

WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2014 • hometownlife.com



Westland OKs 6-year firefighter pact

Council president voices objection to multiplier

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A six-year collective bargaining agreement with Westland firefighters has been

approved by the Westland City Council.

The agreement had been tabled two weeks earlier when Council President James Godbout had an issue with the retirement multiplier in the contract. He was the only council member to vote against ratifying the contract.

"I won't support the contract as proposed. You all have short memories," Godbout said. "We have negotiated several contracts to date with the multiplier reduced to 1.7 percent."

In the firefighter contract, Godbout said the pension multiplier — a number used to

calculate pensions — is being reduced from 2.8 percent to 2.55 percent. For new hires, the multiplier will be 2.25 percent and no retiree health care will be provided.

"We are also allowing several hundred hours to be added to the average final compensation (used for pension calculation)," said Godbout, adding the 2.25 percent multiplier will cost the city more than \$800,000 compared to a 1.7 multiplier in the police contract.

The firefighters union projected a \$500,000 savings for

See CONTRACT, Page A2

Wayne lights up for Christmas

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

There is still time to get some lights and join the Holiday Parade of Lights Friday, hosted by the Wayne Rotary Club.

It's the 39th annual holiday parade hosted by the club and the second year for the evening lighted parade.

"There's no theme this year. It's basically use as many lights as you can put on the floats," Rotarian Gayle Rediske said. "We always have people who wait to the last minute (to sign up) — some even on the day."

The parade, which begins at 6 p.m., features not only lighted floats but many of the marchers representing different community groups decked out in lights. Once again, the Wayne Memorial and Westland John Glenn high school bands will be performing.

The parade assembles on Second

See PARADE, Page A2



FILE PHOTO

Santa Claus is coming to town Dec. 3.

Westland tree lighting ceremony set for Dec. 3

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand for Westland's annual Tree Lighting ceremony 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, at the former city hall on Ford west of Carlson.

Following the Tree Lighting Ceremony, the children in the crowd can head over to the New City Hall, located at 36300 Warren Road, for cookies and cocoa with Santa beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The kids will be able to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus while enjoying refreshments and classic holiday movies. Children are invited to bring their letters to Santa and put

See LIGHTS, Page A2



High winds Monday helped spread a fire at Woodcrest Villa Apartments in Westland.

Fire destroys Westland 2-story apartment building

High winds fanned the flames at Woodcrest Villa

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

High winds Monday afternoon fed a fire that destroyed a 20-unit apartment building in Westland.

The two-story building at Woodcrest Villa Apartments on Wayne Road was reported on fire about

"The wind had a significant impact ... It was pushing the hose (water) stream from the fire."

MICHAEL REDDY,
Westland fire chief

4:15 p.m.

"The fire was already through the roof when we arrived. The 40-mile-per-hour winds pushed the fire through the attic," Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy said. "The wind had a significant impact on the fire. It was pushing the hose (water) stream from the fire. We had to move the trucks downwind."

See FIRE, Page A2

Applicants sought for vacant Wayne council seat

The Wayne City Council has the help wanted sign out.

With James Hawley appointed last week as mayor to replace Al Haidous, who resigned in advance of his

joining the Wayne County Commission in January, council will need to appoint a new member.

The council has 30 days to fill the vacant seat. The appointed person would

service until the next regular election.

Interested residents must submit a letter of interest to the City Clerk Mathew Miller at Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne

Road, by 4:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8.

Applicants must be a registered voter in the city and cannot be in arrears to the city for taxes, water bills or other fines.



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Livonia Public Schools honors four Teachers of the Year

By Karen Smith
 Staff Writer

Four teachers who credited their colleagues, mentors, students and families for their success were honored by the Livonia school board Monday as the 2014-15 Teachers of the Year.

The teachers and their awards are: Terry Macek, who teaches academically talented students at Webster Elementary, Elementary Teacher of the Year; Judy Bowling, media specialist at Cooper Upper Elementary, Upper Elementary Teacher of the Year; Janell Keberly, seventh-grade teacher at Frost Middle School; Middle School Teacher of the Year; and Jacqueline Price, English teacher at Franklin High School, High School Teacher of the Year.

Keberly is the first teacher in the history of the district to be married to another Teacher of the Year. Her husband, Russ, was a Teacher of the Year in 2007-08.

"How fortunate I am to have a middle school teacher for a husband to share stories with and to keep me sane," she said, publicly thanking him for his encouragement and pushing her to be her best. Russ teaches at Holmes Middle School.

She also thanked her children, Brynn and Logan, who attend Riley Upper Elementary and Buchanan Elementary. "Every day that I walk into my classroom, you are first in my mind and I strive to be a teacher that each of you would want to be in a classroom with," she said.

Bowling said she has learned and continues to learn much from her colleagues. "Whether it be their wisdom, their time, their patience, their kindness, their dedication or their love,

each of them goes above and beyond what is required," she told the school board.

She said she is just one person on a team. "At Cooper there are no committees, only teams," she said. "We work as a team, we make decisions as a team, we implement new ideas as a team; when confronted by a problem, we Cooperize it as a team."

Price said she learns just as much from her students as they do from her, as they make meaningful connections or insightful inferences about texts they are studying. She said she was humbled and honored by the award, but was "feeling a little bit guilty for being recognized for doing work that I absolutely love with kids that often teach me as much as I teach them."

Macek was inspired by her fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Malek. "At the end of my fifth-grade year, I knew I wanted to be a teacher," she said. "I wanted to be just like her. Her teaching style and personality made an everlasting impression on me. I wanted to not only teach each of my students the academics, but also the life lessons that would help them grow as a person."

Macek thanked all of the "wildcats" she works with at Webster, in addition to all Livonia Public Schools teachers. "What an amazing group of educators we have at all levels," she said. "Together we all make a difference. I am so proud to be a member of an incredible community."

The selection process

The winning teachers were selected from 56 nominees recommended by teachers, administrators and parents from among the 1,000 educators in the district. A 13-member committee made the selection.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Webster teacher Terry Macek.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Media specialist Judy Bowling.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Franklin High School teacher Jacki Price thanks her supporters.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Janell Keberly teaches at Frost.

Each teacher received an overnight stay at a Livonia hotel and a gift bag filled with goodies, all donated by local businesses.

School board president Mark Johnson called the winners "a great group of representative instructors."

Macek was nominated by parent Kristin Ebling. "Mrs. Macek delivers her classroom learning opportunities with enthusiasm, a caring attitude, an infectious love of learning, impeccable classroom management techniques and a true desire to make a difference in the lives of young people," she wrote.

Macek is known for donning her black robe and holding Conundrum Court when there is a word the students do not know, or there is a difficult

problem that must be solved. Macek has the same students two years in a row and one of her traditions is the Macek Birthday Song, which students add on to every year. The song is quite long, but the students enjoy singing it.

Bowling was nominated by Cooper teachers Cathy Santi and Kathy Tyranski. They said multitasking is an "art form" of Bowling's. She handles multiple duties, seemingly with ease, including organizing the annual Battle of the Books in which more than 300 Cooper students engage in reading. They describe Bowling as humble, saying everything she does, she does for Cooper, not for herself.

Principal Terry Taylor said, "We could not have the success we have at Cooper without Judy Bowling. She is an incredibly wonderful person, a gifted teacher and a tremen-

dous friend to everyone at Cooper."

A mother of three, Bowling also runs marathons.

Keberly was born to teach. She started with her stuffed animals, moved on to teach Sunday School, was involved in the preschool program and the Early Literacy Volunteers at Franklin High School, tutored students in her neighborhood, worked with preschoolers at the Learning Tree Child Care Center and became a teacher in LPS' School Age Child Care program before being hired at Frost.

The three main concepts she values as a teacher are relationships, teamwork and collaboration. She was instrumental in starting the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program at Frost, which has dramatically reduced the number of discipline referrals at Frost since its implementation in 2011.

Keberly was nominated by Carim Calkins, another former Teacher of the Year. "She cares deeply about her students and establishes a rapport in her class that is based on high expectations and mutual respect," he wrote.

Price was nominated by Franklin Principal Dan Willenborg, who says she develops her students' natural curiosity with thought-provoking materials in her classroom. She "does so with a witty sense of humor and a profound personal integrity and humility," he said.

Franklin teacher Jen Esparza said, "Teaching is not just a job for Jacki, it is a calling. She takes it with her wherever she goes. Jacki is — hands down — the type of teacher I would want for my own children."

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WAYNE COP CALLS

Break-in

Police were called to an apartment at the Park Hill Apartments, 33085 Park Hill, Nov. 18, after a resident reported finding her door ajar when she arrived home. She said several kitchen cabinets were open, clothing was strewn in the hallway and drawers in her bedroom were ransacked. Nothing appeared to be missing.

The resident told police that since she had a break-in the previous week, she had been making sure the door was locked when she leaves.

Larceny

A resident in the 5000 block of S. Hubbard told police Nov. 18 that a large number of power tools and other miscellaneous tools, valued at \$2,500, had been stolen from the garage.

The resident and his wife have been living in Livonia since their home burned down in February. The wife told police she checked on the progress of the work on their home and noticed the garage had been broken into. She said she didn't know exactly what was missing.

The husband was able to provide a list of the stolen items.

Suspicious person

On Nov. 18, a resident of the Newberry Square Apartments, 35240 W. Michigan Ave., told police that about 7:30 p.m. she heard someone knocking on her door. Then she said it looked like someone was jiggling the handle as if they were trying to come in.

When she looked through the peep hole, the resident said she saw a man looking in from the hallway. When she yelled that she was calling police, she said the man was still there. He was gone when officers arrived.

Stolen vehicle

A Clinton Township man told police Nov. 19 that he left a 2001 Dodge Ram truck parked behind 7 Star Liquor, 4422 S. Wayne Road, overnight but it was gone in the morning. He said the vehicle had been locked and was paid off.

Larceny

On Nov. 20, a Romulus woman told police that someone had stolen her purse while she was at the U.S. 12 Bar and Grill, 34824 W. Michigan Ave. She said the purse was last seen on a table or on a chair near the bar. When she left the bar after 90 minutes, she said she didn't have the purse.

The missing purse was reported to contain \$50 in cash, two debit cards, insurance cards and six or seven prescription bottles.

Officers review security video inside the business for the time the woman said she was there but reported not seeing her.

Retail fraud

Police were called to the Food Basket store, 5703 S. Wayne Road, just before 8 p.m. Nov. 20 when the owner reported a man had stolen a bottle of Remy Martin VSOP cognac valued at \$45.

