Lake Orion rejects transfer to Clarkston schools — A2

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Clarkston Eccentric

Serving Clarkston, Independence and Springfield

Thursday
December 31, 1998

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 15 • CLARKSTON, MICHIGAN • 40 PAGES • http://observer-eccentric.com • SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

CLARKSTON LIFE

In with the new: *With the New Year just hours away, why not try something different, like a new look, courtesy of a professional stylist and makeover artist?* / **A7**

ENTERTAINMENT

Books: *"The MusicHound Rock: The Essential Album Guide," is a 1,500-page catalogue of rock acts with commentary by 132 contributors.* / **E1**

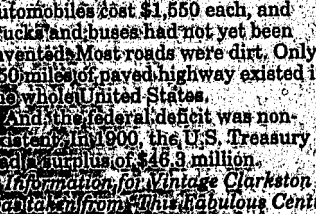
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VINTAGE CLARKSTON



As people celebrate the start of a new millennium a year from today, many will be concerned about the effect of Y2K problems on computers. They may worry whether organizations that provide electricity, water and food will be able to continue doing so.

Likewise, fundamental worries were on the minds of folks 99 years ago as they celebrated the beginning of the 20th century. While technology was not a concern — only 18 out of every 1,000 people had a telephone, and no one owned a refrigerator or even a radio — people worried about diseases. Diphtheria, typhoid and malaria were among the leading causes of death. Colds could easily develop into pneumonia, which often was fatal.

Weather, and its effects on crops, was also a big concern. Most people earned their living as farmers, and when the weather didn't cooperate, people went hungry. Only 6 million people — out of a total U.S. population of 76 million — worked in factories. Those who did earned a mere 22 cents an hour.

Yet, times were simpler then. Industrialization had not yet taken hold of the country. Most of the countryside was still rural. New-fangled automobiles cost $1,550 each, and trucks and buses had not yet been invented. Most roads were dirt. Only 150 miles of paved highway existed in the whole United States.

And the federal deficit was nonexistent. In 1900, the U.S. Treasury had a surplus of $46.3 million.

Information for Vintage Clarkston was taken from "The Fabulous Century 1900-1910," published by Time-Life.

Clarkston assesses Y2K problem

■ Only time will tell if the Clarkston area can withstand the year 2000 without too many problems caused by computer glitches. With just one year to go, bank, library and law enforcement officials said they're as prepared as possible.

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
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As the new year approaches, the countdown to the year 2000 begins.

With just 365 days left, local businesses and organizations are putting the final touches on problematic computer programs which may become dysfunctional in the tear 2000.

The problem stems from those programs which cannot distinguish 2000 from 1900. Because some computer programs allow only for the last two digits of the year, no one knows what will happen at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve next year.

Will elevators stop functioning? Will traffic signals go haywire? Will bank records mysteriously disappear?

Only time will tell.

But Mollie Lynch, director of Independence Township Library, is breathing a sigh of relief.

She said she's not too concerned about the coming of the Y2K problem. The library's largest automated system, its online card catalogue, is compliant with Y2K standards.

"We're not anticipating any major problems," said Lynch.

She's made a list of the computer systems, starting with the top-priority systems, that needed to be checked for compliance. At this time, she anticipates a smoothly functioning facility into the new year.

Karl Koenig, grocery manager of the Farmer Jack Market on Dixie Highway in Independence Township, said he can't anticipate what problems the year 2000 will bring, especially when it comes to his product and equipment suppliers. But he said that his store is as prepared as possible.

"At the store level, we're doing absolutely nothing," said Koenig. "Everything in the store is within the last two or three years old."

Because all equipment has been updated, he said, it's compliant with

Please see Y2K, A3



STAFF PHOTOS BY STEVE CANTRELL

Stroller-skating: *Rachel Horton rides along as her mother, Donna Horton, skates across the Lower Mill Pond.*

Ice breakers

Winter strolls into Clarkston



First try: *Jim Prokopetz lifts his son, Quentin.*

As frosty winter weather finally arrived in Clarkston, residents dug out their skates, skis, hockey sticks and fishing poles and engaged in cold-weather activities.

Monday afternoon, the Lower Mill Pond was fraught with activity as toddlers, teens and adults slid outside in search of recreation. The pond was frozen to about 4 inches deep, just enough to support the sturdy blade of an ice skate. With schools closed for the holidays, students traded math books for a game of ice hockey. One mother even strapped on her ice skates and pushed her daughter in a stroller along the frozen pond.

Would you call that stroller-skating?



For the fish: *Dan Bartenbaker prepares to ice fish on the Mill Pond Monday afternoon.*



So much for skating: *Elissa Smith takes a harmless tumble while ice skating with giggling friends Brittany Davis and Lindsay Sawyer.*

Chain drug store may replace Burke Lumber

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
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Small independent businesses being replaced by large corporate ones may be a sign of the times, but it's also a reality in the Clarkston area, a community that takes pride in its friendly small-town atmosphere.

One example of that reality: Burke Walls and All, a local lumber store on White Lake Road and Dixie Highway, is closing its doors, and a Walgreens drug store may take its place.

Development plans for a 13,900-square-foot Walgreens store at the site have been submitted to Independence Township's Building Department.

The plans were also slated for review by township planning commissioners Dec. 10. However, Township Planner Dick Carlisle's review of the plans was not favorable so the petitioner asked that the project be removed from the agenda. It is not known when the project is expected to come before planning commissioners again.

As currently proposed, the Walgreens store would be 28.4 feet in height and sit on roughly 2.5 acres at the northwest corner of Dixie Highway and White Lake. The existing Burke lumber building would be torn down, Carlisle said.

The project's plans indicate that drive-through pharmacy services would be provided – an offering by Walgreens that would strike hard at the heart of

Please see WALGREENS, A3

School district transfer rejected

[illegible] Orion has no intention of [illegible] 27 families from [illegible] district to neighboring Clarkston.

The school board recently voted to deny a request by Ivanhoe Properties to transfer 27 lots within Orion Township and the Lake Orion Community School District boundaries to Clarkston Community Schools so the children in its proposed 500-home subdivision can attend the same district.

The golf course community is to be built on property located within both Orion Township and neighboring Clarkston, splitting it right between the two school districts.

Superintendent Robert Bass told the board he remained neutral on the requests, explaining he saw no advantages or disadvantages to the proposed change.

"We certainly don't need the additional students — it's not a case of state aid," Bass said, adding the district's schools are already overcrowded.

Bass also reminded the board that the subdivision could conceivably have students going to several different schools with Lake Orion offering three schools of choice.

Trustee Tony Rothschild, who is opposed to the split, said he discussed the issue with Oakland Schools representatives and is of the opinion the developer is "school district shopping."

"The request is coming so the developer can sell his homes easier," Rothschild said.

Trustee Howard Sherman, who lives in a subdivision within both the Lake Orion and Clarkston school district boundaries, decided to support the transfer request.

"I feel its better to keep the sub together for the kids' sake," he said. "We're being compared to Clarkston constantly and this will be just another issue."

Sherman was the lone dissenter in the final 6-1 vote.

A developer's request of the school district that stands to lose the least amount of new pupils to exchange its district boundaries is not uncommon. In fact, it happens quite frequently and Oxford Area Community School District and Lake Orion have swapped properties back and forth several times, Bass said.

The difference, however, is those requests involved an upwards of about four homes.

"We're pretty much even now," Bass said of the swaps.

The request from Ivanhoe Properties, however, was for about six times that many homes, all of which are located on the main road entering the subdivision.

Clarkston Community Schools Superintendent Al Roberts was unavailable this week for comment.

Clarkston council looks at master zoning ordinance

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
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Clarkston City Council members dug into the thick document which will eventually become the city's zoning ordinance Monday night, in an effort to reach a revised version that both the council and the Planning Commission could accept.

The ordinance came before the council for review in November. The Planning Commission has been working to update the ordinance, last revised in 1972, for the past six months.

"It should be updated periodically. It's past time.'

Art Pappas
Clarkston city manager

"Once council members finish discussing the document, they will decide whether to adopt it.

"There have been a lot of additions," said City Manager Art Pappas. "It should be updated periodically. It's past time."

The purpose of the document is to establish zoning areas within Clarkston, such as single-family residential, multiple-family residential and commercial zones. It includes guidelines such as how far a house should be set back from the road, or how tall a building can be.

"We did the master plan first," said Pappas. "The zoning ordinance will implement the master plan."

He said the changes are mostly in the regulations, which would not change the face of Clarkston or contradict the master plan.

Council member Anne Clifton led the charge through the pages of the ordinance, pointing out articles and definitions which, she said, could cause confusion and neighbor disputes in the future.

Clifton pointed out that the definition of a commercial kennel, according to the document, could include a household with more than three animals, and a household in which animals are bred or sold. She said that, by this definition, if a dog were to have puppies, that home would be considered a kennel and would conflict with the residential classification of the area.

"That means anybody in a residential area can't breed or sell," said Clifton. "Anybody who wanted to could pull this (document) out and sue their neighbor and win."

Clifton said she has brought this issue to the Planning Commission since the first zoning ordinance meeting, but she has not seen a change in the phrasing.

"I could see trouble between two neighbors," she said. "This could cause potential neighbor conflicts."

Council member Michael Kelley said that the only way to get the ordinance finished is to discuss it together and make a decision.

Clifton agreed.

"We need to roll up our sleeves," she said.

The ordinance has been taken off of the council's agenda in the past to allow members more time to digest the information.

Thomas J. Ryan, city attorney, reminded council members that they are the "deciding members," Ryan added that Monday night's meeting would best be used to identify the specific questions that council members have.

Clifton continued to bring up her concerns, allowing other council members to join in at any time. She raised a question about nuisance behavior, asking who would determine what constitutes nuisance behavior.

Police Chief Paul Ormiston, who attended the meeting, said that the police would be responsible for controlling problems of that nature.

"You have to rely on the person who enforces this ordinance," said Ryan.

Discussion then turned to the fate of the Mill Ponds in Clarkston. Council members found a discrepancy about whether the pond was zoned for residential or recreational use. The question would be raised if the ponds were ever to dry up.

"If the Mill Pond accidentally drained or dried up, zoning would go to the center of the property," said Kelley. "If the Mill Pond were to become dry, residential (zoning) would be extended to that."

Finally, Clifton brought up a question pertaining to article 12, which describes light industrial zoning.

"Why do we have this article when there is no light industrial (zoned property)?" Clifton asked.

Ryan said that because the designation was specified in the prior ordinance, the language remained. He said it was unlikely that any property would be rezoned light industrial.

"We have a reference point," added Pappas, in case the issue were to arise.

Though the council was only able to work through the first 14 sections of the ordinance, Clarkston Mayor Sharron Catallo suggested that they plan to finish their own revisions and discussion at the next meeting.

Following the discussion, they will meet with members of the Planning Commission to request that changes be made before the ordinance is considered for adoption.

New bank offers use of room to community

Dave Harrison, president of Clarkston State Bank, has announced that the bank is opening its conference room to local business and civic groups, at no cost.

"The bank's commitment to the community is more than a financial one. We want to be a catalyst for meaningful interaction in Clarkston," Harrison said. "By providing space to meet, the bank will help bring people together to bond, share ideas and keep the spirit of Clarkston thriving."

