively at Verizon
Edge-to-edge 4.3" display in a compact form
OUR LOWEST PRICE EVER!
\$4999
\$99.99 2-yr. price -- \$50 mail-in rebate debit card.

4G LTE DROID INCREDIBLE 4G LTE by HTC
Exclusively at Verizon
Android™ 4.0 with instant-on camera
OUR LOWEST PRICE EVER!
\$4999
\$99.99 2-yr. price -- \$50 mail-in rebate debit card.

All phones require a new 2-yr. activation.

GET MORE 4G LTE COVERAGE THAN ALL OTHER NETWORKS COMBINED.

1.800.256.4646 • VERIZONWIRELESS.COM/HOLIDAY • VZW.COM/STORELOCATOR

Activation/upgrade fee/line: Up to \$35. IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Cust. Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$350 early termination fee/line. Unlimited calling for directly dialed, live calls between individuals. Offers & coverage, varying by svc, not available everywhere; see vzw.com. Limited-time offer. Restocking fee may apply. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 wks & expires in 12 months. LTE is a trademark of ETSI. 4G LTE is available in more than 400 markets in the U.S. DROID is a trademark of Lucasfilm Ltd. and its related companies. Used under license. © 2012 Verizon Wireless. MH01

Reason for the season

Bible characters come alive at Breakfast in Bethlehem

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Shona Vincent and Linda Crawford have cooked up a Christian alternative to the "Breakfast with Santa" activities that abound this time of year in metro Detroit.

The co-leaders of Kidz Connection, the children's ministry at Memorial Church of Christ in Livonia, along with 100 volunteers, have been busy the past few weeks transforming the church gymnasium, lobby, and fellowship hall, into Christ's birth place for a free, two-hour "Breakfast in Bethlehem" on Saturday, Dec. 8.

The event, packed with activities for kids and open to the community, will run from 10 a.m. to noon at the church, 35475 Five Mile, in Livonia.

Live animals, a living nativity, "shopkeepers" with hands-on craft projects, patrolling Roman soldiers and mingling townfolk will help bring Bethlehem to life.

"It's a fun outreach and hopefully the community will come," Vincent said. "It's really in competition with 'Breakfast with Santa' and it's meant to give new meaning to what Christmas is all about, to teach children that we're not celebrating Santa Claus — although that is a fun thing and there's nothing bad about that — but it's just a way to teach what Christmas really is and what we're celebrating, which is Christ's



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Portraying shepherds are Sissy Howard (left), of Romulus, Ralph Congdon of Livonia and Liz Nuorala of Westland. Sadie, Sissy's miniature poodle, is pretending to be a lamb.

birth. We want to teach them that and let them experience the sights, sounds, smells of what may have been. We can give the kids a sense of wonder."

Vincent attended a similar event 19 years ago at a Nazarene church. She doesn't recall much about the experience, other than "it was cool." When she and Crawford brainstormed ideas for Memorial Church of Christ, they decided their version of Breakfast in Bethlehem would take shape on a grand scale.

In the village

Visitors will enter the building and pass through a village gate before

checking their jackets and coats in the "cloak room," staffed by a costumed volunteer. They'll receive a bag full of play denarii — ancient Roman cash — and then head to breakfast.

Before entering the gym to browse shops, each child will sign the town census book in English or in Hebrew with assistance.

"There will be a lot of different shops," Vincent said. "At the music and psalm shop they'll make instruments. They'll go to Herod's palace and make jewelry and interact with Herod, who will be sitting on his throne.

"We'll have Bethlehem bagels, the bakery

where they'll decorate a cookie. We'll have a metal shop, a carpenter shop. They'll make a catch-it toy and there will be a yard where they can play with it."

Families will get a chance to don costumes and take photos of themselves as nativity characters. Outside they'll see goats, chickens, lambs, calves, ducks and a living nativity, with Mary, Joseph, and shepherds.

"We'll have some role-playing going on. We're going to have a beggar woman. We'll have a tax collector who will be right inside the door trying to grab the kids money and make them pay taxes. We'll have shep-



Breakfast in Bethlehem co-leaders Shona Vincent (left) and Linda Crawford work together in the church's youth ministry, Kidz Connection.