He said the man had come into the store, selected the cognac and held it for a few minutes before putting it back. The man went to the ATM machine, the owner said, but didn't use it and left the store.

A short time later, the owner said the man returned and again picked up the bottle of Remy Martin. This time he concealed the bottle under his jacket and walked out without paying, the store owner said.

The owner told police he went out and confronted the man who denied taking the liquor. The owner said he was unable to get the suspect's license plate number.

Larceny from a vehicle

An employee at Western Wayne Resources, 35000 Van Born, told police Nov. 21 that someone had stolen a full-size Hankook spare tire, valued at \$244, from a Ford Econoline van. Since a similar larceny in August, the employee said he regularly checks the vehicles' attached spare tires and that was how he noticed the theft.

By LeAnne Rogers



Cheryl Sprague (left) and Charlene Jones, both Canton residents, display one of the 18 quilts volunteers from Geneva Presbyterian Church made for Starfish Family Services.

JULIE BROWN

Church quilts offer warmth, love

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The sanctuary of Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton was especially colorful during worship Sunday, Nov. 16.

The occasion was prayers over 18 quilts that women of the church made, with help from a couple of men, to donate to Inkster-based Starfish Family Services.

"This is the fourth year," said Charlene Jones of Canton, a registered nurse who works in pediatrics in Ann Arbor. "Because we want to help those in need, help those who are establishing homes. Compassion, love. We have a passion for the young children."

About 10 women meet each Monday evening at the church on Sheldon Road, with some volunteers doing machine stitching of quilts from their homes. "It's a fun form

of Christian fellowship," said Cheryl Sprague of Canton, a part-time office manager for an engineering firm in Lincoln Park. "We always have a fun time."

Sprague noted when the project began several years ago, the volunteers tried to use patterns, but realized the patterns weren't needed. "Every one is so unique," Sprague said. "There's no two alike."

The 18 quilts made this fall were set up in the sanctuary for Nov. 16 worship and prayers over them and their creators. Quilter Lisa DeGroot of Canton paraphrased Teresa of Avila, in that Christ has no body.

"We are His eyes, His ears, His hands," said DeGroot, who works in culinary arts at the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center of the Wayne-Westland schools. "This is providing warmth. It's very practical."

The quilts have Scripture labels put on by volunteer Ella Bastine. There's a small inscription, "Made by Loving Hands, Geneva Presbyterian Church."

The previous set of quilts from Geneva also went to Starfish Family Services. "They were so welcoming to us," Sprague said. "It was overwhelming."

Jones and Sprague spoke during the worship service, noting illiteracy is an issue for families served by Starfish, increasing the likelihood of dropping out of school, poor parenting and mental health issues. "Their mission is strengthen families to create better futures for children," Jones said.

"If it weren't for God's guiding us, we wouldn't be able to do this," Sprague added.

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Shoppers gobble up deals Thanksgiving evening at Westland Shopping Center

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The cha-ching of cash registers replaced the sounds of silver bells as Black Friday aficionados kicked off the holiday shopping season with gusto Thanksgiving evening.

The parking lot at the Canton Walmart on Ford Road was packed with shoppers on the hunt for the best holiday deals, while at Westland Shopping Center, the line stretched from the exterior doors at JC Penney to the Verizon store as people waited for its 5 p.m. opening.

"We got here about 5:30," said Catherine Osborne of Plymouth. "This took about a month of preparation. We've been to JC Penney, Kohl's, Sears, Claire's, Children's Place and Toys R Us. I have most of my shopping done, but I cannot go out on Black Friday. I usually go out with a friend, but this is the first time she couldn't come.

"Even when I'm fully done, I keep shopping until time runs out," she added.

Helping her was son Aaron, 12, who was the designated "executive director." He got to make the final decision — yes, no, maybe — according to his mother and helped carry packages.

"It depends on how much I like," he said.

Stocking up

Bruce Zarb of Garden City had a spot staked out by Bath & Body Works, waiting for his wife Suzanne and daughter Rachel.

"I just want to go home," said Zarb, who



Bailey Nutt of Westland takes advantage of the many sales to be had Thanksgiving night at Bath & Body Works in Westland.

TOM BEAUDOIN



Shuree Neely of Plymouth looks on as friend Jeff Williams of Fenton is ready to head for the doors.

TOM BEAUDOIN



Thanksgiving night is a fun shopping experience for Mya Jonnson, mom Kim Eddy and sisters Jessica and Kristen at Westland Shopping Center.

TOM BEAUDOIN

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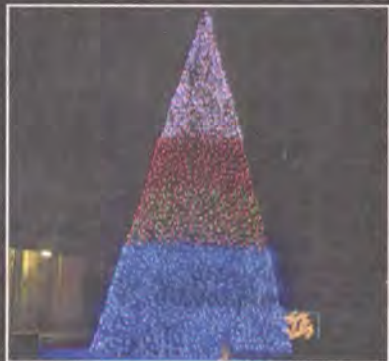
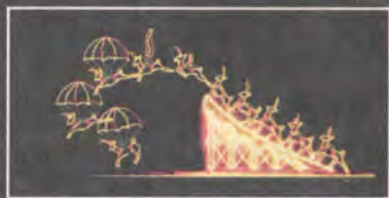
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SHOPPERS

Continued from Page A6

was surprised by the number of people at the mall. "I feel bad for the people who have to work."

"I bought stuff (Rachel) wanted and I put off buying until now," Suzanne said. "I had coupons and then they gave us more coupons to come back in a few weeks."

Their shopping bag included a tote filled with more than \$100 in products.

In the mall's central court, former Westland resident Kim Eddy and daughters Mya, Jessica and Kristen Johnson were loaded down with packages from Aeropostale.

"Everything was 60 percent off," Eddy said. "We came out right after I cleaned up after dinner."

This was their first time doing the Black Friday shopping at Westland mall.

"It's a lot easier shopping here, there's less people," Jessica Johnson said. "Last year, we went to Twelve Oaks and it was crazy and the year before we went to Great Lakes Crossing and it was elbow to elbow."

The women stocked up on sweaters, skirts, scarves, sweat pants, pajama pants, tank tops and shorts. Some of the items were for Christmas presents.

After about two hours of shopping, Eddy said they might be out another hour or so.

"I've been up since 7 a.m. cooking," she said.

Well-planned

Also surrounded by packages were Shuree Neely of Plymouth and Jeff Williams, formerly of Plymouth. They had gotten to the mall at 9 p.m. and by 9:45 p.m. were ready to leave, although Ashlee Neely wanted to go to Twelve Oaks.

"We knew what we were going for," Neely said. "Most of this is Christmas stuff, but a couple of the things from Bath & Body Works are for me. I'd do more shopping if I didn't have to carry all this stuff around."

Williams didn't have the Christmas spirit.

"Most of the stores they're going into, I'm the only guy," he said. "It's store after store for women, but I don't see any tool store for me."

Among the younger shoppers was Ben Christopher of Livonia. A student at Franklin High School, he was there with Connor Gawne of Westland looking for a pair of Vans shoes.

"This is my first time doing this; we've only been in two stores," he said. "I asked my brother for a pair of Vans for Christmas and he wanted to pick them up."

Gawne was indifferent about the idea of shopping Thanksgiving.

"I'm used to seeing a lot of people; I went out last year," he said.

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Shopping carts were kept full at Westland mall.



Plymouth resident Catherine Osborn and son Aaron enjoy the sales during their shopping trip Thanksgiving night in Westland.

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<p>Whirlpool® 4.8 cu. ft. Top Load Washer with the Cold Wash cycle WTW8500BW</p> <p>Black Friday Sale Price \$649</p>	<p>icomfort iSeries</p> <p>SAVE UP TO \$1300 INSTANTLY!</p> <p>With purchase of an iComfort or iSeries mattress and a select Serta Adjustable Foundation. Savings vary by model and size.</p> <p>SAVE UP TO \$300 on iComfort® and iSeries® Mattresses SAVE UP TO \$1000 on select Serta Adjustable Foundations</p> <p>0% APR UP TO 48 MONTHS* on Serta and iComfort® models with adjustable bases. See store for details.</p>	<p>Goodfellows World-Herald Goodfellows Charities, Inc.</p> <p>NOVEMBER 14TH-30TH</p> <p>Bring in an unwrapped toy for the Goodfellows No Child Without Christmas and we will pay your sales tax on any Whirlpool purchase</p>
<p>Whirlpool 2.0 cu ft microwave WMH53520CS</p> <p>Black Friday Sale Price \$299</p>		
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<p>Whirlpool Range WFG540HDAS</p> <p>Black Friday Sale Price \$699</p>		
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OLYMPIC MOMENT



Olympic swimmer Allison Schmitt gets Canton Charter Academy kindergartner Mihita Lokesh to help her demonstrate how tall you can get if you eat your vegetables.

Homegrown Olympian delivers inspiration to students

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Dorothy Gale closes *The Wizard of Oz* by telling Auntie Em, "There's no place like home."

Allison Schmitt felt much the same way Monday, returning to Canton Charter Academy to talk to students there about the virtue of setting goals and working hard to attain them.

The Olympic Medal-winning swimmer from Canton, who was a member of the first graduating class of eighth-graders from the charter school, spoke Monday to the assembly full of cheering students, staff and families for about 30 minutes, talking on topics ranging from eating vegetables to overcoming adversity.

"It's awesome every time I get to come home, because Canton is where I grew up," Schmitt said. "I love to give back. If I can change one kid's life, that would be a huge success for me."

Standing in the school that served as a springboard for her, Schmitt extolled the virtue of doing well in school, pointing out her parents, Ralph and Gail, made sure she did her school work before she was allowed to do anything else.

"It's an important lesson in life to have balance. ... In order to be successful, you have to have that balance."

ALLISON SCHMITT, Olympic swimmer

Facing adversity

Schmitt pointed out that, despite her swimming success, she has "had a lot of adversity" in her life. The most recent came last year when, after winning five medals in the 2012 Olympics, she failed to make the U.S. team in 2013.

"When I look back, the (adversities) were just little bumps," she said. "Everyone has failed to do something at some time. I could have cried and quit swimming. But I set my goals to do better. You learn life goes on."

Schmitt's message about setting goals was of particular interest to Canton Charter Academy Principal Janelle Magyar, who said that message is part of daily life at the school.

"We always talk about goal setting and how failure is just an opportunity to learn and grow," Magyar said. "Allison embodies that perseverance. When she spoke to that, it was important. The kids know it wasn't always

easy for her."

Lighter touch

In a lighter moment, one student asked Schmitt to identify her "favorite treat." While the students chuckled, Schmitt admitted to having a sweet tooth. She quickly turned it into a discussion about health, urging kids to enjoy their treats, but eat their vegetables at the same time, a suggestion that drew a good-hearted groan from the kids.