The Community Room, which holds up to 15 people, is available on a first-come, first-served basis from 8:30 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Although the bank is scheduled to open Jan. 4, the Community Room is ready now.

For reservations, call Roberta Trzos, bank manager, at (248) 625-8585.

Located in downtown Clarkston at 15 S. Main, the former site of a NBD branch, Clarkston State Bank offers complete banking services.

OBITUARIES

LELA MAY BEALS

Lela May Beals, 98, of Grants Pass, Ore., formerly of Clarkston, died Friday, Dec. 25.

While living in Clarkston, Mrs. Beals was active as a hospital volunteer and was a member of the Andersonville Community Church.

She enjoyed gardening, canasta parties and flowers.

Mrs. Beals is survived by a daughter, Donna Cook of Oregon, and two grandchildren.

Visitation is from 11:30 a.m. until the time of service today, Thursday, Dec. 31, at Lewis E. Wint & Son Trust 100 Funeral Home, 6929 S. Main Street, Clarkston.

Funeral services are at 12:30 p.m., today, Thursday, Dec. 31, at the funeral home.

Interment will take place at Lakeview Cemetery.

ROBERT R. CARTER

Robert R. Carter, 65, of Fostoria, formerly of Clarkston, died Dec. 22.

He retired from Pontiac Motors after 30 years of employment. He enjoyed working at the Davisburg Candle Factor and more recently worked at a Total gas station in Lapeer.

Mr. Carter is survived by his wife, Ruth; two sons, Ron of Fostoria and Edward of Flint; one daughter, Tina Cosgrove of Clarkston; one brother, Don of Tustin; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were Monday, Dec. 28 at Lewis E. Wint & Son Trust 100 Funeral Home in Clarkston.

Interment took place at Ortonville Cemetery.

Charter Township of Springfield

NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD
SECOND READING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Springfield will hold a SECOND READING at its regular meeting on January 14, 1999, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Township Hall, 650 Broadway, Davisburg, Michigan to consider the following proposed amendments to Zoning Ordinance No. 26, Article XIV, Planned Unit Development District:

1. Add a new Section 14.04(6) as follows:

A Development Agreement in form as approved by the Township Attorney including, at a minimum, the following:

a. Identification of all development plans and documents applicable to the Development, as approved by the Township Board;

b. Recitation of applicable conditions, related agreements, and schedule of intended development and construction, including phasing or timing;

c. Other provisions required by the Township Board or as deemed applicable by the Township Supervisor.

2. Renumber Section 14.04(6) as 14.04(7).

3. Revise Section 14.07 to read as follows:

When approved the Planned Unit Development amendment, with all conditions imposed, if any, and the Development Agreement, shall constitute the land use authorization for the property, and all improvement and use shall be in conformity with such amendment and agreement. A notice of PUD approval shall be prepared and recorded against the applicable property at the office of the Oakland County Register of Deeds. This notice shall state that development of the property is restricted by the final PUD plan, the Development Agreement, and any applicable conditions, and shall state where the entire PUD plan may be inspected.

4. Add a new Section 14.08 entitled "Deviations from Approved PUD" as follows:

a. Deviations from an approved Planned Unit Development shall require an amendment to the PUD, which amendment shall follow all procedural steps required for an original PUD approval except as allowed below.

b. A property owner who has been granted PUD approval shall notify the Township Planning Coordinator in writing of any requested deviations or proposed Amendments to the approved PUD. The Planning Coordinator shall submit the request to the PUD Committee, as hereinafter defined, with a recommendation.

c. Minor changes to the final PUD Plan or Development Agreement may be approved by a PUD Committee, without recommendation by the Planning Commission or action by the Township Board, after review and recommendation by any Township Departments, consultants, or employees as deemed necessary by the Planning Coordinator. In some instances, it will be necessary to submit an amended site plan to the Township for review. The PUD Committee shall be composed of a representative of the Planning Commission and the Township Board. The PUD Committee shall unanimously determine that the proposed revision does not alter the basic design or conditions of the plan imposed upon the original approval by the Township Board. In making such a determination, the following may be considered a minor change:

(1) For residential structures, if structure size or the number of bedrooms is a condition of approval, the size of the structures may be reduced or increased by up to 5% for each structure provided that the overall density of units or the number of bedrooms does not increase.

(2) Square footage of non-residential buildings may be decreased or increased by up to 5% or 10,000 square feet, whichever is smaller, provided that this change does not require additional parking or drainage revisions, or effect any specific conditions of approval.

(3) Horizontal and/or vertical grade elevations may be altered so long as the overall drainage plan is not affected.

(4) A building may be relocated within an area no more than ten feet from the approved placement of the building in the original PUD Plan, so long as other elements of the plan are not materially affected.

(5) Designated open space areas may be increased.

(6) Any landscape materials may be replaced by similar types of landscaping so long as the total amount or size of landscaping is not decreased.

(7) Changes to building materials of a higher quality (as determined by the PUD Committee) unless such changes are specifically not allowed as a condition of approval by the Township Board.

(8) Improvements to site access or circulation such as, without limitation, inclusion of pedestrian or bicycle paths, curbing, acceleration or deceleration lanes unless a revised permit would be required by the Oakland County Road Commission.

(9) Reduction in size of any signage.

(10) Relocation of signage in an area of up to 25 feet of the original placement.

(11) Relocation of trash disposal areas.

(12) Internal re-arrangement of parking areas which does not reduce the number of spaces or alter access locations or reduce required landscaping.

(13) An increase in the amount of landscaping, either in area or in size of landscaping materials.

d. The Developer must prepare and submit a site plan showing the minor changes approved by the PUD Committee.

e. Should the PUD Committee determine that the requested modification to the approval PUD is not minor, an Amendment to the PUD shall be required, which shall follow all the provisions of this Ordinance for approval of the original PUD.

5. Renumber Section 14.08 as 14.09.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the entire Zoning Ordinance and documents related to the proposed amendments may be examined at the Springfield Township Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 1038, 650 Broadway, Davisburg, MI 48350 during regular business hours. Written comments may be submitted to the Township Clerk up until the time of the Second Reading. Anyone needing a special accommodation should contact the Clerk's Office at least two (2) business days in advance.

NANCY STROLE, Clerk
Charter Township of Springfield

Publish: December 31, 1998

Charter Township of Springfield

NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD
SECOND READING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Springfield will hold a SECOND READING at its regular meeting on January 14, 1999, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Township Hall, 650 Broadway, Davisburg, Michigan to consider the following proposed Consumers Energy Company Gas and/or Electric Franchise Ordinance.

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY (GAS) AND/OR ELECTRIC FRANCHISE ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE granting to CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY, its successors and assigns the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services, and to construct, maintain and commercially use electric lines consisting of towers, masts, poles, crossarms, guys, braces, feeders, transmissions and distribution wires, transformers and other electrical appliances on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways and other public places, and to do a local gas and/or electric business in the CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN for a period of thirty years.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. GRANT TERM. The CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, hereby grants to the Consumers Energy Company, a Michigan corporation, its successors and assigns hereinafter called the Grantee, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services, and to construct, maintain and commercially use electric lines consisting of towers, masts, poles, crossarms, guys, braces, feeders, transmission and distribution wires, transformers and other electrical appliances on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways, and other public places, and to do a local gas and/or electric business in the CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

SECOND 2. CONSIDERATION. In consideration of the rights, power and authority hereby granted, said Grantee shall faithfully perform all things required by the terms hereof.

SECOND 3. CONDITIONS. No street, alley, bridge, highway, waterway, or other public place used by said Grantee shall be obstructed longer than necessary during the work of construction or repair, and shall be restored to the same order and condition as when said work was commenced. All of Grantee's structures and equipment shall be so placed on either side of the highway as not to unnecessarily interfere with the use thereof for highway purposes. All of grantee's wires carrying electricity shall be securely fastened so as not to endanger or injure persons or property in said highways. The Grantee shall have the right to trim trees if necessary in the prosecution of such business, subject, however, to the supervision of the highway authorities.

SECTION 4. NOTICE. Before commencing any work which will require excavation or the closing of any street, alley, bridge, waterway or other public place the Grantee shall provide the Township with notice, including a description of the work to be performed, at least fourteen (14) days in advance of such work. This notice requirement shall not apply to the installation of electric or gas services to individual properties. Nothing herein shall prohibit the Grantee from immediately commencing construction or repair work when deemed necessary to prevent danger to life or property, and in such case, the Grantee shall notify the Township of such work as soon as reasonably practical.

SECTION 5. HOLD HARMLESS. Said Grantee, its successors and assigns, shall use due care in exercising the rights and privileges herein contained and shall at all times keep and save the Township free and harmless from all loss, costs and expense to which it may become subject by reason of the construction, maintenance and operation of the structures and equipment hereby authorized or any omission or any wrongful or actionable conduct of whatsoever kind or nature undertaken on the part of said Grantee, its agents, employees or representative, pursuant, or in any way related, to the permission and/or authority granted herein or any activity expressly or impliedly contemplated hereby. In case any action is commenced against the Township on account of the permission herein granted, said Grantee shall, upon notice, defend the Township and save if free and harmless from all loss, cost and damage arising out of said permission. Providing further, that this hold harmless agreement shall not apply to any loss, costs, damages or claims arising solely out of the negligence of the Township, its employees or its contractors. Furthermore, in the event that any loss, costs, damages or claims arise out of the joint negligence of the Township, its employees or its contractors, this hold harmless agreement shall not apply to the proportional extent of the negligence of the Township, its employees or its contractors.

SECTION 6. FRANCHISE NOT EXCLUSIVE. The rights, power and authority herein granted are not exclusive. The right to do a gas business and the right to do an electric business hereunder are several, and such rights may be separately exercised, owned and transferred. Either manufactured or natural gas may be furnished hereunder.

SECTION 7. EXTENSION. Said Grantee shall from time to time extend its gas and electric systems to and within said Township, and shall furnish gas or electricity to applicants residing therein in accordance with applicable laws, rule and regulations.

SECTION 8. RATES. The Grantee shall be entitled to charge the inhabitants of said Township for gas and or electricity furnished therein, the rates as approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission, to which Commission or its successors authority and jurisdiction to fix and regulate gas and electric rates and rules regulating such service in said Township are hereby granted. Such rates and rules shall be subject to review and change at any time upon petition therefor being made by either said Township acting by its Township Board or by said Grantee.

SECTION 9. REVOCATION. The franchise granted by this Ordinance is subject to revocation upon sixty (60) days written notice by the party desiring such revocation.

SECTION 10. MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION JURISDICTION. Said Grantee shall, as to all other conditions and elements of service, both gas and electric, not herein fixed, be and remain subject to reasonable rules and regulations of the Michigan Public Service Commission or its successors applicable to gas or electric service in said Township.

SECTION 11. TOWNSHIP JURISDICTION. Said Grantee shall be and remain subject to all ordinances, rules and regulations of the Township now in effect, or which might subsequently be adopted for the regulation of land use or for the protection of the health, safety and general welfare of the public; provided however, that nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver by Grantee of any of its existing or future rights under state or Federal law.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect seven (7) days after the date of publication thereof, provided, it shall cease and be of no effect unless, within sixty days from its adoption, a written consent, signed by the Grantee shall be filed with the Township Clerk. Upon acceptance and publication hereof, this ordinance shall constitute a contract between the Township and said Grantee.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the proposed ordinance and related documents may be examined at the Springfield Township Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 1038, 650 Broadway, Davisburg, MI 48350 during regular business hours. Written comments may be submitted to the Township Clerk up until the time of the Second Reading. Anyone needing a special accommodation should contact the Clerk's Office at least two (2) business days in advance.