Teresa Prong, of Livonia, carves a Star of David from foam board.

herds just outside the door when families go out, saying 'Oh, did you see that bright star tonight?'"

Creating the setting

The volunteers account for approximately one third of the church's

members. Some of them cut foam board into Stars of David, painted scenery and crafted palm trees from carpet rolls topped with umbrellas decorated in green paper leaves at a work session earlier

Please see BREAKFAST, B6

MJR DIGITAL CINEMAS GIFT CARD

FAMILY, FRIENDS & ALL YOUR ACQUAINTANCES!
THIS YEAR ENTERTAIN THEM!

NO EXPIRATION DATES OR FEES! EVER!
 MJR® GIFT CARDS ARE SOLD IN INCREMENTS OF \$10 TO \$100. AVAILABLE ONLINE AT MJRTHEATRES.COM OR AT ANY MJR® DIGITAL CINEMA BOX OFFICE

With **8 LOCATIONS** to serve you, there's always an **MJR® DIGITAL CINEMA** near YOU!

- ADRIAN DIGITAL CINEMA 10**
 3150 N. Adrian Hwy. | Adrian, MI 49221
 517.265.3077
- BRIGHTON TOWNE SQUARE DIGITAL CINEMA 20**
 8200 Murphy Drive | Brighton, MI 48116
 810.227.6327
- CHESTERFIELD CROSSING DIGITAL CINEMA 16**
 50675 Gratiot Avenue | Chesterfield, MI 48051
 586.598.2505
- MARKETPLACE DIGITAL CINEMA 20**
 35400 Van Dyke Ave | Sterling Heights, MI 48312
 586.264.1533
- PARTRIDGE CREEK DIGITAL CINEMA 14**
 17400 Hall Road | Clinton Twp, MI 48038
 586.263.0059
- SOUTHGATE DIGITAL CINEMA 20**
 15651 Trenton Road | Southgate, MI 48195
 734.284.8083
- WATERFORD DIGITAL CINEMA 16**
 7561 Highland Road | Waterford, MI 48327
 248.666.7908
- WESTLAND GRAND DIGITAL CINEMA 16**
 6800 N Wayne Road | Westland, MI 48185
 734.298.2668

www.MJRTHEATRES.com Find us on Facebook

A MICHIGAN COMPANY
 Locally Owned & Operated



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nancy Ryan is a shopkeeper in Bethlehem. When she's not at work in Bethlehem, Nancy lives in Livonia.

BREAKFAST

Continued from page B5

this week. Ralph Congdon of Livonia, will portray a census taker at the event, but also helped paint and create papier mâché scenery.

"It makes me happy that I can do it. Whenever I can help anybody, that's what I do," he said.

Teresa Prang of Livonia and Krista Stelmazek of Canton, both long-time members of the church, are in charge of decorations for the event. They found ideas for scenery online and from previous Vacation Bible School classes.

"This is such a good sense of community. It helps us as a congregation, to draw us closer, and hopefully will bring people in," Prang said.

The hands-on activities are aimed at sixth graders and younger, although the Breakfast in Bethlehem event is open to all ages.

"I'm hoping the kids will be impacted by seeing Jesus in the stable and the humble beginnings he had," Crawford



Tiffany Reed, of Canton and LuDean Peters, of Livonia, use tissue boxes dipped in paint to print a brick wall.

said. "I also think the kids will really enjoy the live animals. I'm hoping it will make the whole Christmas season come alive to the kids and their families."

Vicent and Crawford request that participants RSVP at www.memorialkidz.org to help them determine how much food they'll require for the breakfast.

Ameriprise
Financial

Take the guesswork out of your retirement plan

Navigating through today's retirement landscape can be complex to say the least. As the leader in financial planning, our proprietary *Confident Retirement*® approach can help answer questions you may have, like: *When will I be able to retire? How do I make the most of the money I have? How can I leave a lasting legacy to my loved ones?*

It starts with a one-on-one conversation to understand your personal goals and concerns. From there, I'll work with you to develop a retirement roadmap with clear steps you can take to help you retire on your terms.

Pension Recipients, have you been offered the option to receive a lump-sum payment from your employer? Call us today to talk about what options may be right for you.