But Schmitt, nearly 6 feet tall, pulled kindergartner Mihita Lokesh to her feet and, noting the differences in their height, pointed out "eating my vegetables helped me get this tall."

There were more serious moments, too. One questioner asked Schmitt how she attained "balance" in her life and Schmitt was quick to point out the importance of having balance. For instance, Schmitt said, she had friends and family in her life, also loved soccer and plays the piano.

"It's an important lesson in life to have balance," Schmitt said. "It's like a domino effect. If you don't focus on one part of your life, it can come crashing down on the other parts. In order to be successful, you have to have that balance."

Ralph and Gail Schmitt were in the audience for their daughter's appearance and, not surprisingly, Gail Schmitt was reduced to tears.

"We're very proud," Gail Schmitt said. "It's very emotional. It's great to see your child set goals and reach them, whatever they are. It's very rewarding."

Allison is one of five children (she has three sisters and a brother) and she made a big point about how her parents have inspired her throughout her life. But Ralph Schmitt said it's really the other way around.

"She said we inspire her, but she inspires us ... all of our kids do," Ralph Schmitt said. "Whatever your child does, it inspires us."

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Livonia arts group offers holiday shop



Scarves, necklaces and other accessories for the holidays like these will be available at The Visual Arts Association of Livonia's Holiday Shoppe.

Opening reception set for Thursday

The Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) is once again changing its year-round classroom into a Holiday Shoppe offering one-of-a-kind gifts created by area artisans. This juried event features pottery, fiber, hand-blown glass, jewelry and other accessories, wood items, clothing, ornaments, framed and unframed art and much more. Items in every price range will be available.

An opening reception will

be held from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4. The public is invited to come and enjoy refreshments, meet some of the artists and be the first to see the selection of gifts. There is no charge for this event.

The Holiday Shoppe will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, through Sunday, Dec. 14.

The Holiday Shoppe is located in the VAAL classroom at 37653 Five Mile Road, in the New Five Village Shopping Center, located at the southwest corner of Newburgh in Livonia. Look for the shop next to the UPS Store.

Formed as a nonprofit organization in 1983, the Visual Arts Association of Livonia provides a variety of art classes, workshops and services for Livonia and surrounding communities.

Classes and workshops are taught year-round by award-winning, professional art instructors. The winter class schedule will be available at the Holiday Shoppe.

For more information about VAAL or the Holiday Shoppe, call 734-838-1204 or go to the VAAL website at www.vaalar-t.org



Handmade Christmas ornaments are among the items for sale.



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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

There was the year Fred Hill and his Briefcase Drill team got their marching orders from White Castle.

Briefcase Drill team steps toward retirement

Last performance set for Fourth of July

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving Day marked the beginning of the end of an era for the Fred Hill Briefcase Drill team.

Founder and drillmaster Fred Hill said Monday his team's appearance in America's Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit will be its last and that the team will be shelving its briefcases and "marching off into the sunset" for good next summer.

The finale, Hill said, will be the Fourth of July during next year's Good Morning USA Parade in Plymouth — 30 years to the day after its first performance there. "Kind of poetic, isn't it?" Hill said.

The drill team — 16 men in business suits, carrying briefcases, stepping in unison and directed by Hill — is a crowd favorite in the Detroit area and has made appearances around the country, including at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, the Fiesta Bowl in Arizona, Navy Pier in Chicago and the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. "If you look back over, I don't know, maybe 150 appearances, we've done some pretty unique things," Hill said.



FILE PHOTO

Fred Hill, seen directing his team, says Thursday's appearance in Detroit was the team's last Thanksgiving Day parade.

"If you look back over, I don't know, maybe 150 appearances, we've done some pretty unique things. If you look around, people don't carry briefcases any more."

FRED HILL, founder and drillmaster

Hill said the decision to retire is in step with the times.

"If you look around, people don't carry briefcases any more," he said.

In addition, Hill said age has crept up on the team since he founded it nearly 30 years ago.

"None of us were really kids when we started," he said. "Too many guys on injured reserve."

Hill added that he has marchers on standby and has never had to run the team short of its full complement. "It seems like every time we have to appear, there's some-

one I have to replace," he said.

Thursday's performance in America's Thanksgiving Parade was its 25th appearance at that event; since 1988, the team only missed the Detroit parade in 2009 and 2012, years when it opted for the New York parade.

Hill hasn't ruled out bringing the team to events held between Thanksgiving and next July 4.

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Saturday, January 10th 2015 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
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Ryan Roush (left) and Sachin Ploucha check out the toys during a program announcing the upcoming release of the Trouble in Toyland report.

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vigilance important to avoid 'Trouble in Toyland'

Report details toys deemed dangerous

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

It's a scene Donna Bucciarelli has seen far too often in the emergency room.

A kid comes in after swallowing something he shouldn't have, or worse, he swallowed something that completely blocks the airway.

It is often a panic situation at the time, but the key, said Bucciarelli, who serves as the trauma prevention coordinator for Beaumont Health System, is being vigilant, because many of these situations can be prevented.

"Supervision and common sense are the most important things," she said. "And it's not just with the new toys but keeping track of old ones as well."

Prevention is especially important as the holiday shopping season approaches and toys fly off the shelves. And Beaumont is once again at the forefront of the education process by sponsoring the release of the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan's annual Trouble in Toyland report.

The report, which is slated to be released early next week, provides safety guidelines for



Donna Bucciarelli, trauma prevention coordinator for Beaumont Health System (right), Dr. Robert Morden and nurse Erica Surman talked about what parents should look for in toys.

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The Chat and Count audio learner was found to produce noise levels that are harmful to a child's ears.

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

consumers buying toys, as well as examples of toys currently on the shelves that pose potential safety risks.

The most common hazards found on store shelves include ones that are choking hazards, contain toxic substances, are magnetic and ones that make a lot of noise.

And Bucciarelli said these hazards are found in toys from numerous companies and various price ranges.

"We have seen it across the board," she said. "It's companies you don't recognize and ones you do."

PIRG's report found numerous toys this year that fail the toilet paper

roll test — meaning if it fits inside a toilet paper roll, it is probably unsafe for children under 3 years old. Five toys were reportedly found with concentrations of toxins exceeding federal standards.

But while many of these toys remain on the shelves, Bucciarelli said a lot has been done over the years to cutback on those posing severe safety concerns.

"Without the constant policing and vigilance and knowing people are watching, I think the

standards would go backward," she said.

U.S. PIRG Consumer Program Director Ed Mierzewski said they "commend the emergency medicine and pediatric experts at Beaumont and other hospitals around the nation for helping educate parents about potential toy hazards."

For more information about the report and to get toy safety tips, visit www.toysafetytips.org.

nmueller@hometownlife.com
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CITY OF GARDEN CITY WINTER TAX NOTICE

The 2014 winter taxes will be payable from December 1, 2014 through February 16, 2015 without penalty. Beginning February 17, 2015 thru March 2, 2015 a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid taxes. Beginning March 3, 2015 all unpaid 2014 REAL property taxes must be paid to: Raymond J Wojtowicz, Wayne County Treasurer, The International Center Building, 400 Monroe, 5th floor, Detroit, MI 48226 with an additional 4% administration fee plus 1% per month interest computed from March 1, 2015.

ALLYSON M BETTIS-Treasurer-City Clerk

Publish: November 30, 2014 LO-0000220485 2x2

Arthritis Today

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HEAT IN THE COLD

With winter coming, now is the appropriate time to discuss joint care in cold weather. Of great importance is keeping the hands warm. Doing so is a major undertaking for a person with Raynaud's Disease. In this condition, blood vessels to the digits spasm and close off; no blood supply gets to the fingers. The effect is to cause the finger, or fingers, involved to become numb and white. This change lasts until the spasm ends and circulation can once again establish itself.

The spasm may last for moments to more than a half hour. The episodes of Raynaud's may come only once or twice during the winter, or come on every day. The more episodes of Raynaud's that occur, the greater the chance fingertips may ulcerate with accompanying pain and infection. Therefore, physicians spend time discussing with patients having Raynaud's the importance of keeping hands warm.

The first point physicians make is that the hands need to be warm at all times. Just opening the front door and taking a few steps to pick up the paper requires wearing gloves, the same holds for a short walk from a market's parking lot into the entrance. If a building is cool, keep gloves on. It may be best to wear gloves at night if the bedroom is in the rear of the house, away from the furnace and likely to be one or two degrees cooler than the rest of the house.

Close attention to using gloves in winter applies to people with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis. Warm hands are more flexible than cold hands, warm hands fit better into gloves and grip canes, railings and car door handles better than cold hands.

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LO-000210999

Sleep Out raises money for homeless youth

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The idea of getting a bunch of car dealers to go homeless for one November night came up at a Detroit Auto Dealers Association meeting in August.

Not the kind of agenda item normally discussed at professional association meetings, it had been raised by Sam Slaughter, the owner of a string of area dealerships and the DADA vice president (and soon to be president).

"We looked at him like he was totally crazy," said Scott LaRiche, vice president and executive manager at Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth Township and a DADA board member.

Then Slaughter told them about Covenant House Michigan, a Detroit-based organization that provides shelter, food, education and life skills to homeless young people. The Sleep Out, held in Detroit and 14 other cities in North America that have Covenant House facilities, was designed to raise money for the organization.

"After we heard that, it was a no-brainer," LaRiche said. "Everybody signed up and we started raising funds." Slaughter, LaRiche

and around 10 other DADA members joined about other 30 professionals Nov. 20 for the Sleep Out on the grounds of Covenant House Michigan, on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard near I-96. They bedded down around 11 p.m. and got up between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m.

"It was a real eye-opener for me," said LaRiche, who estimated he got maybe 90 minutes of sleep.

LaRiche was bundled up and in a sleeping bag, lying in a cardboard box, but that was no match for temperatures that, with the wind chill, dipped to around zero. There were also occasional interruptions by Covenant House staffers, asking participants if they wanted to go to the warming center, as they do when they see the real homeless. (LaRiche did not take them up on it.)

LaRiche left his box at around 5:30 a.m., exhausted.

"I cannot imagine having to do that two, three, four, five nights in a row, a month in a row," he said.

And LaRiche acknowledges he and fellow Sleep Out participants had it comparatively easy: They were secure on the Covenant House grounds, knew where their breakfast



Participants included (from left) Scott LaRiche, Cheryl Wasilewski, Tavi Fulkerson, Sam Slaughter (behind Fulkerson), Bob Weller, Rod Alberts and Katie Bowman-Coleman.

was coming from and had the chance to take a hot shower and maybe a nap before heading to work.