[illegible] Clerk
[illegible]

Publish: December 31, 1998

Y2K *from page A1*

Y2K standards. What he can't control are the suppliers who fill the store with groceries and goods. He said he'll have no way of knowing whether the company that makes cans for his canned foods will be operational in January 2000. There may be problems down the line that he can't foresee, Koenig said.

Lt. Dale LaBair, of the Independence Township substation for the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, said that in preparation, the Oakland County computer system is being



redone. Because their equipment, like that of the 52-2 District Court, relies upon the Oakland County mainframe computer, he said, "their problem becomes our problem."

Oakland County has been working on that problem for about the past six years, he said.

"On a local level, it's just another day," said LaBair.

Like many, he said he can't predict what might happen until the day arrives.

"We could have problems all over the place," he said. "Dispatch is computer-aided. They would have to go to a manual system, which would create a nightmare."



Oakland County appropriated $4.6 million and a total of 54,000 work hours to prevent any problems, said Robert Daddow, director of the department of management and budget for Oakland County. With 5,400 computer programs, he said, they are about 75 percent complete at this time.

Those programs involve the jails, circuit courts and law enforcement systems for computer-aided dispatch, communications for emergency vehicles and 911 calls.

Daddow said it's a "rather extensive" project.

"I feel fairly positive about it," he said, adding that the programs will be functional in time for the new year.

LaBair said he thinks hospitals and financial institutions could be impacted on a higher scale than law enforcement.

Tom Kelly, vice president for media relations at Bank One Corporation and NBD, said that his company has been looking into the potential problems since 1995.

Customers at both Clarkston-area branches of NBD should not have problems with transactions in the future, according to his information.

"We have looked at all of our systems," said Kelly, referring to the different computer systems which handle checking accounts, savings accounts and investment accounts.

The corporation will spend $350 million on the Y2K problem.

"We're spending a lot of money and time to make sure we have everything taken care of," he said.

The process involves looking at the computer codes and chips, changing them and testing them. Kelly calls it "tedious work."

"We're feeling pretty good," he said. "We've gotten an early start."

For NBD customers, Kelly said, the changes will allow bank business to continue as usual.

"Customers expect us to provide access to their funds and record keeping," Kelly said. "They want it to work without thinking about it. So their accounts on Dec. 31, 1999, and Jan. 2, 2000, are the same. So they can still do direct deposit and direct debits.

"They want their financial record keeping and accounts to go on. That's how we want to make it."

Traffic control is another aspect that the county is investigating for potential problems. Traffic signals are controlled by a computerized system.

Brian Blaesing, director of planning and development for the Road Commission of Oakland County, said that all but two signals have been adjusted to a new year 2000-compliant system.

Within the next three months, he said, all of the intersections on the state highway system will be adjusted. Among those roads are Dixie Highway, M-15, Telegraph Road and Woodward.

Blaesing, who set up a Year 2000 Study Team, said he is confident that traffic will continue to flow smoothly through the new year.

However, he said, "we're not sure exactly what's going to be affected."

Every department of the Road Commission had a representative on the study team to work toward the prevention of any problems in the coming new year.

Blaesing said they are checking all of the Road Commission trucks and snow plows that have salt spreaders to make sure they are year 2000-compliant.

They may have an imbedded computer chip which will not work after the date Dec, 31, 1999.

"We're just going to have to wait and see," he said.

Walgreens *from page A1*

another small privately owned business, Clarkston Pharmacy, 5838 S. Main, where drive-through service has been the norm since its opening in the '70s.

"To have another drive-in would obviously affect us," said Vahram Fantazian, co-owner of Clarkston Pharmacy.

Besides, said Fantazian, the area already has too many pharmacies.

"I feel that this area is already saturated enough with pharmacies," Fantazian said, adding that running his business has been more a struggle in recent years due to competition from chain drug stores.

Across the street from Clarkston Pharmacy is a 24-hour Rite Aid. The newly opened Mid-Oakland Medical Center, which sits behind Rite Aid at 6770 Dixie Highway, also has a pharmacy. And, about a mile south, Kroger grocery store, at 6625 Dixie Highway, runs an in-store pharmacy. Arbor Drugs, located at 7091 Dixie Highway, is just south of White Lake Road and the intersection of the proposed Walgreens site.

"What we're picking up (in business) at the drive-in window are loyal customers that have been coming to us for years," Fantazian said. Mothers with children and handicapped customers particularly appreciate the drive-up service, he said.

While Fantazian is concerned about the possibility of having to compete with another drive-through pharmacy, he doesn't anticipate closing his doors; about 60 percent of Clarkston Pharmacy's business comes from supplying and delivering medications to group homes, a niche service that chain drug stores don't provide.

Also, if Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital's plans to build a comprehensive medical center on Dixie Highway pass, demand for pharmacy services will likely increase.

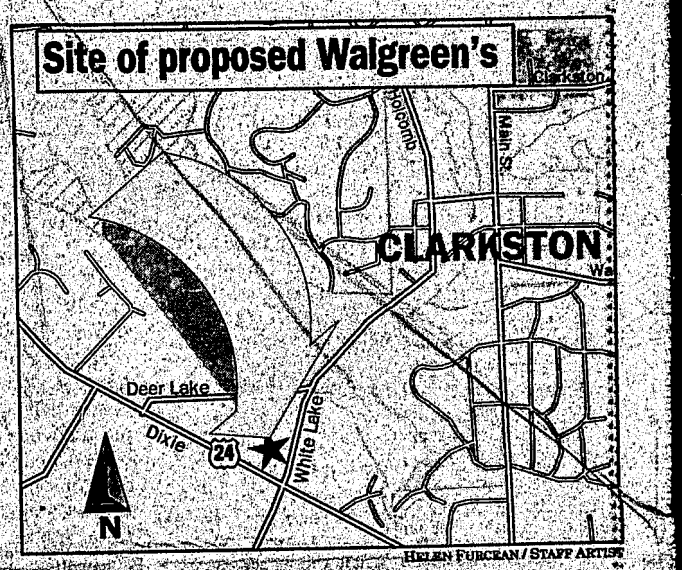
In any case, revised plans for the proposed Walgreens have not yet been formally submitted to the township.

Current revisions also have yet to address all of the township's concerns about the project, Carlisle said.

"We have been working out changes. It's still a work in progress," he said. Carlisle's concerns about the project included site access, parking, landscaping and overall building size.

Burke Walls & All is expected to close in the spring of 1999, but a specific date has not been set, according to Wade Swalwell, store manager.

Swalwell would not elaborate on the store's closing, except to say that it was a "business choice" on the part of store's owner.



HELEN FURCEAN / STAFF ARTIST

Davisburg man injured in rollover accident

A 25-year-old Davisburg man was injured Wednesday night when he was ejected from his vehicle after it rolled over on Clarkston Road in Independence Township.

Daniel E. James Sr. was traveling west on Clarkston Road around 11:30 p.m. when his 1992 Chevrolet collided with a 1987 Ford headed north on Sashabaw Road and being driven by Sean D. Medley, 18, of Clarkston.

The impact caused James' vehicle to roll over twice, and he was ejected through the windshield of his vehicle, according to police reports. Bill Thompson, fire inspector with Independence Township, said James was found outside the car.

James was transported to North Oakland Medical Center by ambulance, with incapacitating injuries, according to police reports.

No updated information regarding his condition was available.

Medley was not injured.

POLICE NEWS

The following incidents were reported to police and fire agencies in Springfield and Independence townships and the city of Clarkston Dec. 23-27.

Springfield Police

Home Invasion

On Dec. 25, several pieces of jewelry and valuables were reported stolen from a **Diane** residence. Among the items were a cell phone, $350 cash, two gold and ruby rings, one diamond ring, and a diamond watch worth approximately $280.

Vandalism

On Dec. 25, pellets from a BB gun were reportedly shot through the window of an **Andersonville Road** residence.

Independence Police

Possession of narcotics

On Dec. 23, during a routine traffic stop on **Maybee Road**, a 20-year-old Lake Orion man was charged with use and possession of marijuana, and obstructing a police officer. His vehicle — a red, two-door 1992 Chevrolet — was impounded. According to police reports, the man had a silver tank of nitrous oxide, an inhalant, in his vehicle.

Police said they found marijuana and hallucinogenic mushrooms in the vehicle, along with a pipe and measuring scale. He was lodged in Oakland County Jail.

On Dec. 26, a 19-year-old Clarkston man received three civil infractions during a routine traffic stop in the parking lot of Pine Knob Ski Resort. When the man failed to use his turn signal when turning onto **Sashabaw Road**, police stopped him and found he was in possession of marijuana and a knife, which was concealed in the glove compartment of his vehicle. He was cited for possession of marijuana, use of marijuana and carrying a concealed weapon.

Thefts

On Dec. 23, a mailbox on **Hadley** was reported stolen. Owners said they have had their mailboxes damaged before, but never stolen.

On Dec. 25, a snowboard was reported stolen from Pine Knob Ski Resort on **Pike Knob Road**. The snowboard was worth approximately $650. The owner had set it down when he went to the restroom.

On Dec. 27, a 17-year-old Waterford teen was released to his parents after police found him attempting to steal a bottle of vodka from a drug store on **M-15**. The vodka was recovered and returned. According to police reports, marijuana was also confiscated from his vehicle.

Independence Fire

Between Dec. 23-27, firefighters responded to 23 calls. Among them were 12 medical calls, four personal-injury accidents, one vehicle fire and one lockout.

On Dec. 23, firefighters were called to a location on **Edgewood** where an animal had possibly fallen through the ice. They were unable to locate the animal.

On Dec. 25, firefighters responded to an **Andersonville Road** residence where a 15-year-old female was experiencing seizures. She was transported to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac.

Clarkston Police

Car accidents

On Dec. 22, police investigated an accident at **Main Street**, near **Robertson Court**, in which a vehicle driven by a 36-year-old Clarkston man rear-ended a vehicle driven by a 52-year-old Ortonville man. The driver of the first vehicle was issued a citation for failure to stop an assured, clear distance ahead of the second vehicle.

On Dec. 23, a multiple-car accident occurred on **Main Street** near **Middle Lake Road**. According to police, a 53-year-old Clarkston woman drove into the rear end of a vehicle driven by a 34-year-old Clarkston man, propelling his car into a third vehicle, driven by a 30-year-old Clarkston woman.

Meanwhile, a fourth vehicle, driven by a 17-year-old Clarkston boy, rear-ended the vehicle of the first driver involved in the accident. Two drivers, the 53-year-old woman, and the 17-year-old boy, were each cited for failure to stop an assured, clear distance ahead. All the vehicles were traveling northbound when they bumped into one another. There were no injuries.

On Dec. 24, police said that a Lake Orion man lost control of his vehicle, while turning from **Washington** to northbound **Main Street**. Around 2:30 p.m., his car crossed the center line and struck a southbound vehicle, driven by an Auburn Hills man. There were no injuries. The Lake Orion man was cited for failure to maintain control of his vehicle and driving while his license was suspended.