Call me today at (734) 432.6490



Michael K. Klassa, CFP®, ChFC®, CRPC®
Financial Advisor
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™
professional
Klassa, Swaggerty & Associates
A financial advisory practice of Ameriprise
Financial Services, Inc. An Ameriprise
Platinum Financial Services® practice

37677 Pembroke Ave. Livonia, MI 48152
734-432-6490
michael.k.klassa@ampf.com
www.ameripriseadvisors.com/
michael.k.klassa

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC. Ameriprise helped pioneer the financial planning process more than 30 years ago. Our unique *Dream > Plan > Track >* approach is about more than just numbers, it's both science and art. We have more financial planning clients and more CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professionals than any other company in the U.S. based on data filed at adviserinfo.sec.gov and documented by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. as of Dec. 31, 2011.

Confident Retirement is not a guarantee of future financial results.
© 2012 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

Ladies shopping night set in Plymouth

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce presents its annual "Dashing through the Stores," a ladies night out, 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6 in downtown Plymouth.

This event is designed for women to holiday shop in Plymouth's unique shops and fill out wish lists for themselves. Many restaurants also will offer special drinks and appetizers for shoppers.

Participating this year: Agio Spa; Bella Mia; Candy Trail; Creatopia; Dazzling Daniela; Dearborn Jewelers; Eclectic Attic; Genuine Toy Co.; Gigi's Mode;

Hands on Leather; Haven, Home Sweet Home; Isabella's Copper Pot; Kennitz Fine Candies; Kilwin's; Lolayan; Magnolia Fresh Flower Market; Old World Olive Press; Opndohr; R.S.V.P.; Simply the Best; Sun & Snow; Tranquill Tea and Yogurt Palooza. A donation drive for Plymouth Community United Way will be held in conjunction with the event. Shoppers can donate a new hat, scarf, mittens or gloves at any of the participating stores. For more information visit www.plymouthmich.org.

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

Personalized Care
Right in Your
Neighborhood



INFINITY Family Medicine
PRIMARY CARE Internal Medicine
Pediatrics

High quality, coordinated patient-centered
medical care from newborn to geriatrics

Locations in Brighton, Canton, Livonia, Novi and West Bloomfield

Participating with Most Area Hospitals • Same Day or Next Day Appointments • Most Insurances Accepted

1-855-437-7472

2012 CHRISTMAS TREE GUIDE

Find your perfect tree
by visiting one of these
fine businesses!

WALDOCK TREE FARM
We Grow: Caanan, Concolor, Corkbark, Fraser & Korean Fir, Black Hills, Blue & Norway.
All trees shaken, wrapped and drilled for free!
TREES UP TO 16 FT. • WREATHS
Open Fri. Sat. & Sun
9am till Dark
3090 Dutcher Road - Howell
Take D-19 (at I-96 exit 137) South to Coon Lake Road. West to Dutcher Road, follow the signs.
(617) 546-8590 www.waldocktreefarm.com

Mutch's HIDDEN PINES LLC 303 W. Newark Rd. Lapeer (1/2 mile east of M-24)
Featuring: Fraser, Canaan, and Blue Spruce
• Cut your own & pre-cuts
• Visit our 150 year old barn for gifts, wreaths, hot chocolate and more!
• Wagon rides • Visit with Santa from 10am to 4pm Sat. & Sun. only
Business Hours:
Friday, November 23, 9am-5pm
Friday's, November 30, December 7, 14 & 21, 12pm-5pm
Saturday's & Sunday's, November 24 - December 23 9am-5pm
Tree Shaking, Bleating and Online
Visa and Mastercard accepted
810-667-2711 www.mutchshiddenpines.com

Youngsters send gifts to Navy personnel

Children and families from the Felician Sisters Child Care Centers, Inc. recently collected treats — from candy and hot chocolate to books and crossword puzzles — for sailors aboard the USS Oscar Austin DDG-79.

Terrie Nemeth, Kindergarten Readiness teacher, whose son, Jeremy, serves in the Navy, spear-headed the project at St. Mary Child Care Center in Livonia. In addition to children collecting items for donation overseas, staff members donated money to help defray the cost of postage.