"Going through what I went through for one night is hardly anything compared to what they (homeless youths) have to do on a daily basis," he said.

The experience was especially meaningful in light of the coming Thanksgiving, he said the day before the holiday.

"Every single year we

talk about, 'What are you thankful for?'" LaRiche said. "I'm going to be able to think of a lot of things I'm thankful for."

DADA members raised about \$78,000 in pledges through their participation, including some \$6,875 from LaRiche. In total, the first Detroit Sleep Out raised more than \$210,000, easily surpassing the goal of \$150,000.

LaRiche and other Sleep Out participants also got to look around Covenant House Michigan, attend a candlelight vigil, talk to staff members and meet two of the young people being helped by the program.

"There's actually a place that is helping people become productive members of society," he said. "It is absolutely amazing."

On any given night, according to Covenant House Michigan, there are more than 5,000 homeless youths in the state.

Donations to Covenant House Michigan can be made at covenanthousemi.org/donation/form. Mail can be sent to: Covenant House Michigan, 2959 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard., Detroit, MI 48208.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman

Auto dealer's good deed shows respect for military

When Scott LaRiche gave up his first-class airplane seat to a U.S. Marine earlier this month, he didn't seek any recognition for it, he says.

But news travels fast in the age of Twitter and, before LaRiche knew it, his good deed was widely known in the Detroit area, even mentioned on Frank Beckmann's radio show on WJR-AM (760).

LaRiche, vice president and executive general manager of Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth Township, had spotted the Marine, carrying an urn with the ashes of a comrade that he was accompanying home, boarding the plane in Los Angeles early Nov. 21. LaRiche was returning to the Detroit area from the Los Angeles Auto Show.

After consulting a stewardess, LaRiche learned the Marine was seated at the back of the plane. He walked back and insisted the serviceman take his seat in first class.

The Marine, hesitant at first, took the seat, LaRiche said. He was very dignified in the way he carried himself and the urn and a folded flag; LaRiche said he didn't learn how the Marine's comrade had died or even if his final destination was in Michigan.

"It was really an emotional thing," he said.

LaRiche said he wanted to duck publicity about the event, but once word got out, decided to use the publicity as a platform to urge people to show appreciation for those in the military and for military veterans.

—By Matt Jachman

CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 17, 2014

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for December 17, 2014 has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items

The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on January 21, 2015 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI at 5:30 p.m.

Publish November 30, 2014

LO-00022712 3x2.5

CITY OF WAYNE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the City of Wayne, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 7:30 p.m., in the Wayne Activity and Banquet Center, 35000 Sims Avenue, to consider one request.

1. Araneae, Inc., on behalf of Jack Demmer Ford, 37410 Michigan Avenue, has applied for permission to erect a sign. The property is located in a B-3, Business Extensive Zone. Section 1280.08(c)(2)(b) of the Planning and Zoning Code allows for a second sign to be placed on a building that has street frontage. The size of the second sign may be 1/2 square foot for each lineal foot of building frontage.

The plans submitted to the Building Department indicates a wall sign that is 169.8 square feet. By ordinance, a second sign of 32 feet is allowed, therefore requiring a variance of 137.8 square feet.

The text and any maps may be examined or written comments may be submitted at the City Clerk's Office during business hours (Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Members of the public may appear at the public hearing in person or by counsel. At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Zoning Board will consider, and may act upon, this matter.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Publish: November 30, 2014

LO-00022896 3x3

CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following item:

Petition 2014-11-01-07 submitted by Robert Nofar pursuant to Section 23.01 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, requesting to rezone the properties at 27403 and 27451 Schoolcraft Road, located on the southwest corner of Schoolcraft and Inkster Roads in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 25, from OS (Office Services) and M-1 (Light Manufacturing) to C-4 (High Rise Commercial).

The above-mentioned petition will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the said hearing and may be examined by any and all persons during the normal working hours Monday through Friday.

R. Lee Morrow, Chairman
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLISH: November 30, 2014

LO-00022895 3x4

CITY OF LIVONIA ADOPTED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2014 - 2015

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 5, Chapter VII and Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, the Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 4.0447 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the next fiscal year commencing December 1, 2014, and ending November 30, 2015, and in addition to the above amount which is authorized to be levied for general purposes by the Charter of the City of Livonia:

- (a) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.8088 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for police protection and law enforcement personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- (b) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 1.2134 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for fire, police and snow removal personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- (c) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 1.7000 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for police and fire personnel and support costs in the City of Livonia, in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- (d) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.8088 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for library services, supplies and facilities in the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- (e) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.0129 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to the provisions of Act 379 of the Public Acts of 1925, for the purpose of advertising, exploiting and making known the industrial and commercial advantages of the City of Livonia and to establish projects for the purpose of encouraging immigration to, and increasing the trade, business and industries of the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount which is authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- (f) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.7855 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for a community recreation center, recreation personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities and operations; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- (g) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.8893 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, for the purpose of providing revenues for repairing or replacing public roads, sidewalks and trees in the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- (h) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.5000 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for the City's community transit program and capital improvements within the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- (i) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.2500 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for staff, maintenance and support costs for cultural and senior services in the City including the Livonia Senior Center and Greenmead Historical Village, in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- (j) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 2.4267 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to the provisions of Act 197 of the Public Acts of 1917, for the purpose of establishing, operating, maintaining and administering the Municipal Garbage Collection System and/or plant for the collection and disposal of garbage and refuse in the City of Livonia; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- (k) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.5979 mills, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, for the purpose of defraying City expenses and liabilities for the collection and disposal activities required for curbside recycling and yard waste composting programs; in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes;
- (l) The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 2.0000 mills to be due and payable on July 1, 2015, of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property located within the Plymouth Road Development Authority, subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year commencing December 1, 2014 and ending November 30, 2015, pursuant to the provisions of Act 197 of the Public Acts of 1975, for the purpose of providing revenues for obligations and operations of the Plymouth Road Development Authority, in addition to the amount levied for general municipal purposes. This millage shall be effective provided that all residential properties are first removed from the Plymouth Road Development Authority district.

AND PROVIDED FURTHER, that the Wayne County Bureau of Taxation, City Assessor, City Treasurer and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary or incidental to the full performance of this resolution, and the City Clerk is hereby requested to immediately transmit copies of this resolution to each of the above offices.

Publish: November 30, 2014

	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES	
GENERAL FUND (101)			
PROPERTY TAXES	402-446	\$30,994,273	
LICENSES & PERMITS	465-519	1,965,000	
GRANTS	528	229,200	
STATE SHARED REVENUES	567-581	8,406,132	
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	602-651	4,045,574	
FINES & FORFEITS	656	3,998,000	
INTEREST & RENTS	665-669	2,471,102	
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	680-698	1,789,601	
TOTAL REVENUES		\$53,898,882	
LEGISLATIVE		\$1,124,964	
JUDICIAL		2,998,122	
EXECUTIVE		412,578	
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION		2,635,331	
HUMAN RESOURCES		730,766	
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		1,271,628	
PUBLIC SAFETY- POLICE		22,580,604	
PUBLIC SAFETY- FIRE		13,583,688	
PROTECTIVE INSPECTION		1,279,805	
OTHER PROTECTIVE		2,034	
PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING		3,454,797	
PARKS & RECREATION		418,006	
CULTURAL		1,208,078	
PLANNING		638,567	
OTHER CITY FUNCTIONS		1,550,475	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$53,889,443	
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		REVENUES EXPENDITURES	
MAJOR STREET FUND	202	\$4,548,427	\$4,507,803
LOCAL STREET FUND	203	3,022,068	3,005,397
ROAD, SIDEWALK & TREE FUND	204	4,908,201	4,897,918
MUNICIPAL REFUSE FUND	205	11,831,493	12,123,862
COMMUNITY RECREATION FUND	208	7,205,073	7,638,988
TRANSIT AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	216	1,924,777	1,924,777
COMMUNITY TRANSIT FUND	218	998,328	1,223,403
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION	261	595,000	1,187,170
PLYMOUTH ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTH	262	892,756	858,050
ADJUDICATED FORFEITURES FUND	265	422,500	1,042,870
LIBRARY FUND	271	3,512,453	3,491,437
LIVONIA BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTH	273	200,000	200,000
CABLE TELEVISION FUND	297	509,200	441,034
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	566	1,100	431
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		\$40,571,376	\$42,543,140
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS		REVENUES	EXPENDITURES
2008 MBA 16TH DISTRICT COURT	322	\$603,658	\$603,658
2005 MBA REFUNDING	325	368,601	368,601
2007 MBA REFUNDING	326	2,512,375	2,512,375
1998 PRDA STREETS/CAPEDEBT	394	589,050	589,050
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUNDS		\$4,073,684	\$4,073,684
CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	401	\$1,124,777	\$1,370,200
ENTERPRISE FUND		REVENUES	EXPENDITURES
NEWBURGH VILLAGE SR. CIT. HOUSING	294	\$788,000	\$713,092
SILVER VILLAGE SR. CIT. HOUSING	296	626,390	620,188
GOLF COURSE	508	1,937,478	1,944,495
WATER AND SEWER	592	36,771,931	36,483,705
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND		\$40,123,799	\$39,761,480

LO-00022812 6x1



Bunny Watson and the "Girls" (from left) Valerie Haas, Anne Morgan, Jenna Hinton and Jennifer Beitzel. BAREFOOT PRODUCTIONS

Barefoot brings 'Desk Set' to stage

Barefoot Productions presents a gift of laughter for the start of the holidays, bringing the comedy *The Desk Set*, written by William Marchant, to the stage. *The Desk Set* tells the timely story of Man (or Women) versus Machine. Written in 1955, this Broadway comedy is the story of Bunny Watson, head of the Reference Department of a large broadcasting corporation in Manhattan, and her "Girls," who find their jobs in jeopardy when Richard Sumner, an "Efficiency Expert," invades their Department with EMMERAC, the

electronic brain. This lighthearted, family comedy will make audiences laugh watching Bunny and her team try to outwit EMMERAC. Who will be the winner? The cast includes Jenna Hinton (Farmington), Valerie Haas (Redford), Jennifer Beitzel (Plymouth), Jonathon Wennstrom (Canton) as Richard Sumner, Anne Morgan (Livonia) as Bunny Watson, Michael Ludlam (Northville), Jerry Carney (Canton), Jane and Mike Cuba (Livonia), Pat Lillis and Kiersten Manifold (Ypsilanti).