Drunk Driving

On Dec. 25, police stopped a vehicle at 10:35 p.m. on **Main Street**, near **Miller**, for erratic driving. The driver, a 57-year-old Pontiac man, appeared to be intoxicated, said Clarkston Police Chief Paul Ormiston. With a blood alcohol content of 0.15, he was arrested and later charged with driving under the influence of liquor. He posted bond and will appear before a



Looking ahead

What our world needs in 1999

Oh how fine, here comes 1999! This is the time of year that newspaper pundits offer up those wish lists of what should fly and what should go bye-bye in the coming year.

For example, such an "in-and-out" list in a Detroit newspaper told us several Decembers ago that Detroit would be in and the suburbs out.

Yes, well, here's our list, humbly submitted, what will (or should be) in and out from our substantial chunk of suburbia next year.

IN: Plain talk that accompanies honest, open dealing from our elected and appointed officials. **OUT**: Decisions reached in smoke-filled rooms behind closed doors. Pity Bob Block, longtime Southfield city administrator who was ousted by the city council after a series of secret meetings.

IN: A true classic car parade in the fifth-annual Woodward Dream Cruise, along with plenty of area business folks willing to support such an effort. (The Dream Cruise, running 15 miles from Ferndale to Pontiac, is scheduled for Aug. 21). **OUT**: Cars that don't really fit the "classic" category cluttering up the parade. **ALSO OUT**: Creeps who behave badly and spoil the fun for Dream Cruise-goers.

IN: Municipal governments whose members cooperate — even if they don't much like each other — to make a better community. **OUT**: The kind of nastiness and political maneuvering that we've noticed at times between our mayors and city councilpersons and others.

IN: An occasional dose of reality for public school officials who badly need it (you know who you are!). **OUT**: This constant image-polishing by the people who run the schools.

IN: Truly innovative school programs like block scheduling (longer, more intense classes) and laptop computers for the students. **OUT**: Archaic views that students shouldn't use calculators in class.

IN: Solutions to the traffic on Oakland County highways like Rochester and Orchard Lake roads, truly the spines of the communities they pass through. **OUT**: Politicians who shrug their shoulders and say that's how it is.

IN: More kids riding the bus to school. **OUT**: Every kid over 16 driving to school, although we do realize that some students must drive.

IN: Tolerance in the neighborhoods and subdivisions of our communities. **OUT**: Neighbors who complain about every little thing.

IN: Volunteers for local causes. **OUT**: Totally selfish people.

IN: Community-wide reading programs for youngsters in our towns. **OUT**: Kids watching so much TV.

IN: Rejuvenation of traditional downtown shopping districts in northern Oakland County (attention, Clarkston!). More retail stores are needed. **OUT**: The general deterioration of the Main Street shopping districts.

IN: Parents who practice what they preach. **OUT**: Parents who talk about the dangers of drugs to their kids and then spend $200 for a weekend supply of booze (yes, we've seen that happen!).

IN: Parents who put themselves in the education equation. **OUT**: Parents who think the schools are the world's biggest (and most expensive) day-care center.

IN: An open mind on our school boards (Oxford and Lake Orion come to mind, but this could apply just about anywhere). **OUT**: A cloistered mentality and the attitude that "It's us against them and we're the education professionals."

IN: The idea that there should be a better public transportation in the suburbs of Detroit. **OUT**: The attitude that you can't get there from here unless you drive your own vehicle.

IN: A regional approach to our water supply. **OUT**: Detroit's domination of our water system.

IN: Redevelopment (some would call it simple maintenance) of what's already here. Examples: The Knitting Mill in downtown Rochester and a spiffed-up Winchester Mall in Rochester Hills. **OUT**: Runaway development that's plagued our area over the last 20 years.

IN: Developments like the Gateway Shopping Center at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield. Reasons: The land's not good for much else and the mall diversifies the retail mix. **OUT**: Please see "out" entry in the above paragraph.

IN: The Downtown Palladium Project (yes, we know it's controversial, but something has to go there). **OUT**: Endless bickering and backbiting about this project.

IN: A parks and recreation commission whose members don't fight (are you paying attention, West Bloomfield parks commissioners?). **OUT**: Officials, elected and appointed, who are forever feuding over petty matters.

IN: A large turnout of sincere candidates for city, township and school elections. **OUT**: Anyone running unopposed.

IN: Candidates for public office being open and honest about themselves. **OUT**: Office-seekers who hide from the press and the people and who don't return phone calls. **ALSO OUT**: Candidates who lie about themselves and their backgrounds.

IN: Candidates who gain (or keep) office through hard, honest campaigning — and that includes getting out and walking the streets and subdivisions and meeting the people. **OUT**: Candidates running with mega-bucks taken from others. **ALSO OUT**: Candidates starting nasty and untrue rumors about their opponents (again, you know who you are!).

IN: The average Joe or Jane taking an interest in his/her local government. **OUT**: Citizen apathy toward what's going on in the city or township halls and the school headquarters.

IN: Reasoned debate about government legislation that will affect our lives. **OUT**: Political shenanigans that attempt to shove complicated legislation down our throats without proper debate.

IN: Increased concerns about water quality and recreational use of Oakland County lakes. **OUT**: Jerks who operate jet skis in a reckless manner. **ALSO OUT**: A sewage system that allowed dumping of more than 1 million gallons of raw sewage into Cass Lake.

IN: Winter festivals that give our residents something to do in their hometowns these cold winter days and nights. **OUT**: Folks stuck inside in front of a TV all winter.

Dear Readers:

Whew! That was some "in-out" list for 1999. So what's on your personal list? Send your ins and outs to The Clarkston Eccentric, 7151 N. Main Street, Suite 2, Clarkston, MI 48346; drop them off at the newspaper office or fax them to (248) 625-5712; or send e-mail to: ksmith@oe.homecomm.net. We'll publish as many suggestions as possible.



COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

Are you worried about computer glitches in the year 2000?

This question was asked at the Clarkston Union General Store and Sweetshop Cafe in Clarkston.



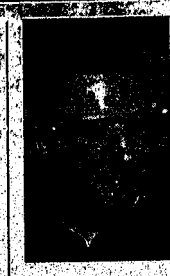
"No, I haven't given it any thought. It's the least of my concerns."

Jeanne Miller
Clarkston



"Very much so. I don't know if everybody is really ready for what's going to happen. We have a lot of that technology in our home so we're really worried."

Grace Savage
Clarkston



"I'm not really sure. I know a lot of people are worried about it. It's just so unpredictable. But, for me, there's no sense in worrying about something that you can't do anything about."

Jeff Barrett
Independence Township



"I'm more concerned about foreign trade and foreign business associated with American business, like the Big Three. That's the big problem with Y2K."

David Hernandez
Independence Township

LETTERS

Clinton undermining constitution

Haven't we lost sight of what this impeachment is about? I thought it was about abuse of power and lying under oath. William Clinton has used his power to influence the office of the president of the United States. He has engaged in conduct that has attacked the foundation of our justice system. It is no coincidence that these actions are parallel to Article IV of Impeachment.

What makes Mr. Clinton's actions so condemning is the fact that he was covering up a petty frailty. If he can lie about this, what other actions have been covered up? Whitewater, giving military secrets to China for campaign backing, etc.? This is not about sex but about crimes against the United States of America.

Bill Clinton has lost his influence to govern. If he cared about the nation he represents and the people residing therein, he would resign instead of staying in office for selfish reasons.

I have heard it said how the Republicans are ruining our country. It's not the Republicans, folks! It is Bill Clinton and his backers undermining the constitution.

Janet Cable
Clarkston

Demand more from leaders

The year 1998 marked an all-time low for American politics at the federal, state and local levels. Blind partisanship, vitriolic personal attacks and blatant power plays have replaced civility, cooperation, a focus on important issues and a commitment to public service.

It is any wonder so many Americans are disgusted by politics? The Jerry Springer Show blends into the evening newscast and it is difficult to tell where one ends and the other begins.

Why not, as step one, challenge our elected officials to take a vow of civility?

Heaven forbid that we should ask them to exercise their own judgment. This would require stepping outside of the comfort zone provided by the IOU system of party politics.

If we want better government, step two requires us to hold the violators responsible at the ballot box. It would be nice to find a few more good shepherds. We have plenty of sheep.

Mike Gerou
Plymouth

Nation keeps sinking to new low

You have an individual who lies every time he opens his mouth.

You have a corps of aides who back up his lies without a whimper.

You have a Cabinet which abetted his lies and upon hearing that he lied to them, not one of them resigned. A shameless group of individuals without a modicum of self respect.

You have a military top brass, hand picked by a draft dodger, who reported to the American people on the success of lobbing $500 million in artillery into dubious targets and won't and can't admit that it's a military tactic without rhyme or substance.

You have liberal legislators who no longer believe that perjury under oath is either serious or impeachable.

You have an unhealthy segment of the masses who no longer adhere to a basic set of traditional standards but to a maggot morality.

He and his stalwarts are in the process of placing a nation in complete moral bankruptcy while it sits back dancing to the tune of "the economy is good."

After the house impeachment we saw a scene on television which could be called humorous if it wasn't so tragic. The liberals marching in unison to the microphone-laden stage to show their allegiance — frick blindly following frack.

To what depths has this nation allowed itself to flounder?

George M. Haddad
Franklin

Lawmaker helps needy

Once again, Sen. Bouchard and his staff have warmed the hearts and bodies of over 500 disadvantaged Pontiac residents by organizing the "Coats for the Cold" clothing drive. Every year they collect used coats in good condition which are donated to the Baldwin Church and Center and St. Christopher's House in Detroit.

This year, due to an overwhelming response from the good hearted people of Oakland County, Senator Bouchard was also able to donate several hundred coats to the Pontiac Rescue Mission and St. Vincent de Paul.

Thank you, Sen. Bouchard! Thank you for going out of your way to take care of those less fortunate this winter season.

Suzanne Chandler,
Development Director
Baldwin Church & Center

Opinions are to be shared: *We welcome your ideas, as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a contact telephone number.*

Letters should be mailed to: Editor, The Clarkston Eccentric, 7151 Ortonville Road, Clarkston, MI 48346. Or e-mail to: ksmith@oe.homecomm.net.

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—Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Don't be enslaved by freedom to choose

STUDENT COLUMNIST



BEN NESS

For the astute and charming scholars of Clarkston High, this holiday season represents a time of sudden liberty, seemingly limitless in its proportions.

The freedom granted us is most certainly splendid, but receiving such a tremendous quantity of it all at once can be strangely oppressive. Having so much time to play with forces creativity and decisiveness, two virtues whose presence have become increasingly rare.

The situation emerges from students being almost exclusively creatures of routine. Most settle into niches of repetition, pursuing the same conversations and activities everyday, not considering radical alternatives or even mild variation. The magnanimous winter break that is currently unfolding so pleasantly provides such people with a challenge. Their daily schedule is shattered by the absence of school, forcing them to either seek fresh ways to pass the time or enter nervous isolation until the day on which academics return. A vacation that once promised boundless pleasure can transform stealthily into one of vile indecision. A mind-bending number of opportunities become possible, and making a selection becomes a difficult chore. I see it happening all around me. Everyone engages in the same heinous dialogue:

■ A vacation that once promised boundless pleasure can transform stealthily into one of vile indecision. A mind-bending number of opportunities become possible, and making a selection becomes a difficult chore. I see it happening all around me.