The project took on a life of its own and resulted in more than 40 boxes being packed and mailed to the sailors. The children spent several days designing more than 300 Christmas cards that were sent with the boxes.



Sister Joyce Marie Van de Vyver gathers the troops of red, white and blue Christmas Elves at St. Mary Child Care Center in Livonia.

“Projects such as these are important learning tools for putting our Core Values into practice, espe-

cially for very young children who are just learning how to share with others,” said Sister Joyce Marie

Van de Vyver, administrator. “They also become a vehicle for parents to begin discussions with

their children regarding peace and justice.” The Felician Sisters sponsor both St. Mary

Child Care Center and the Montessori Center of our Lady. For information call (734) 655-1900.



Holiday brass concert

The Motor City Brass Quintet will play holiday and seasonal favorites noon, Wednesday, Dec. 5 in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. Quintet members — some are from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra — have performed with such ensembles as the Empire Brass Quintet, Spectrum Brass Quintet and Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble. The free concert is part of the Noon Concert Series that includes soprano Linda Meehan, Jan. 23, 2013; Tubao Bravo, Feb. 6, 2013; Gary Schunk Trio, Feb. 20, 2013; Schoolcraft Music Faculty, March 20, 2013; The Michele Ramo Group, April 10, 2013; and violinist Kirk Toth, April 24, 2013. Donations will be accepted at the door to help fund student scholarships. Call (734) 462-4403 for more information.

Shop for unique gifts at artist sale

The Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) will open its third VAAL Holiday Shoppe Wednesday, Dec. 5, in the VAAL classroom at the New Five Village Shopping Center, 37653 Five Mile, Livonia.

The juried show and sale will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through Saturday, Dec. 15. A special reception will be held 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7. Refreshments will be served.

The VAAL Holiday Shoppe offers shoppers an opportunity to select unique art gifts for holiday giving. The art work is by award winning artists including staff, members and non-members.

The sale will include unframed art, cards, jewelry, fiber, ceramics and one-of-a-kind art pieces, in every price range.

For more information call (734) 464-6772.



From pillows to pins and everything in between, the Visual Arts Association of Livonia offers handmade items for sale in its holiday gift shop.

Photographer uses Google Earth in genealogy

Doug Willett of Livonia-based Luna Tech 3D will talk about using Google Earth for genealogy at the next meeting of the Oakland County Genealogical Society.

Willett is a “Google Trusted Photographer” who will explain how to use Google Earth in researching the neighborhoods of ancestors.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4 in room 303 of the Troy Community Center, 3179 Livernois, just north of Big Beaver, Troy.

For more information, call Dick Fellrath at (248) 519-5064. Visit www.ocgs-mi.org.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.

RHEUMATOLOGY

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



THE ANKLE

When someone mentions arthritis, what usually comes to mind is a swollen knee or a shoulder that can’t move. The picture of a person limping on a bad ankle doesn’t often come up, but it should.

Ankle pain and swelling is common. Keep in mind that the ankle is more than the joint itself but includes the tendons that run on either side of the ankle joint. These parts control movement of the foot and toes. Finally, next to the bones are ligaments which bind the ankle to the foot and stabilize the small bones of the foot.

Physicians make an effort to identify ankle pain because a patient with a bad ankle often will present with a painful, aching leg. A swollen ankle throws a strain on the rest of the leg that may lead the patient and potentially mislead the doctor to seeing the problem as coming from the leg not the ankle.

The most common cause of ankle pain is injury, usually of the twisting variety. Osteoarthritis may set into the ankle at any age, at times quite early if the person experienced a sports injury or from a vehicle such as car, motorcycle or cross country road bike.

Gout can strike the ankle; rheumatologic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, an ankylosing spondylitis need be considered in otherwise unexplained ankle pain. Infection occurs, but usually the inciting agent is identified from an evident wound.

Treatment may be difficult. In instances of injury, braces and splints are the therapies of choice, but they often cause as much strain as they relieve. Medication is only appropriate if the physician has identified an underlying cause.

NOW OPEN!

26950 Grand River Avenue Redford

FREE Donut
when you purchase
a medium or
larger size
beverage

One offer per customer. Not valid with any other offer.
Valid at 26950 Grand River Ave. Expires 12/31/12.
PLU # 78101