The play is directed by artistic director Craig A. Hane. *The Desk Set* was made into the Hollywood classic film in 1958, starring Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. *The Desk Set* opens at 8 p.m. Dec. 5. Additional performances are 8 p.m. Dec. 6, 12-13 and 2 p.m. Dec. 7 and 14. All seats are \$15 and can be reserved by calling the box office at 734-560-1493 or going online to www.justgobarefoot.com. The intimate 99-seat Barefoot Productions Theatre is located at 240 N. Main in Plymouth.

College robotics students place fifth in World Robot Olympiad

The Lawrence Technological Robotics team finished fifth in the University division of the World Robot Olympiad held recently in Sochi, Russia. Lawrence Technological University students John Marnon of Westland and Farmington Hills resident Philip Bigos built and programmed their robot to represent the United States in the competition.

Marnon, a 2011 Westland John Glenn High School graduate, was member of the first Wayne-Westland robotics team. In the spring, Marnon and Bigos are scheduled to be the first students in Michigan to earn bachelor of science degrees in robotics engineering. In the elementary



John Marnon prepares the robot used in the Robot Olympiad. His team took fifth place in the college competition. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

division of the competition, the team from Canton-Northville won a bronze medal.

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Sikh building expansion approved in Canton

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton-based gurdwara, or Sikh place of worship, has confirmed plans for an addition to the Singh Sabha of Michigan, already an architectural landmark on Canton Center north of Geddes.

Project engineer Hakim Shakir said the two-story, 7,000-square-foot addition will mostly house classrooms for children's religious studies on weekends, though it also will be used for purposes such as confer-

ence rooms.

Shakir said construction is expected to begin in spring and hopefully be completed by next fall. It marks the first major addition to the gurdwara since it opened in April 2008.

Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, coordinator for the Plymouth-Canton Interfaith Community Outreach, said the gurdwara's expansion is a positive development for the Canton community.

"It's a good thing because it brings more diversity and inclusion into the Canton commu-



Construction is expected to begin in spring for an addition to the Singh Sabha of Michigan in Canton.

nity and it attracts a high caliber of people to our community," she said. "They want to live closer to their schools and

places of worship. The Sikh community is a great benefit to the community."

The project is set to

move forward after Singh Sabha of Michigan received special land use and site plan approval Tuesday night from a supportive Canton Township Board of Trustees. Planning commissioners already had approved the plans.

Township officials say the addition could accommodate an anticipated six classrooms, four conference rooms and offices.

The primary purpose is to provide space for religious classes and the teaching of the Punjabi language.

The expansion will be built on the south side of the gurdwara.

There are approximately 25 million Sikhs in the world.

Sikh means disciple or learner and Sikhism is founded on the 15th century teachings of Guru Nanak and 10 successive gurus. It teaches of one God, equality, hard work, meditation, tolerance, religious inclusion and other beliefs.

dclem@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919

Plymouth residents win Skate at the Joe contest

Plymouth resident, Jon Wilson and his family recently received the opportunity of a lifetime when they were among the randomly selected winners and guests in the Skate at the Joe sweepstakes sponsored by Flagstar Bank.

Wilson, his wife, and three children were treated to a two-hour

open skate at Joe Louis Arena, along with a pizza party.

Wilson said it was exciting to have the opportunity to skate at The Joe. And 8-year-old Kasey added, "It was fun and the food was good!"

Flagstar Bank is an official partner of the Detroit Red Wings.



The Wilson family of Plymouth won a two-hour open skate at Joe Louis Arena in a contest sponsored by Flagstar Bank.

Duo presents benefit concert

FERNDALE — 'Tis the season for music and giving. Local duo Cello-Bella are truly in the spirit this year; they're playing a free secular holiday concert to benefit the Ferndale Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 11.

Cello-Bella's Alison Donahue and Mike Wilhelm are no strangers to the library's stage, having played the last of FPL's Summer Concert Series in 2013. Donahue wanted to show her appreciation for all of the work the library's done, especially in the arts, so she contacted FPL's concert coordinator, Kelly Bennett and suggested this special holiday benefit performance.

"Cello-Bella was a great addition to our concert series in 2013," Bennett said. "So when Alison contacted me about doing a benefit show featuring holiday songs, I jumped at the chance to bring this fun group back to the library."

The duo are very community-minded, so



Mike Wilhelm on the guitar and Alison Donahue on the cello will perform at the Ferndale Library.

it's no surprise that they wanted to help out the library with a free show.

"Having music in your life is such an expanding thing, and it puts you in situations you wouldn't be in during your regular job and puts you in the community," Donahue

said. "Mike and I play a lot of different gigs around the area and we enjoy getting out there and reaching out to people and hopefully lifting up their day."

Cello-Bella specializes in jazz, swing and traditional American pop standards from the 1920s to the present.

Donahue's polished jazz-based vocal styling strikes a classy harmony with Mike Wilhelm's blue-inspired guitar and vocals.

The special holiday show is free, but donations to the library are highly encouraged. All ages are welcome.

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Read this before co-signing for student loan

Q: Dear Rick: I read an article about a father who co-signed a student loan for his daughter. When his daughter unfortunately passed away, he was held liable for the student loan. I was surprised the bank held him liable despite his loss. I have twin nephews who have asked me to co-sign their student loans. I want to help them, but I don't want to be held liable if they don't pay their loan back or if they should pass away before they've finished paying off the loan. Is there anything I can state in the loan documents or otherwise to protect me if I co-sign?



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

A: If your nephews are unable to make payment, the bank is going to seek payment from you. After all, that is why the bank wants you as a co-signer - to protect it from default. In some situations, you may have some sort of collateral that would protect you, but in this case it doesn't appear that there would be any. As a co-signer, that is the risk that you accept.

With regard to the untimely death of one of your nephews, if they die and still have an obligation on the loan, you would be responsible. However, there is something that you can do to protect yourself. Buy a life insurance policy on your nephews with you as the beneficiary. Then if one of the boys dies with an outstanding obligation, you could use the insurance to pay back the loan.

I recommend purchasing term insurance. It is the least expensive, particularly at the ages

of your nephews. One issue to consider with the insurance is the length of time you should have the coverage. I recommend at least a 20-year term, but you may find that at your nephews' ages, the cost for a 30-year policy is not much more expensive.

It is not unusual for someone to be repaying their student loan for a 30-year period. In addition, if they do pay the loan off sooner, you can cancel the term policy or turn the policy over to your nephews if they want it. If not, you can let the policy lapse and walk away from it.

I read the article where the father was held responsible for his deceased daughter's loan. What happened was a tragedy, however, it is a fact of life that if you co-sign on a loan, you can be held responsible. I always caution people about being a co-signer or a guarantor. Life insurance will protect you if the borrower passes away with the outstanding obligation. However, short of having some collateral, which in most cases is not realistic, if there is a default, you will be held responsible.

Good luck.
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Teddy Bears will rain down at Whalers game

The Plymouth Whalers and Plymouth Community United Way are hoping it will rain a torrent of teddy bears Saturday, Dec. 6, after the hockey team scores its first goal at Compuware Arena.

The annual Teddy Bear Toss not only provides toys to brighten the holidays of needy children, but comfort them in shelters and traumatic situations throughout the year.

Last year, more than 800 teddy bears were thrown onto the ice, creating an avalanche of stuffed animals.

This year, fans are being asked to bring a bevy of bears to top that total. The fun begins at 7:05 p.m.



The Plymouth United Way and the Plymouth Whalers are teaming up Dec. 6 for their annual Teddy Bear Toss.

For information, call Randi Williams at 734-453-8679, ext. 7, or email

randi.williams@pcuw.org. For tickets, call 734-

453-8400 or go to plymouthwhalers.com.

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All information contained herein was accurate at the time of publication. In order to maintain the high degree of quality and incorporate management with greater flexibility and economy, we reserve the right to make changes in price, specifications, materials, or to change or discontinue models without notice or obligation. Floor plan dimensions are approximate. © Alexander Bogaerts & Associates 2003.

The Cheese Lady comes to downtown Farmington

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

A new downtown Farmington shop has 80-plus reasons for you to "say cheese" — with more on the way.

Visit The Cheese Lady on Grove Street — next to TJ Maxx — to find a massive assortment of artisan cheeses and complementary products to pair them with, including craft beers, wines, crisps, preserves and more.

Not sure what "goes with" what or unfamiliar with any of the names posted on the wall, listing the dozens and dozens of cheeses that fill the store's coolers?

No worries. That's what the "cheesemongers" are for, ready to share what they know and offer samples of their choosing or yours.

"We talk cheese, we sell cheese, we teach people about cheese," said Kyle Tackett, degreed in culinary arts, and proud wearer of his cheesemonger title.

"The thing about cheese is people often

think of it as one-dimensional," Tackett said, "but it's so versatile. It can be part of so many different things — desserts, entrees, appetizers. There are so many uses and different varieties ... you can see why everyone loves cheese."

The Farmington store, owned by Joe and Kendra Mantey, is the fifth Cheese Lady, a Michigan-based company founded by the original "cheese lady" Kathleen Riegler about 10 years ago. She and her husband John run their first store in Muskegon and take an active role in helping launch the franchises — as evidenced by John's recent visit to the Mantey's store.

"Some people just haven't had any good cheese," Riegler said, explaining that the vacuum-sealed products typical of most supermarkets are what so many are used to, but are sorely lacking in flavor. Rather, cheeses have to be packaged properly and not sliced in advance, he said, to keep customers



Cheesemonger Kyle Tackett offers samples and plenty of cheese advice to customers. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

hungering for more.

Tackett agreed. "We buy a better product, we handle it better, we take care of it better," he said. "You have to respect your cheese, treat it nicely."

Joe Mantey said he and his wife became fans of The Cheese Lady's Grand Rapids store about a year ago, after friends recommended they stop

there on the way to visit Mantey's dad, who lives on the western side of the state. After one visit, they were hooked.

"Then every time we visited my dad, we had to stop," he said, grinning.

Last February, he approached Riegler and got his franchise plan in motion. And downtown Farmington had to be the

spot. As a Farmington Hills planning commissioner and "one of the active Main Street people," Mantey said whatever helps revitalize the downtown benefits the entire Farmington-Farmington Hills community.

"On the planning commission, I tell people what they can and can't do with

their developments. Now, I'm learning about the other perspective," he said. "Now, I'm putting my money where my mouth is."

Eventually, Mantey expects to offer 150 varieties of cheese, but for now is easing into the business with a little more than half that amount, such as blended cheddar, goat and sheep milk cheeses, smoked, blues, soft cheeses and more. Some are seasonal, like Cranberry Le Roule, which will be offered through the holidays only. About 70 percent are European, with the rest from Michigan, Vermont, Wisconsin, Iowa and California.