Student No.1: So what do you want to do?

Student No. 2: I don't know. What do you want to do?

Student No. 1: I don't know. What do you want to do?

Spiraling on and on until they reach infinity. This kind of apathy is dangerous.

If not treated in the early stages it can become perpetual, a point at which the brain turns into oatmeal and nothing substantial ever gets accomplished.

The phenomenon is comparable to that experienced standing in a supermarket cereal aisle: all sorts of exotic, multicolored wonders stretch out before you, and choosing just one amongst them becomes an impossibility. I've been there. I am guilty.

I know. I once reached the brink of insanity trying to choose between equally delicious boxes of Waffle Crisp and Honey Puffs. I wound up fleeing the premises empty-handed, the intense burden of choice subjugating my desire for sugarcoated delight.

Such behavior must be vanquished. We should embrace freedom and variety as they are both so very outstanding, steering us from the tedium and monotony that exclude so many promising chances. For every individual there are things that inspire appreciation. Choice allows us to engage in these. It also grants the ability to ignore anything that we find less worthwhile.

This holiday sabbatical is gracious. Let us not shrink away from choice but celebrate and employ it.

Ben Ness is a student at Clarkston High School. His column alternates with a column written by Clarkston Community Schools Superintendent Al Roberts.

Smoke screen disguises school funding proposal



TIM RICHARD

They didn't wait until New Year's Day to start the Great Propaganda War for state aid to private schools. On Nov. 12, state Sen. Bill Schuette, R-Midland, sponsored a bill and a proposed constitutional amendment, even though there was no chance of passage in 1998. Both are sure to be reintroduced in 1999.

His constitutional amendment would modify the prohibition against any state money or property being used for private, denominational or other non-public schools. It says:

"The Legislature may provide for an educational voucher system to support the attendance of low income school-age children who reside in cities with a population of at least 750,000 at nonpublic schools that are not affiliated with any religious group or organization."

Schuette, formerly a conservative but now part of the religious right, says his program is aimed at "low-income families in the city of Detroit." The bill portion aims the money at families at 150 percent of the poverty level.

Fascinating. He would target aid to Detroit, and in the constitution, yet. What about Pontiac, Benton Harbor, Flint, Inkster and Royal Oak Township? What about his own district's Lake County, one of the poorest in the state?

There's no way in the world the Legislature would pass Schuette's proposal without amending it to let other areas dip in their fingers. With experience in both the Legislature and Congress, Schuette should know that.

Retired state Rep. Maxine Berman of Southfield warned us a couple of years ago that this was coming. First, she said, they start with a private scholarship fund. Next, they offer a state program for the urban poor. Ultimately, they want to break down all the walls to allow private schools to dip into taxpayer money.

Meanwhile, the Mackinac Center's new monster, School Choice Yes, is opening up its propaganda drive. Even the title – "School Choice" – is false. Its goal is public money, not choice.

The idea is to give "tax credits" to people who send their kids to private schools. "No government money is involved," says Gary Glenn, president.

Oh, yes, there is. The gimmick is known as a "tax expenditure." The state treasurer doesn't write a check, but money that would fairly become state revenue is yielded up for a private purpose.

Do you still favor public money for public schools? Then you are a reactionary who "stands in the schoolhouse door" to block poor kids, says School Choice Yes. Glenn equates you with segregationists Orval Faubus and George C. Wallace. It's a propaganda technique known as name-calling.

Even "public schools" is a dirty term to Glenn's crowd. They're generally referred to as "government schools" or "monopoly schools" or "failing schools." They forget that charter schools, Mackinac Center's brainchild, are generally doing worse on state tests than true public schools.

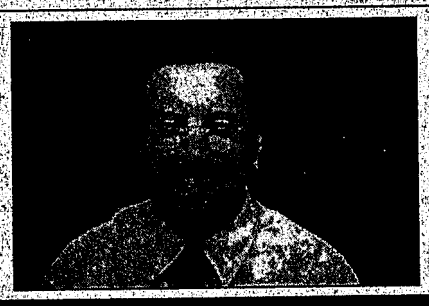
Glenn then descends to the corniest of all propaganda techniques, the "bandwagon." Everybody's for it. Wow, a niece of Martin Luther King Jr. is for it. Baptist clergymen are for it. (Note well, Bill Schuette.) A bunch of congressmen are for it. And so on.

The religious right never will ask a straight question: Do you favor state aid to nonpublic and religious schools? A little bit of aid here, a bit there, a tax break here, and pretty soon you have turned the will of state voters, as expressed in Art. VIII Sec. 2 of our Michigan Constitution, into a sieve.

Ask any kid who has studied propaganda techniques in high school English.

Tim Richard reports on the local implications of state and regional events. His Touch-Tone voice mail number is (734) 953-2047, ext. 1881.

Do we have a gang problem? Depends on whom you talk to



PHILIP SHERMAN

I don't understand.

Just recently in Keego Harbor, a police officer and a teenager got into a scuffle because the officer thought the way the kid wore his hat was indicative of gang behavior.

Keego's police chief apparently directed officers to correct or confiscate the attire of a kid if it appeared to be gang affiliated. After the incident came to light, Keego's mayor said the officer's behavior probably was not appropriate, and besides, there's no gang problem in Keego Harbor.

Seems these two community leaders have a difference of opinion about whether there is or isn't a gang issue in Keego Harbor. That indecision is not unique to Keego. Not by a long shot.

I ran into it a couple years ago, when I applied for a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

Prior to making application, our newspapers covered a whole bunch of gang-related stories in several of our communities. In Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield, police were saying now was the time to be aware of gangs, before they took root or got a greater footing, in either community.

In Pontiac, at that time, gang activities seemed to be increasing. In Birmingham, graffiti identified by police as gang symbols had been spray painted on a bridge overpass near The Big Rock.

My point is that everyone appeared to be worried about the potential for gang activity getting a real foothold in our suburbs. It sounded to me like a good topic for a book.

So I talked with a few law enforcement officers about the book idea. It seemed to me police in our communities wanted to get the word out that gangs were not just a Detroit problem. I was right on that point. They wanted everyone to know about the potential of gangs in their communities, even if city mayors and managers were playing it down.

I also asked the officers how to approach a gang member for an interview. Fair's fair, I figured if I was going to write a book about gangs, it should include the perspective of gang members as well as law enforcement officials.

Without exception, each officer told me to be extremely careful. I asked each officer to put himself in my place and consider whether he would meet, alone, with a gang member – unarmed. Without exception, they all looked at me as though I had just grown another head.

That's why I applied for a concealed weapon permit. But the gun board declined my application on the grounds that I hadn't been shot yet.

I was told by the gun board triumvirate, which is made up of one representative each from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, the Michigan State Police, and the Oakland County Prosecutor's office, that if during the course of doing interviews I had my life threatened or got shot, to come back and they would reconsider.

■ ... If a community's police chief and mayor cannot agree on whether there is or isn't gang activity in their community, then how can the rest of us intelligently consider the issue?

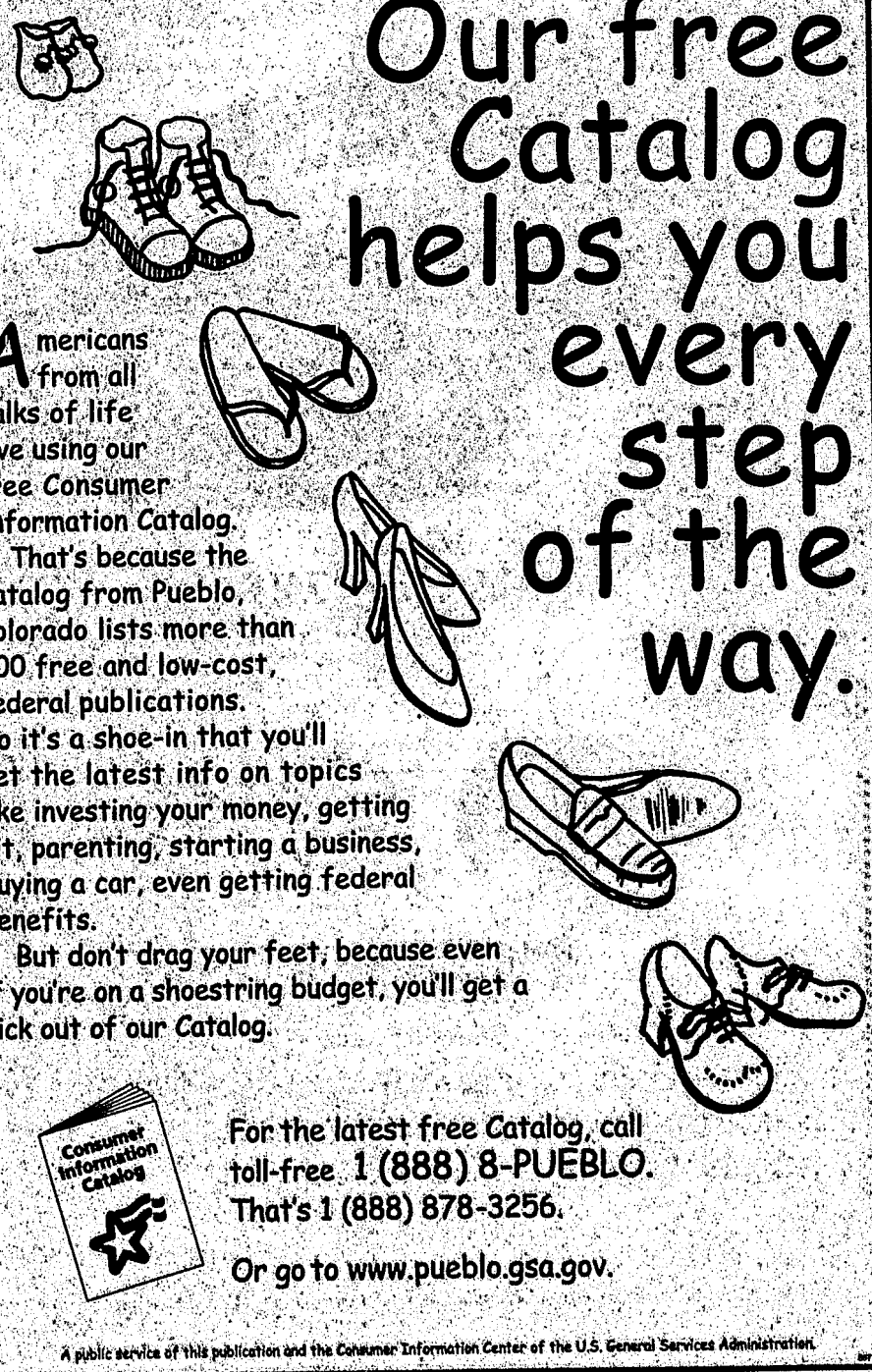
Honest, that was the reason they gave me.

That's why the book was never written, and that may be one of many reasons why residents and officials are uncertain of the extent, if any, of gang activity in their areas.

My point is that there seems to be some equivocation among our community leaders about whether or not gangs exist in their areas, and if so, what should be done about it.

But if a community's police chief and mayor cannot agree on whether there is or isn't gang activity in their community, then how can the rest of us intelligently consider the issue?

Philip Sherman is Managing Editor of The Eccentric Newspapers. His e-mail address is psherman@oe.homecomm.net.



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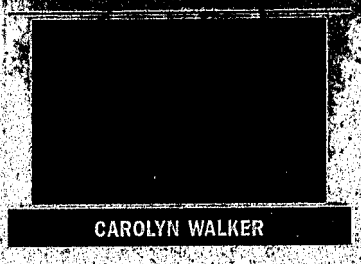
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Clarkston Life

Karen Horner-Smith, Editor 248.625.1900 on the web: http://observer.eccentric.com Thursday, December 31, 1998

The Eccentric

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CAROLYN WALKER

Wild socks give one a leg up on rebellion

My grandmother on my father's side turned 94 this December. Once again, as she has for more Christmases than I can remember, she hobbled her way into my home on Christmas Day and handed over to me a pair of thick boxed socks as a present.

When I wear them (sans box), they go all the way up to the top of my considerable, sometimes stubbled, very-white calves.

My grandmother uttered the same words as she presented them to me that she has uttered each year for all those Christmases past, "Well, I've noticed you never have any on."

Apparently, she thinks that I am frequently cold but that I cannot afford to buy socks on my own. I never argue with her; I simply take them and say thanks.

My aunt on my mother's side of the family would roll over in her grave at the entire scenario. She went to her death in the late 1980s wondering, out loud, if I was wearing my "wild" socks to work.

I was.

Raised with the 1950's and '60s version of Puritanism, I found the wearing of wild socks to be an effective but

Please see **WALKER**, A8



1998: *Rochelle Smith before her makeover.*

New look, new feeling

Kicking off '99 with a makeover



STAFF PHOTOS BY STEVE CANTRELL

Time for renewal: *Maria Mark, the owner of the Make Over Place in Independence Township, gives Clarkston Eccentric columnist Rochelle Smith a new look for 1999.*

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER
nstafford@oe.homecomm.net

If the '90s are the era of getting in touch with your feelings, then why not give them a boost with a feel-good makeover to ring in the last year of the decade?

"Every time you get a new look, you zero in on a feeling connected with that new look," said Maria Mark, echoing those sentiments.

Mark, the owner of the Make Over Place at 5888 Dixie Highway in Independence Township, is helping Rochelle Smith, a local resident and a Clarkston Eccentric columnist, not only get in touch with her feelings but also

Please see **MAKEOVER**, A8

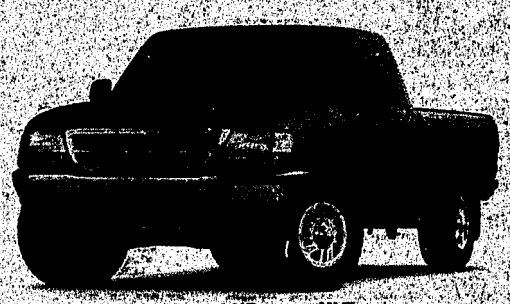


1999: *Rochelle Smith is pleased with her new look.*

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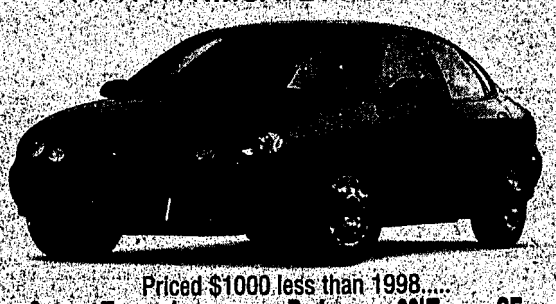
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36 Month Red Carpet Lease	Retail	Employee
Capitalized Cost	$14,068.60	$12,978.00
First Month's Payment	$ 143.67	$ 109.41
Refundable Security Deposit	$ 175.00	$ 125.00
Down Pavemnt (net of incentives)	$ 1,496.50	$ 1,297.80
Cash Due at Signing	$ 1,815.17	$ 1,532.21

$00.15 /Mile Over 36,000 Miles

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30 Month Red Carpet Lease	Retail	Employee
Capitalized Cost	$18,922.01	$17,435.00
First Month's Payment	$ 237.70	$ 186.00
Refundable Security Deposit	$ 275.00	$ 200.00
Down Pavemnt (net of incentives)	$ 1,992.00	$ 1,743.50
Cash Due at Signing	$ 2,504.70	$ 2,129.50

$00.15 /Mile Over 30,000 Miles

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Red Carpet Lease	36 Month* Retail	24 Month** Employee
Capitalized Cost	$23,144.63	$21,628.50
First Month's Payment	$ 264.37	$ 206.19
Refundable Security Deposit	$ 300.00	$ 225.00
Down Pavemnt (net of incentives)	$ 2,500.50	$ 2,162.85
Cash Due at Signing	$ 3,064.87	$ 2,594.04

*$00.15 /Mile Over 36,000 Miles– **$00.15/mile over 24,000 miles

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(1). 99' Ranger XLT 4x2 PEP 864A w/auto.trans., MSRP of $14,965, A-Plan price $12,978. 99' Taurus SE, MSRP $19,920, A-Plan price $17,435. 99' Windstar LX w/3.8l, 4th door, pwr/conv/group, MSRP of $25,005, A-Plan price $21,628.50. Tax, title and other fees extra. Retail lease payment based on average capitalized cost of 94.01% of MSRP (Ranger), 94.99% of MSRP (Taurus), 92.56% of MSRP (Windstar) excluding tax, title and license fee, for leases purchased in the Detroit Region through 11/30/98. Lessee responsible for excess wear/tear. For special lease terms and RCL Cash. $1000 RCL cash on Ranger and Windstar, $500 RCL cash on Taurus plus $500 Off Lease Cash on Taurus, plus $250 A-plan cash on Ranger & Taurus, and $500 A-plan cash on Windstar, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/4/99. RCL Cash may be taken in cash, but is used towards down payment in examples shown. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. Residency restrictions apply. See dealer for complete details. *Driver and passenger front crash test. Government data only useful in comparing vehicles within 500 pounds.

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Walker *from page A7*

relatively benign form of rebellion and I fairly reveled in it.

One needn't voice one's complaints, I learned. One need only appear, socked, to evoke the desired response from authority. The Perfectionist hates this quality in me, calling it juvenile and unprofessional. I see it as a bit of whimsy.)

At the time, I relished, especially, wearing my knee-high pair with the white backgrounds and colorful parrots on them to my job in a local emergency room, where white uniforms and nylons were the dress code mandated by a prude.

On Fourths of July I wore a pair that had red-white-and-blue cannons shooting the date into the oblivion of my knees — until they got a run in them.

I'm not sure when I began collecting strange socks (I had one pair that had individual toes, much like gloves have individual fingers, during the late 1970s) but they have always enjoyed a sort of hallowed place in my immediate family's lives.

My mother, who used to mix and match colorful "footies," made the wearing of socks mandatory whenever we went on vacation.

They prevented the motel/hotel version of contagious plantar warts, she claimed, and everybody was expected to have on a pair when they were out of bed.

This was a well-enforced rule made even more remarkable during the vacation my poor father came down with food poisoning. I remember it with a very smile in my heart.

He socked and re-socked himself multiple times as he bolted to and from the bathroom before finally achieving a rebellion of his own, shouting the non-puritan version of "to heck with them" for all to hear.

I remember, too, women who told me that under no circumstances would they wear socks.

Recently, my eldest daughter confided in me as we discussed the giving and receiving of Christmas presents with those we love, but who do not truly understand us. She told me a story I did not remember.

Apparently, when she was a very young teenager, her best friend's father bought her a pair of "wild" socks for Christmas, assuming that she would love them because I do.

She was mortified, she said.

In hindsight, I thought it was rather nice that this man thought to buy her anything at all.

Incidentally noted, I still have the luminous orange kayak dou-ble oar my best friend's father bought me in 1967. I have used it, but never repainted it — and strictly for sentimental reasons.

It sits next to my fireplace where I can gaze at it affectionately, and with fond memories, whenever I want.

Some things, my daughter is sure to some day learn, are harder to shed than the, ahem, proverbial sock.

Carolyn Walker is a freelance writer. She lives in the city of Clarkston.

ENGAGEMENT

MORRIC-MEEHAN



Michael and Pamela Morris of Clarkston announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathleen Michelle, to Matthew Wayne Meehan, son of Sandra and John Meehan of Clarkston.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Clarkston High School and Baker College.

She is employed by the Berline Group advertising agency in Troy.

Her finance is a graduate of Clarkston High School and Baker College and is attending Lawrence Technical University for a bachelor's degree in engineering technology.

He is employed as an automotive designer by the Hubert Group M&T Design in Troy.

A July 1999 wedding is planned.

Makeover *from page A7*

wash away the old ones from 1998 in favor something new for the New Year.

Smith, along with her husband, devoted much of 1998 building a new home — a job that entailed such work as installing electrical wiring and putting up kitchen cabinets, not to mention hiring and overseeing subcontractors.

"I'm thinking this will be nice — a few hours to make myself look a little more like a lady, a little less like a workman," Smith said, adding, "New Year's is a good excuse to get all dolled up."

Change is tough

Smith entered Mark's salon at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday looking forward to a five-minute make-up application and quick hairstyling. Smith's husband, made nervous by the concept of a makeover, mentioned that he'd prefer a haircutting wasn't involved.

But while watching Mark work her magic on 14-year-old Kourtney McLean and her mother, of Independence Township, Smith changed her mind and decided to get a hair permanent.

Kourtney, a student at Sashabaw Middle School, did opt to radically change her hairstyle for the New Year.

"I came here knowing I wanted to do something drastic — this is the most likely time I would do something drastic," she says. "It's sort of like a new beginning. It sort of gives you a fresh start."

Big decisions, little steps

Since Smith's hair has been permed before, the decision was a big one but not a gigantic step. Other changes were also relatively minimal. Mark trimmed a little less hair from the crown of Smith's head and, rather than perming all of Smith's hair, left the bangs untreated.

Less than a quarter way through Mark's make-over, Smith mused, "Maybe 1999 will be the year that I keep styling my hair and putting on my makeup the way I know I should, ... I've sworn off New Year's resolutions, but I'll try."

New Year's hopes — dinner at Big Boy's?

Like Smith, Mark isn't a fan of New Year's resolutions, either.

"I normally do not make New Year's resolutions," said the philosophical beauty stylist who was born in Italy.

"Nonetheless, it is the season for taking stock, especially when it comes to appearance and beauty, Mark says.

"You're out with people more. You're looking at photos. You see a new look on somebody. For everybody, it is a new chance, a chance to replenish yourself.

"People need hope," she adds, turning to Smith. "Hope that you're going to like this new haircut. Hope that your husband is going to like this new haircut."

The two giggle, in the way women only do when at the beauty salon, and Mark tells Smith about a client whose husband was so thrilled with his wife's new look that he flew her to New York City for dinner.

Anticipating her return home, Smith says, "My husband would say 'OK, after we go to Home Depot, we'll go to Big Boy.'"

But a little can be a lot

While Smith's hair changes have occupied most of her approximately two-hour makeover, the most significant changes come during makeup application.

Smith usually uses pink blush and lipstick, but Mark goes with earthier, warm tones, including a metallic brown lipstick.

Mark also uses a turquoise green eye pencil to draw attention to one of Smith's facial assets — her warm, green eyes.