"Just come in and taste," Mantey said. "Let the cheese speak for itself. It will remind you that it is one of the good things in life."

The Cheese Lady is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Phone 248-957-9581.

awingblad@hometownlife.com

Livonia A.M. Rotary Club inducts new members

The Livonia A.M. Rotary Club recently inducted four new members. From left, Liz Smith, District Governor, and Pat Zucal, President, welcome Mike Roberts, Straits Lighting Co.; Jeff Adams, Metro Agency Inc.; Eric Ladwig, The UPS Store; and Dennis Wright, Livonia City Treasurer.

Projects the club has been working on include supporting Sears in its efforts to help local families for the holidays, a food pantry at a local school and anti-bullying programs with local elementary schools.

To join, call Zucal at 734-525-1100.



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Celebrate Kwanzaa with the community

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

The planners of this year's annual Kwanzaa celebration believe the world would be a much better place if people embraced and lived according to the holiday's seven principles.

"We live by these principles throughout our entire lives," Wayne Smith said. "They are an inspiration."

Kwanzaa's seven principles are the heart of the celebration 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, in the upstairs auditorium at the Farmington Hills branch of the library, 32737 12 Mile.

"You have to have faith in something or someone," Ouley Saulsberry said.

Smith and Saulsberry are among the event's planners, who also include Douglas Saulsberry, Donna Smith, Roy and Sonia Anderson and Dirk and Jessica Beamer.

The public is invited to learn about the seven principles that are based on African tradition and do not involve politics or religion. The principles are: self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

The seven principles and the celebration have Laurie Scott, children's librarian, excited. While the event has been celebrated in the library, this year marks the library's first year as co-sponsor.

"I jumped on the bandwagon," Scott said. "We are providing the space and the general library publicity. I value this as a cultural awareness event."

The principles, Scott said, are about community and each other. "Community togetherness, knowing your community and yourself. This is a celebration of all that."

In the years the planners have organized the event, increasingly more people attend, particularly with children. "By bringing in the library, it puts out the word of the diversity we have in this community," Douglas Saulsberry said.

The celebration will include music, dance, storytelling and family presentations of the Kwanzaa principles.

Again this year, popular storyteller Rosie Chapman will be on hand. And, for the first time, the Harrison High School Dance Troupe, led by teacher Tumijah Banks, will perform. Return African dancer Andrea Hetheru also will perform.

"The principles cross ethnic, religious and economic lines," Roy Anderson said. "It is about unity and all of us coming together."

In reaching that goal, Ouley Saulsberry said, everyone must find purpose in life and help each other and the community. Sonia Anderson agreed. Before she really knew about the Kwanzaa holiday, she was raised in its traditions of family and community: "The whole Kwanzaa idea is just that."

While presentations will be made — including from Farmington Public Schools officials, who were in on the beginning of the annual celebration almost 10 years ago — visitors can look forward to refreshments, food and a chance to gather.

Sonia Anderson and Donna Smith claim the food department of the celebration. Each will cook and bake for the event, including peach cobbler, green beans, macaroni and cheese, sweet potato pie and pecan pie, to name a few delicacies.

"The real purpose is that people are socializing and sharing what's happened in the past year," Donna Smith said.

No doubt there is tradition laced through the celebration, based on the seven principles. Visitors will see the foundation mat, a symbol

of history; a unity cup, a symbol of unity; fruits and vegetables, symbol of the harvest; a candle holder, a symbol of origin; and gifts for good behavior in the past year.

"When we then call on our ancestors, it warms my heart," Wayne Smith said.

The Kwanzaa planning committee has quite a few sponsors that help create a successful celebration. Papa John's

pizza and Johnny Pomodoro's have helped since day one, while others are Beans & Cornbread restaurant, Busch's Fresh Market, Heartland Market, Whole Foods Market, Farmington Community Library and Chicken King.


"This has grown and evolved since it was started," Roy Anderson said. "It's a joy to see so many faces."



JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
The planners of the 2014 Kwanzaa celebration include: Donna and Wayne Smith, Laurie Scott, Farmington Community Library children's librarian, Douglas and Ouley Saulsberry and Roy and Sonia Anderson. Also on the planning committee are Jessica and Dirk Beamer.



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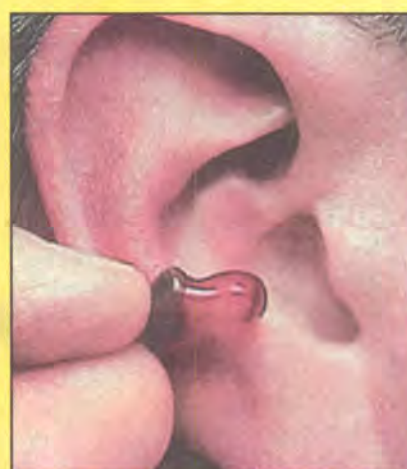
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PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Stevenson cooks up 7-1 rout

Spartans carve up
Chargers in
Thanksgiving Eve game

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Blue Wednesday preceded Black Friday by about 48 hours at Eddie Edgar Arena. Decked out in its midnight-blue road uniforms, Livonia Stevenson carved up Livonia Churchill 7-1 Wednesday night in an arena-shaking Thanksgiving Eve hockey rivalry showdown played before enthusiastic student cheering sections from both schools. The Spartans (2-1) deliv-

ered the first blow 2:22 into the contest when Shane Leonard's perfect centering feed was deposited into the net's top shelf by senior captain Mick Sinclair, who had positioned himself comfortably on the door-step of the goal crease.

Just over six minutes later, however, it was a staggering two-goals-in-13-seconds combination by Stevenson's Alex DeFlorio and Vince Glenn that gave the "guests" a 3-0 advantage that Churchill (1-1-1) was never able to recover from.

"Whenever we score a goal, we tell ourselves that we need to go out even harder the very next shift, and that's what we

did," said DeFlorio, when asked about his team's bang-bang net-finders. "We did a good job of getting the puck out of our zone tonight and moving it around. We did the little things we needed to do."

Although the back-to-backers were significant, they weren't the equivalent of a knock-out punch, Stevenson head coach David Mitchell emphasized.

"Those two goals definitely helped give us momentum and they helped settle our guys down a little bit, but it was still way too early — especially against a rival like Churchill — to say they knocked them out,"

See STEVENSON, Page B4



Livonia Churchill goalie Andrew Broyles (No. 1) contends with offensive pressure from Livonia Stevenson forwards Justin Alton (No. 22) and Randy Maples (No. 12).

PREP BOYS HOCKEY



North Farmington-Harrison senior goalie Brendan Dilloway focuses on the puck as Austin Bottrell (19) and a teammate try to slow down the Farmington skater.

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

One's all it takes

Plymouth's Bump scores only goal in hard-fought win over Canton

By Evan Paputa
Correspondent

In life, lessons normally come in moments of defeat. Wednesday night, the Plymouth varsity boys hockey team proved that the same cannot be said for hockey games — the Wildcats' youthful unit shut out Canton 1-0 and learned how to handle the atmosphere of a cross-campus rivalry as well.

"It was a growing moment for a lot of our guys that were in their first time in this environment," Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento said. "A lot of prep (Plymouth junior varsity) players stepped up that were sophomores last year and I thought grew up in this game tonight."

Beating Canton goaltender Nick Borg proved to be a daunting task for the Wildcats all night. Borg stopped 28 of 29 shots faced on the night. Plymouth finally snuck one by him with 7:29 remaining in the second period of the KLAASouth Division matchup.

In the midst of a six-player scrum in the corner behind and to the left of Borg, Plymouth's James Baldwin dug the puck out and shoveled a pass towards the right slot. The man on the spot was Alex Bump who wristed it past Borg.

"I was hanging out in the high slot, just sitting and waiting," Bump said. "Our main goal was putting the puck on net. As soon as the puck comes out of the scrum, you just have to be ready to put the puck in the net."

As marvelous of a shot that Bump's was, the play would not have been possible without Baldwin coming out of the pile with the puck and firing a picture-perfect pass.

"We cycled it down low and tried to get it to the net as fast as possible. That's what we do, we battle," Baldwin said.

Vento said the goal "is kind of the way we're going to be this year. We're not a high-flying team that's going to score a lot of goals in transi-

IN FLIGHT

Flyers skate to 4-2 win over rival Falcons in hockey match-up

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

The North Farmington-Harrison hockey players and coaches were counting their blessings on the day before Thanksgiving, too. All four of them!

The Flyers jumped to a big lead early and overcame a Farmington comeback effort for a 4-2 victory over their crosstown rivals Wednesday night.

"I'm happy with the way we battled," North-Harrison coach Ken Anderson said. "There's a lot of adversity and a lot of things going on in a rivalry game. We stuck to it and worked our tails off and got rewarded for it."

The Flyers were on the scoreboard just over a minute into the game (15:54) when Danny Arnold stole the puck near center ice for a break-



Flyers senior defenseman Frank Zak (5) protects the puck from Farmington sophomore forward Collin Finn.

away and beat Falcons goalie Hunter Firestone with a nice move in front of the net.

North-Harrison (2-1) got its second goal a mere four seconds into a power play late in the first period (3:55).

The puck floated across the crease as Firestone tried to cover it, but Jack Cikra was unmarked on the other

side and had an easy shot into the open half of the net.

The Flyers made it a three straight early in the second period (15:56) when Joey Lajcaj ripped a long slap shot that made it through a maze of players to the back of the net on a power play.

"It was nice for our young guys to get into the game a

little more, playing with a lead," Anderson said. "Every time we play the Falcons, it's never safe. They battled, battled and got back in it in a hurry."

Falcons rally

Farmington (1-3) scored both of its goal within a 1:02 span late in the second period to make a game of it and put some suspense into the competition.

Jordan Hoke scored the first on a bang-bang sequence on a power play with 3:34 remaining. Drake Cole took a centering pass from Richard Lantz and made the initial shot; Hoke scored off the rebound.

Just over a minute later (2:32), Jason Petras pulled the Falcons within one when he scored from Cole and Hoke.

The sudden scoring outburst and one-goal difference conjured thoughts of a 2010 game in which Farmington rallied from a 4-2 deficit to win 5-4.