"I always go with some shade of pink," says Smith in awe of Mark's color choices, knowing that her husband will be greatly surprised. "But I think he'll like it, actually," she says, to which Mark replies, "If he doesn't, just bop him one."

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Charter Township of Springfield

NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD
SECOND READING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Springfield will hold a SECOND READING at its regular meeting on January 14, 1999, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Township Hall, 650 Broadway, Davisburg, Michigan to consider the following proposed amendments to Zoning Ordinance No. 28, Article II, Definitions, and Article XXV, Schedule of Regulations:

1. Revise Article II, DEFINITIONS, Section 2.00, definition of Building Height, to read as follows:
   BUILDING HEIGHT: For buildings with a basement (including walk-out basement), height shall be measured as the vertical distance measured from the midpoint between the basement floor and finished first floor to the highest point of the roof surface for flat roofs; to the deck of mansard roofs; and, for any other roof, to the midpoint between the highest ridge and the predominant eave for that ridge as determined by the Township Building Inspector.
   For buildings without a basement, height shall be measured as the vertical distance from the finished first floor to the highest point of the roof surface for flat roofs; to the deck of mansard roofs; and, for any other roof, to the midpoint between the highest ridge and the predominant eave for that ridge as determined by the Township Building Inspector.
2. Revise Article XXV, SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS, Section 25.00, Limiting Height, Bulk, Density and Area by Land use, to read as follows:

ARTICLE XXV - SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS

SECTION 25.00 - Limiting Height, Bulk, Density and Area by Land Use:

	MIN. LOT SIZE		MAX. HEIGHT			MIN. YARD SETBACK (FT.)				MAX % OF LOT AREA COVERED BY ALL BLDGS.
				WITHOUT BASEMENT ↓	WITH BASEMENT ↓	SIDES				
USE DIST.	ACRE	WIDTH IN FT.	IN STORIES	IN FEET	IN FEET	FRONT ONE	LEAST OF TWO	TOTAL	REAR	
R-1A	2.5	165	2	25	30	75	25	50	35	15
R-1	1.5	150	2	25	30	50	25	50	35	30
R-2	1	120	2	25	30	50	15	30	35	30
R-3	.5	110	2	25	30	50	15	30	35	50
RM & MRM-1			2	25	30	50	20	30	30	50
	SQ. FT.									
OS	20,000	100	2	25	28.5	50	20	40	50	50
C-1	20,000	100	2	25	28.5	50	20	40	50	50
C-2	20,000	100	3	40	43.5	35	20	40	50	50
	ACRE									
M-1	1	120	2	25	28.5	50	30	60	50	80
M-2	.5	250	3	40	43.5	75	30	60	50	50
E-1	10	330	3	40	43.5	75	30	60	50	5
RC	10	330	2	25	28.5	75	50	100	50	5
PL	10	330	2	25	28.5	75	50	100	50	5

*Refer to Section VII for additional regulations.
RMH REFER TO ARTICLE VII FOR REGULATIONS REGARDING RESIDENTIAL MOBILE HOME DISTRICT.
PUD REFER TO ARTICLE XIV FOR REGULATIONS REGARDING PLANNING UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the entire Zoning Ordinance and documents related to the proposed amendments may be examined at the Springfield Township Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 1088, 650 Broadway, Davisburg, MI 48350 during regular business hours. Written comments may be submitted to the Township Clerk up until the time of the Second Reading. Anyone needing a special accommodation should contact the Clerk's Office at least two (2) business days in advance.

NANCY STROLE, Clerk
Charter Township of Springfield

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Clarkston Eccentric publishes calendar items free of charge. Items should be from non-profit community groups or individuals announcing a community program or event. Type or print: Event, date and time, location, telephone number and any additional information and mail to the Clarkston Eccentric, 7151 Ortonville Road, Suite 2, Clarkston, MI 48346, or fax to 625-5712. The deadline for calendar items is noon Friday for the following Thursday's paper. All phone numbers below have 248 area code unless otherwise noted.

SATURDAY, JAN. 2

NATURE MOVIE MATINEE
1-2:30 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Weekend movie matinees are a wonderful way to spend time with your family. Enjoy popcorn and the photography of some of Michigan's best film makers. Naturalists will provide interesting bio-facts and answer questions. The cost is $1 per person. Registration required. Call 625-6473.

THURSDAY, JAN. 7

WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP
7 p.m. Informal sharing meeting. Facilitator: Christine Spencer, M.A., L.P.C., director of bereavement services at Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home. Walk-in, no registration. Free of charge. For men and women of all ages recently widowed. Refreshments served. All area residents welcome. Any questions or if anyone would like to be on their mailing list, call the funeral home at 625-5231. Meeting is held at Independence Township Senior Center, located in Clintonwood Park on Clarkston Road in Clarkston.

FRIDAY, JAN. 8

RECREATION FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE
7-9 p.m., Bowling at Holly Lanes (Grange Hall Road, Holly, 1/2 mile west of traffic light). $1.50 per game — shoes included. While NWOCS, a volunteer organization, provides recreational activities, care givers have responsibility for direct supervision of participants. For more information, call 634-9570.

JAN. 8-9, 14-16, 21-23

DEPOT THEATER
7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, "The Importance of Being Earnest." This witty classic comedy revolves around the most ingenious case of manufactured mistaken identity. To avoid social responsibility, Jack Worthing has invented an irresponsible younger brother named Earnest. When his friend Algernon decides to pose as Earnest in order to woo Jack's beautiful ward, they both soon learn the importance of being earnest. This scrambled mayhem is peppered with Wilde barbs as fresh today as when he wrote them. $9 Thursdays, $10 Fridays and Saturdays. For tickets, call 625-8811 or 625-2511.

SUNDAY, JAN. 10

SUNDAY SNOWSHOES
10-11:30 a.m. or 2-3:30 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Snowshoes are a quiet way to explore winter wonders. School-age children through adults discover snowshoeing's easy and fun. The cost is $2 per person. Registration required after 10 a.m. on the previous Friday. Limited number of snowshoes — program is snow dependent. Call 625-6473 for more information.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15

OWL HUNT
7:30-9 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Owls are easily recognized, yet very seldom are they seen. Their night habits do not allow for easy viewing. On the trail we'll try to lure owls into view and learn about their special abilities and habits. Dress for a winter night hike. Warm up with a snack after the hike. The cost is $1 per person. Registration required. Call 625-6473 for more information.

RECREATION FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE
7-9 p.m., Hart Community Center at the Mill Pond in Davisburg. Karaoke-dance to the music of D.J. Matt Wolfe. Refreshments. No charge. While NWOCS, a volunteer organization, provides recreational activities, care givers have responsibility for direct supervision of participants. For additional information, please call 634-9570.

SATURDAY, JAN. 16

SUPERNATURAL SATURDAY-DEER
1:30-4 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Using skins, skulls and antlers, ages 7-11 will investigate deer and take a hike to look for signs of deer. Activities, including games, a craft and more, will keep budding nature detectives involved in learning. The cost is $7 per child (snack included). Registration is required for participation. Call 625-6473 for additional information.

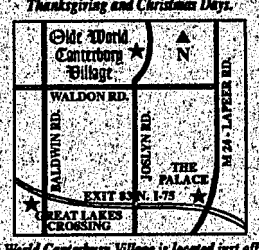
FRIDAY, JAN. 22

RECREATION FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE
7-9 p.m., Hart Community Center at the Mill Pond in Davisburg. Bingo. Refreshments. No charge. While NWOCS, a volunteer organization, provides recreational activities, care givers have responsibility for direct supervision of participants. For additional information, call 634-9570.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23

TRACKS & TEES
1-2:30 p.m. Lewis E. Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park. Search for animal tracks and other winter wildlife signs on the trail. Afterwards, print your own animal tracks T-shirt. Bring a pre-washed, light colored shirt labeled with your name. The cost is $1 per person plus $1 for printing of shirt. Registration required. Call 625-6473 for more information.

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Supreme Court opens door for 6-year-old felony case

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@oe.homecomm.net

Oakland Prosecutor David Gorcyca may try an auto repair-mansion felony over sale of a hot engine, the Michigan Supreme Court has ruled.

A 4-3 majority upheld then-Circuit Judge Hilda Gage's decision that Ronald J. Venticinque of Brandon Township could be tried on a felony.

Gage (now on the Court of Appeals) ruled in 1992 that 52nd District Judge Gerald McNally in Clarkston erred in dismissing a felony charge and binding over Venticinque on a misdemeanor charge.

If convicted of a felony, Venticinque could face five years in prison versus 90 days for a misdemeanor.

The high court ruled Dec. 23, six and a half years after the Oakland Sheriff's Department made the initial charge. The case never went to trial. Venticinque has been free on bond all that time.

Justice Patricia Boyle – joined by Chief Justice Conrad Mallett Jr. and Justices Elizabeth Weaver and Clifford Taylor – sent the case back to Oakland Circuit Court for trial.

They said a 1978 law makes it a misdemeanor to misrepresent the identity of a vehicle by removing the serial number. But it's a felony if one does it with the intent to mislead another as to the identity of a vehicle. The next section says that possession of an altered vehicle is prima facie evidence of a violation.

The problem was that customer Kenneth Rogers purchased just part of his pickup truck – a $1,600 motor and transmission – from Venticinque in April of 1991. In June of 1992, a sheriff's detective, in an undercover case, examined Rogers truck and found the ID numbers were missing.

"The only reason to deface the numbers is to deceive," said Thomas Grden, of the prosecutor's appellate staff. "There are costs to the public in insurance (from auto theft) and law enforcement."

Rogers repeated Venticinque's story that he had purchased the engine from a friend at a Detroit tavern. Venticinque told officers two stories: that he had bought it at a swap meet near Flint, and that he had bought it from another party, the high court opinion said.

Police arrested Venticinque and, in the garage at his home, found tools, "that could have been used to remove the identification number from the engine, as well as numerical and alphabetical stamps that could be used to restamp new ID numbers on the car parts," Boyle's opinion said.

It didn't matter, Boyle said, if an entire vehicle or just a part had had its ID number defaced. "A common-sense reading of the statute is that the vehicle in question can be either the source of the part or the vehicle into which the part is later placed," she wrote.

Any other reading of the statute would undermine "the legislative purpose to deter 'chop shop' operations," Boyle said.

Justice Michael Cavanagh – joined by Marilyn Kelly and James Brickley – dissented on Boyle's reasoning process but agreed with her conclusion that the case could be tried as a felony.

The case had wide interest. Wayne County Prosecutor John D. O'Hair and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan filed *amicus* briefs on behalf of Oakland's position.

Arthur Jay Weiss, the Farmington Hills attorney who represented Venticinque, said the lengthy legal process was "part of a numbers game" in the Oakland prosecutor's office. "You'll recall in the last prosecutor's (primary) election (in 1996), Richard Thompson (then the incumbent) was accused of wasting money by going after pet projects."

The current prosecutor, David Gorcyca, defeated Thompson in that primary but has continued to wage many appellate court battles.

"During oral arguments," Weiss said, "Chief Justice Mallett questioned me at length about the policies of the Oakland County prosecutor's office, and then he questioned the prosecutor about the litigious nature of the office."

Grden of the prosecutor's office said there were conflicting court opinions about the nature of proof in such cases, and that the Venticinque case offer the system a chance to clarify them.