"A lot of things go through your mind," Anderson said. "I warned our guys: 'The Fal-

See FLYERS, Page B5

See PLYMOUTH, Page B2



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PLYMOUTH CANTON NORTHVILLE NOVI LIVONIA

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

Green to swim at Florida Atlantic

Division I university signs versatile Canton senior all-stater

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton senior swimmer Claire Green is riding a wave of personal success. Last weekend, Green earned Division I all-state honors in the 500 freestyle, finishing seventh at Eastern Michigan University with a time of 5:06.89. She also competed in the 100 breaststroke and came in 16th (1:08.80). Green also announced she had an early signing

to swim at Florida Atlantic University, a Division I college located in Boca Raton. Her signing took place Nov. 17 at the Canton High School pool, with coaches Ed Weber (Canton Chiefs), Josh and Alexandra "Coach Z" Morgan (Plymouth-Canton Cruisers) and former Olympian Chris Thompson (also with the PC Cruisers) on hand to celebrate with her. Also at the ceremony was Weber's young daughter, Maddy, the

high school squad's favorite on-deck cheerleader and helper. "I can't wait to be swimming outside and be able to walk to class with wet hair if I want," said Green about the chance to attend school in the warm-weather state. Green's parents, Patty and Todd Green of Canton, said she "is excited for the opportunity to swim at a Division I school with new positive, energetic coaches determined to grow and improve their team." In an email to the *Observer*, they continued to note that FAU's coach-



COURTESY GREEN FAMILY
Canton Chiefs senior all-state swimmer Claire Green (seated), recently signed to swim at Division I's Florida Atlantic University. Standing (from left) are Plymouth-Canton Cruisers coaches Alexandra "Coach Z" and Josh Morgan, former Olympian Chris Thompson and Chiefs head coach Ed Weber. Standing next to Claire is Maddy Weber, who helps her dad with the high school team.

ing staff is headed by former Olympian Lara Preacco, assistant coaches Manny Naguchi (formerly of Michigan State University) and Kyle

Berg (former Kenyon College D3 champion coach). Swimming for the Owls will be only part of the plan for Green at

FAU. She will study for a degree in physical therapy.
tsmith@hometownlife.com
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PLYMOUTH

Continued from Page B1

tion. It was a grind-it-out goal and a lot of our goals are going to be like that;

either in the crease or two, three feet from it." **Taking the lead** Bump is making a name for himself as a junior in his second season on varsity. Vento is

impressed with his team mentality and work ethic. "He's intense, brings it every shift. He's turned into a leader for us already," Vento said. Early on this season the Wildcats have taken on the identity of being gritty not pretty, like the successful Detroit Red Wings teams of the late 1990s. "Definitely we pride ourselves on that. This year's team is a lot like last year's team: we're not going to win games 7-1, 7-2," Vento said. Although there were many Plymouth players playing in just their third varsity game, it didn't show. "Baldwin and (Jake) Silvester played outstanding. (Parker) Lazorka was great. Top to bottom, everyone stepped up." The jump from prep level hockey to varsity is a huge one with an overall faster pace, according to Vento. "The pace of play and the physical play. It's

fast, bodies are bigger, just less time, less space," Vento said. For the night before Thanksgiving, students from Plymouth, Canton, and even Salem packed the stands at the Arctic Edge. The energetic environment brought out the best in the players' competitive spirits. "I was a little nervous at the beginning, but once I got a couple of shifts in I was good to go," Baldwin said. "It's always big against Canton and Salem. You can't let the environment grab you, you have to tone out the crowd," Bump said. The victory over Canton is a big momentum builder for Plymouth and a big step in the right direction for the long season ahead. "I have to say what a fantastic game that Canton played. I know they may have struggled in years past, but Brad has put together a nice team," Vento said. "It's great that all three Park teams are playing well.

All those cross-campus games are going to be just like this, nail-biters." **Optimistic outlook** Canton is coming off of a 3-21 season last year that included two losses to Plymouth by a combined 7-1 margin. The Chiefs played with pride all night long, but couldn't sneak one past Plymouth netminder Erik VandenBosch, who stopped all 13 Canton shots. "Plymouth was the better team tonight. They came out and skated hard for the whole game," Canton head coach Brad Barath said. "We didn't really skate until the last few minutes." Borg played phenomenally on the night despite the Bump goal. He constantly was stretching out across his goal and turned away several Plymouth opportunities. "He was outstanding. Plymouth actually took it to us all game and Borg played outstanding for us," Barath said.

Defensively Canton was able to sustain and minimize four Plymouth power plays including a five-minute major called just 1:39 into the second period. The Chiefs defensive unit, led by Borg, helped keep them in the game until the very end. "We hung in there because of Borg. They had their opportunities and he was there to stop the puck," Barath said. "He's just a workhorse, he absolutely works. He's not the most fundamental goalie in the world, but he's a Dominik Hašek — all over the place and making saves he needs to make." In the end Canton may not have been able to leave with a victory, but they still have remaining rivalry games left against Salem and Plymouth. "We play Plymouth the day before Thanksgiving every year, it's tradition," Barath said. "It's nice to see where you're at in the beginning of the year."

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Peggy Nielsen, program coordinator for SandCastles, a grief program for youngsters, talks with piano students Zach Waarala of Canton and Eva Naberhaus of Northville during a break between their piano lessons. Zach, Eva and 114 other piano students will perform a benefit for SandCastles Dec. 6 at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Piano students entertain, benefit charity cause at Laurel Park Place

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

If you plan to shop at Laurel Park Place on Saturday, Dec. 6, be sure to include a little relax-and-listen time at the mall.

One hundred sixteen piano students will entertain throughout the day — and it's all for a good cause.

"We are calling it Rockin' The Keys For Charity," said Maxine Berghoff, event chair and a member of the Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum, an organization of approximately 100 piano teachers in southeastern Michigan. Berghoff suggested the idea to the organization after participating in a similar event while living in Florida.

"The performing experience motivates the kids to practice," she said. "It's a great opportunity for them to gain experience. It allows students to share their talent while supporting a worthy cause."

Students each collected at least \$25 in pledges to secure a performance time. The money they raise — nearly \$7,000 so far in pledges — will benefit SandCastles, a nonprofit or-

ganization, part of the Henry Ford Health System Hospice, that offers support groups for grieving children, teens and their families.

"I thought it was a good cause," said Zach Waarala, 15, a piano student from Canton. "I've lost people in my life, but I think it's cool they have a place to go to let anger out or talk about it."

Zach, a Canton High School sophomore, has taken private piano lessons for six years and performed in recitals and competitions. He says he's "more excited than nervous" about playing to a potentially large audience in the mall.

"I'm just thankful for the opportunity."

Zach, who raised the most money in pledges, will play his own arrangement of *Silent Night*.

Eva Naberhaus, 9, of Northville trailed Zach in pledges by approximately \$10.

"I was able to collect \$150. I decided to do it because it's for charity," she said.

Eva's working on a rocking Christmas tune in rehearsals.

"I think I'm going to have to work hard," she said, reflect-

ing on the upcoming gig. "I will be a little nervous, but I think I'll be OK."

Berghoff said the youngsters will perform the pieces they know best. Focus is key in a mall setting where "there are lots of distractions" and the audience constantly changes.

Free services

"I'm excited. I got to listen to them play," said Peggy Nielsen, SandCastles program manager, after hearing both Eva and Zach rehearse. "They were so good and practicing so hard. It was fantastic."

She said the event will give shoppers and opportunity to relax and "enjoy some great music."

Donation canisters will be set out to help raise even more money for the organization, which runs on charitable contributions.

"We fundraise our entire budget and we don't charge families for services," Nielsen said. "A lot of families that come to us have had one parent die and that cuts the family income in half."

SandCastles runs support groups in eight locations in

southeastern Michigan, including Livonia, with each serving between 15-30 families. Families attend sessions every other week and generally remain in the program for a year to 18 months. Some seek help immediately after a death in the family, but others may wait for several years before joining.

"I had one boy who joined four years after the death of his father. He did OK after the death initially, but four years later a grandparent died and everything started going wrong," Nielsen said. "Grades dropped. He got into trouble. The family joined the program and then the dad's death came up."

"The quirky thing about grief is you're going to do it at some point. You have to do the work to get through it. If you try and not do the work, it will come back at some other time."

Dinner, support

SandCastles gives families a place to "process" their grief, find support and understanding from other families in grief and learn coping skills. Each

session starts with dinner for group facilitators, who are trained volunteers, and families. After dinner, family members meet in support groups for ages 3-6, 7-9, 10-12, teens, and parents.

"A lot of times kids just don't know someone else who has lost a mom or dad and they feel like they are the only one in the world. By coming into SandCastles you are surrounded by people going through something similar to what you're going through. It helps normalize the process."

Volunteers go through 26 hours of training before they facilitate a support group. Nielsen said prior counseling experience or work with children isn't required. The organization also needs program aides, speakers bureau and fundraising committee members, in addition to facilitators.

For more about SandCastles, visit aboutsandcastles.org or call 313-874-6881. For more about the Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum, visit laptf.org.

Skip candy-like soap packets if you have young kids

Several days ago, the media warned consumers about laundry soap in plastic pouches that you just throw into a clothes washer and they do the job.

I know they work because a while back I went to the grocery store and purchased a container of these for our use at the cottage. My darling Valorie loves the top load washer at the cottage and thinks these tablets are great. No measuring or mess with a cup, just throw it in and you save time. All very fitting for a busy person who does the laundry, you bet.

The consumer warning, which I believe was on all television networks across the land, and rightfully so, stated that thousands of children visited the emergency centers of hospitals every year. One of the reports showed children selecting a soap packet when placed beside candy. The packets are brightly-colored, some with two-tone stripes, similar to treats. Any child who has ever tasted a candy cane would



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE
DOCTOR

certainly select this packet of detergent and no wonder it has become a national safety concern.

You know that the manufacturers are not going to pull this product off the market because it is a big money maker for them and it would just be too saintly for them to show this kind of concern. This packet, made of plastic decorated with candy cane stripes, dissolves in the washer after it begins to agitate. It is easy for a child to bite through this plastic and the liquid detergent to run down the throat of the unsuspecting toddler. I remind you, this is happening to thousands of children across this country. Manufacturers say they have made containers harder to open and yet a television report shows a 3-year-old child opening a container. You

know that a child will dedicate a lot of time to open something they can't and making it any harder will prevent some senior citizen from getting in there.

My father used to tell me that if I gave him a problem to always have an answer to solve it. I can't this time, Dad, except to say that soap companies should not be producing this product. It has caused death and just how stupid can they be? If you have children I suggest you do not buy these packets because you know it is bound to happen.

Plastic problem

A few years ago, these packets of detergent hit the market and proved very successful. There was a problem with them in the beginning when the plastic wrap on them didn't dissolve during the wash cycle. My friend, Mike Miller, called me for service on his dishwasher because it stopped cleaning the dishes after he used dishwasher soap packets. I told him about this problem



SUBMITTED
Single-use laundry detergent packets and candy may appear similar to young children.

and he called me back and told me, "I have the spray arm out of the dishwasher and I am pulling little strips of plastic out of the holes in the spray arm with a small pair of needle nose pliers." That did the trick for Mike and I added that he should turn up the temper-

ature on his hot water heater. I guess the manufacturer made the plastic a little thinner.

In closing, let me once again voice my concerns about the lack of publicity regarding appliance recalls. There are millions of appliances under recall that homeowners have no clue about. Most are prone to catch fire whether they are turned on or not. There is a good chance that you have one in your home and I suggest you search the website saferproducts.gov and type in your model and serial number.

I commend the television networks for the fine coverage on these detergent packets and I think the whole intent came from the fact that children are involved. Maybe that's the secret to greater coverage on this subject of recalled appliances. An appliance fire can kill a child. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com.

Olympic gold medalists party at Hob Nobble Gobble



Canton residents Shawn Wilson Jr. and Shawn Wilson II attend the Hob Nobble Gobble for their second year. Wilson is an employee with Presenting Sponsor Ford Motor Co.



Blue-haired Canton couple in the house: Brian Lawrence and Lisa Raiche



Belleville resident Kelly Springer, (left) Canton resident Melani Ivery, and Detroit resident Brianne Brown enjoy Hob Nobble Gobble. Note to self: "Don't wear high heels to the Hob Nobble Gobble when you're six months pregnant," Ivery advises.



Wheelz, Smiggins and Gracie — have you driven a Ford lately? Wearing their clown costumes are Todd Delo (left) of Holt, Sherrie Chrysler of Redford and Cheryl Woodard of Holt.

Touchdown at Ford Field on Friday, Nov. 21. The Hob Nobble Gobble celebrated its 25th anniversary with 2,000-plus party rockers in the house that night. The Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation's premier fundraiser supports 88 years of bringing America's Thanksgiving Parade to Detroit and nationwide, airing on WDIV-Local 4.

Ford Field had pretty much everything during the Hob Nobble Gobble except a skating rink. That didn't deter Meryl Davis and Charlie White, Olympic gold medalists in ice dancing, from showing some slick moves on the dance floor to rapper Vanilla ICE and pop band MKTO. Davis and White, who train at the Arctic Edge in Canton, were named grand marshals of the 88th American Thanksgiving Parade.



Corps (DCC), comprised of 165 business and community leaders, including Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation Chair Eric Larson and his wife, Kathy, and daughters Paige and Makenzie of Bloomfield Hills.

"The Parade has had a long, great history with Detroit — 88 years — and we're in the best shape," said Eric Larson to the Hob Nobble Gobble partiers.

Larson also congratulated the team at M-1 Rail, the Woodward Avenue Streetcar Project in Detroit, for working with the Parade Company to ensure a smooth Thanksgiving Parade route along the construction area.

Along with the world's top skating pair, clowns were everywhere. And not just any clowns — the Distinguished Clowns

"You don't have to wear your hard hats," Larson joked.

Tell that to the Big Heads.

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Canton girl heads an 'army of elves' at Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Emi Werschky ballet dances.

Her best move in gymnastics is a cartwheel.

And she recently portrayed a horse, mouse and towns person in the play *Cinderella*.

But there is something else the 7-year-old Canton Charter Academy second-grader wants you to know about her personal achievements. She has done it all between heat packs and weekly shots.

"I have arthritis," she explained, during a recent lunchtime interview at her school, where fellow students are fundraising for the Arthritis Foundation's Detroit Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis. "It feels good to teach all these people who don't know that kids have arthritis, that they do."

Emi is getting plenty of chances to educate others about her illness, an autoimmune disease that typically causes joint inflammation, but that can involve eyes, skin and gastrointestinal tract. She's this year's youth honoree for the Jingle Bell Run/Walk and has her own team, Emi's Army of Elves, that will participate in the fundraiser on Dec. 6 in Detroit. Her story and her photo is printed on event publicity posters distributed, not only at her school, but throughout Southeastern Michigan.

Supporting the Foundation

She and her family, including parents Lisa and Tony, have been active in Arthritis Foundation events since Emi was diagnosed with the disease at age 2½. They've walked in the Foundation's annual spring event at the Detroit Zoo and attended galas. Tony and Lisa also earned silver (Tony) and

bronze (Lisa) medals in the Forge through Hell, an extreme 5K for the cause.

The entire family, including Emi's three siblings, attended Arthritis Foundation family camp earlier this year in LaPeer and got a chance to meet other children with arthritis.

"It was a nice experience. We met some families we've seen since at other events. You feel close because it's hard for other people to understand just what you experience. When we started putting up posters with Emi's picture and her story, people would come up to me and say, 'Oh my gosh, I didn't know this is what you've gone through.' Well, we don't usually walk around telling everyone what we've gone through," Lisa said. "We just do it. It's the way it goes and we're OK with that. We've accepted our journey and our path and we're thankful it's not any worse. But we still pray for healing and that it's not our path forever."

It's been an on-again, off-again journey as Emi has been in remission, out of remission and in again over nearly five years.

Ups and downs

"Even in remission she will get injections of Enbrel for the next three to four years. Right now she's on Enbrel, a biologic drug, and methotrexate, a low-dose cancer drug. One of the biggest hurdles we face is that when her arthritis flares we can up the medication to fight the arthritis, but in doing so, we usually add other problems. So, you're kind of in a race to try to get the arthritis under control so you can get off those medications so she can get back to feeling good and having that sense of humor and that smile and being the normal little adorable 7-year-old we love so much. But it comes and goes."



Emi Werschky of Canton is youth honoree for the Arthritis Foundation's 2014 Detroit Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis. She's ready to dress as an elf to head up her team, Emi's Army of Elves.

When her arthritis flares when her immune system "kicks into overdrive" and attacks the her joints, Lisa said. Both drugs she takes, administered in a shot each week, can lower her immune system, making her more susceptible to illness.

"She can get the flu and her arthritis could flare. She could get a cut and her arthritis could flare. The more illness you have, the more likely your arthritis will flare. We did the happy dance all the way out of the rheumatologist office the first time we were in remission. And it only lasted about a

month."

Diagnosis

Lisa discovered her daughter's illness when Emi, then an active and independent toddler, began asking to be carried everywhere. She noticed her knee was swollen and her daughter was limping, but was told it was a symptom of a virus. A follow-up visit to the doctor's office confirmed the arthritis. She received steroid injections in her sore joints almost immediately and started on a series of medications that have increased in strength over the years. Lisa estimates

that her daughter has tried "well over a dozen" medications since she was diagnosed. Her arthritis has affected mostly knees, ankles, wrists and occasionally elbows and shoulders.

"When we started this we heard a lot of people say kids outgrow this. We've noticed they've stopped saying that to us. We try to take it one day at a time and we celebrate days she feels well and we do what we can to get through the days she doesn't."

Emi is looking forward to the Jingle Bell Run/Walk, where she'll dress as "head elf" for her team and ride through the event in a "sleigh" pulled by her mom, who will be in reindeer costume. Her dad will run the race. One sibling will pass out candy canes along the route and two others will ride with her.

The event starts with registration from 7:30-8:30 a.m., followed by the quarter-mile "Snowman Shuffle" fun run for children at 8:50 a.m. and the 5K run/walk and 10K run at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 at Compuware, 1 Campus Martius, Detroit. A soup and chili party follows the event. Medals will be awarded for top three finishers in 13 age groups, along with prizes for largest team, best costume and top fundraiser. Fees are \$35 for the 10K, \$30 for the 5K and \$12 for the Snowman Shuffle. Visit jinglebellrundetroit.kintera.org for more information.

"People think that their donation doesn't count, or doesn't make a difference," Lisa said. "The biologic drug that Emi is on is a direct result of research done by the Arthritis Foundation and without supporting the Arthritis Foundation and providing funds and research, she wouldn't be in remission."

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Test drive 2015 Ford F-150 during special event at Bill Brown Ford in Livonia

By Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

Take a sneak preview of the 2015 Ford F-150 during the Ride and Drive Event at Bill Brown Ford in Livonia from 5-9 p.m. Monday, Dec 8.

Customers can test drive the soon-to-be-released 2015 F-150 alongside a Ford product expert while enjoying appetizers and soft drinks. Also, WYCD 99.5-FM and radio personality Linda Lee will be on-site to meet and greet visitors, and there will be giveaways and prizes to win.

To register for the test drive event, visit www.f150drive.com/billbrownford.

Anticipation is building for the revamped F-150. The vehicles are expected to be on the lot in late December or early January — but Bill Brown Ford is taking pre-orders now.

"Customers are really enthusiastic," says Andrea Calvanese, Marketing Director for Bill Brown Ford. "Most of all, they're excited about seeing the new body style."

Thanks to an all-new aluminum body construction, the 2015 Ford F-150 is lighter than previous models.

"By getting rid of 700 pounds, the 2015 F-150 has increased its towing capacity while also improving fuel economy — a win-win," Calvanese says.

Other highlights include:

- » The availability of the all-new 2.7-liter Eco-Boost model

- » A 360-degree camera view to assist with parking and maneuvering



Customers can test drive the soon-to-be-released 2015 F-150 during the Ride and Drive Event at Bill Brown Ford in Livonia from 5-9 p.m. Monday, Dec 8.

- » Active park assist
 - » Remote tailgate release
 - » 8-inch productivity screen in the instrument cluster
 - » Quad-beam LED headlamps
- Available engines include:
- » 325-horsepower, 2.7-liter V-6
 - » 365-horsepower, 3.5-liter V-6
 - » 385-horsepower, 5.0-liter V-8
 - » 282-horsepower, 3.5-liter V-6
- "Once they become available, we will have a strong allocation for our customers to purchase," Calvanese says.

Bill Brown Ford's seasoned sales associates have superior product knowledge, allowing customers to find the F-150 that suits them best.

"Bill Brown Ford has extraordinary service across the board," Calvanese says. "We are a full-service dealership — new and used sales, service, Quick Lane Tire & Auto Center, body shop and a state-of-the-art Fleet Center — that accommodates all of your needs before and after the sale."

Located at 32222 Plymouth Road in Livonia, Bill Brown Ford is proud



The 2015 Ford F-150 includes an 8-inch productivity screen in the instrument cluster.

to be one of premier dealerships in the country. The Brown Family

has been serving the community and its automotive needs since 1914.

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Bill Brown Ford is open for new and pre-owned sales from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Pre-owned sales are also available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call Bill Brown Ford at 734-421-7000 or visit www.BillBrownFord.com.

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