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A new entity, the Oakland University Press, announces the release of its first work, a guidebook to Meadow Brook Hall, one of the nation's largest and most significant historic homes.

A Place in the Country: Matilda Wilson's Personal Guidebook to Meadow Brook Hall, is a full color, 64-page work (8.5 by 5.5 inches) that features a tour of the mansion and its collection of fine and decorative arts in the words of the woman who was the motivating force behind its design, construction and decoration — Matilda Dodge Wilson.

Matilda, widow of auto pioneer John Dodge, set out to build a suitable monument for her children, heirs to the Dodge fortune. She spent a year with second husband, Alfred G. Wilson, developing plans for the home that she would care for and live in for 38 years.

The book features Matilda's words from her *Guidebook to Meadow Brook Hall*, published in 1966, an interview with filmmaker Shelby Newhouse filmed two days before her death on Sept. 19, 1967, and photographs of the hall's rooms and treasures.

Proceeds from the sale of the book help support Meadow Brook Hall. *A Place in the Country* is available at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall Gift Shop and the university's Bookcenter at a cost of $8.95. It makes a great holiday gift. Call (248) 370-3140 for information.

Winter's here!

Across Oakland County, residents wonder: Do we celebrate or curse?

By BARB PERT TEMPLETON
STAFF WRITER

Baby, it's cold outside. Finally. And depending on your perspective, the cold temperatures may be a blessing or a burden.

For the trio of smiling valets planted outside the Kroger grocery store in Birmingham last week, the sunny 37 degree afternoon was a welcome respite from the bitter cold of previous days. The parking service is provided by employees of First Class Valet, Inc. of Troy.

Wearing layers of clothing is the key to valet Ed Dion's battle against the cold.

"I put on lots of clothes. I've got long johns and a pair of sweat pants on under these pants, and that works pretty good out here," Dion said as he greeted customers outside Kroger. "Today's a beautiful day, but last week was a killer. It was 14 degrees when I started at 11 in the morning and the temperature just kept dropping all day long."

Stepping inside to warm up for a minute or two between cars helps valet manager Marcus Kocijan keep from freezing. A sturdy pot of hot chocolate, always at the ready just inside the store, also keeps things toasty for the trio.

Still, once the day is done, it takes a while to thaw out.

"It does take a long time to warm up after work," offered Ernest Johnson, who has been a valet for four years. "But you just take a hot bath and everything's okay. It's no big deal."

Cold winds — but no snow — is a very big deal to owners of the King Brothers shop in Oxford. They sell and service snowmobiles, lawn, garden and outdoor power equipment.

Sales and Marketing Manager Michael Hoag said sales of 1998 model snowmobiles have been "extremely brisk." But the '99 models aren't moving as swiftly. In fact the shop has plenty to choose from right now.

"It hasn't been record-setting or anything to write home about," Hoag said. "I may have to discount some of the products even further pretty soon now because I don't see any great movement on the horizon."

Unseasonably balmy temperatures prevented Pine Knob Ski Resort near Clarkston from marking their usual mid-November opening day. Instead, the slopes finally welcomed skiers in the days before Christmas as the thermometer hit the 30 degree mark.

"We were anxious but not panicking because we knew it would get cold," Pat Deibel, Director of the Ski School at Pine Knob and Mt. Holly said. "And now the cold weather has given us a huge boost."

When the heavy white stuff is scarce Pine Knob starts cranking out home-made snow. They have 65 snow guns and one gun can turn 100 gallons of water into snow in a minute. While some natural snow would be nice, Deibel said as long as the temperatures stay frosty the snow making machines will be making mountains of fun at the Knob.

"We've got a ton of snow out there now," Deibel said. "And as long as we remain open now and in January and February we'll have a good season here."

Organizers of a Birmingham winter festival weren't as confident about the forecast for the coming months and canceled the February event. The festival's main feature was ice sculptures. The Downtown Birmingham Principal Shopping District set aside the event due to unseasonably warm temperatures last year.

"(Last year) The ice was melting when they were taking it off the trucks before it was even carved," said Dawn Booker, director of the Downtown Birmingham Principal Shopping District.

The district had hosted the event for a dozen years, the last few at Shain Park, downtown. They plan to re-evaluate the situation for 2000.

"I think people will miss it this year, but when it's too cold people don't come and when it's too warm the carvings melt so it's kind of a Catch 22," Booker said.

Despite both of those possibilities, Rochester is jumping right back in and hosting its second-annual winter event downtown. Called "No Ordinary Sales," the event will have over 150 merchants taking part on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 29 and 30.

Merchants will be able to purchase ice sculptures to place in front of their businesses during the sale. They can even be designed to their specifications with a store logo or anything else they'd like, according to Kristi Trevarrow, director of community relations for the Downtown Development Authority.

"The ice sculpture company does a really nice job and this is going to be great event," Trevarrow said. "People will be able to come to Rochester on those two days and see something interesting and different going on at all of the stores."



STAFF PHOTO BY LAWRENCE B. MCKEE

It's a deal! *Larry Abitheira (left) of Sterling Heights hopes for snow this winter, at least enough snow to run the snowmobile he just purchased from Carl Coker, manager of King Brothers in Oxford.*

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W.BLOOMFIELD-Furnished 2 bedroom,2 bath,1370 sq.ft.,1 car, basement,no pets/smokers. $1675/mo D&H Properties 248-737-4002

403 Duplexes

BIRMINGHAM — 2 bedroom, 1½ bath, 2 car garage. Has it all! $1200/mo. 1 yr. lease. No pets. 248-644-3185

LIVONIA - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1200 sq.ft., finished basement, air+all appliances, new kitchen, $800/mo. (734) 421-8050

OAK PARK - 2 bedroom, Berkley Schools, finished basement, all appliances, fenced yard, $695/mo. (248) 542-1197

ROYAL OAK - 2 Bedroom, hardwood floors, all appliances, air conditioning, garage, finished basement. New kitchen & bath. Close to downtown, immaculate. $980/mo. 248-541-6007

404 Flats

DEARBORN - Ford Woods. Charming, 1 bedroom upper. Stove, refrigerator, carpeting, many closets, porch, garage. No pets/waterbeds. $475+ utilities & security deposit 734-981-1817

405 Homes

BERKLEY - New construction. 3 badroom, 2 bath w/great layout & built on a huge lot. Must see! $1400/mo. Call 248-549-8685

BEVERLY HILLS - 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2748 sq.ft. library, rec-room, 2 car. air, lawn included. $2600/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002

BEVERLY HILLS-3 bedroom, 1248 sq. ft. basement, appliances, fireplace, 2 car. $1500/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002

BIRMINGHAM — 3 bedroom, 1 bath, brick, 2 car garage, very sharp. $1100/mo. 1 yr. lease. No pets. 248-644-3185

BIRMINGHAM-5 BEDROOM, 3 bath house, exclusive Birmingham location. Short term lease. For more info. contact Angela at: 248-866-5963

BIRMINGHAM - 2 bedroom, 1 bath, all appliances, basement, central air, hardwood floors. $950/mo. (248) 644-1771

BIRMINGHAM - 2 bedroom, ranch, appliances, option to buy. $725. RENTAL PROS (248)358-RENT

BIRMINGHAM - 2 bedroom, super clean, $925. Share Listings (248) 642-1620

405 Homes

BIRMINGHAM — Very downtown! 2 bedroom, fireplace, all hardwood, all appliances, 2 car garage $1400/mo. 248-644-5894

Bloomfield/Birmingham Schools. Sharp, 3 bedroom ranch, $2100/mo. 1 year lease, Bloomfield Realty, 248-647-8080

BLOOMFIELD HILLS-3 bedroom, 3½ bath, 2700 sq.ft., library, family room, no pets/smokers. $2400/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Updated 3 bedroom brick ranch on 4.5 wooded acres. $1700/mo. 248-645-0640. 248-540-6288

BRIGHTON - Log Cabin, 2 bedroom, appliances, lakefront. $650. RENTAL PROS (248)356-RENT

CANTON-3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 1400 sq. ft. basement, short term, 2 car, no pets/smokers. $1600/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002

CLARKSTON - 2 bedroom ranch, appliances, living room, finished attic, pets negotiable. $800. RENTAL PROS (248)373-RENT

CLARKSTON - Custom 1997, 4 bedroom colonial, 2687 sq.ft., 3 car, air, treed, deck. $2800/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002

DEARBORN - 3 bedroom brick, basement, garage, appliances, newly remodeled. $695. RENTAL PROS (734)513-RENT

DEARBORN HGTS. - 2 bedroom, garage, basement, pool, fenced yard. $570. RENTAL PROS (734)513-RENT

DEARBORN NW - 3 bedroom, brick bungalow, 1.5 car garage, finished basement. $795/mo. (313) 562-6247

FARMINGTON HILLS-4 bedroom, 2½ bath, new carpet, blinds, air, deck, 3 car. $2200/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002

FARMINGTON HILLS-4 Bedroom, 3½ bath, 4 fireplaces, 3300 sq.ft. hannie quarters,3 car.$3000/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002

FARMINGTON HILLS-3 Bedroom, 2 bath, updated kitchen, 2018 sq.ft., dog ok, lawn. $1800mo D&H Properties 248-737-4002

FARMINGTON HILLS- Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath, in nice quiet neighborhood, w/appliances, garage. $950/mo (248)489-5905

FARMINGTON HILLS - 3 bedroom, 2 baths, appliances, dining room, pets negotiable. $900. RENTAL PROS (248)356-RENT

FERNDALE-2 bedroom ranch, carpet, garage, newly painted. No pets. $600/mo + 1½ security. (313) 767-8285

FERNDALE - Charming 2 bedroom upper w/hardwood floors, new kitchen & paint. Large rooms, washer/dryer, basement, garage. $850/mo. 248-258-9104

FRANKLIN - executive ranch home on extraordinary, completely secluded, ravine site. 3800 sq.ft., 5+ bedroom, 3 bath & finished lower level. Available immediately. $2700/mo. (248) 539-1955

HAZEL PARK-3 bedroom, carpet, appliances, garage, $600 Mo. plus security. Water included. (313) 767-8285

LAKEFRONT-Lake Orion 3 bedroom, appliances, dock, remodeled, pets negotiable. $875. RENTAL PROS (248)373-RENT

LAKE ORION - 4 bedroom, 2½ bath, family room, 1950 sq.ft., 2 car,no pets/smokers. $2000/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002

LAKE ORION-Lakefront 3000 sq. ft., 4 bedroom colonial, 2½ bath, library, 3 car, air, $3000/mo. D&H Properties 248-737-4002

405 Homes

LIVONIA - 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, fenced, Washer/dryer connection. $800/mo. + deposit. 502-783-9255

LIVONIA - 2 bedroom, basement, 2 garage, air, fenced. Option to buy. $775. RENTAL PROS (734)513-RENT

LIVONIA - 8 Mile/Middlebelt area. Clean 2 bedroom, 1 bath, carpet, laundry room, garage, yard. Deposit & references required. $675/mo. 248-348-0066

NICE - Walled Lake 3 bedroom ranch, appliances, air, large yard, pets Yes! $875. RENTAL PROS (248)373-RENT

NORTHVILLE - 4 bedroom, 2 bath, garage, 1 acre. Close to everything. Ready for Holidays. $1400 mo. (248)310-1497

N ROYAL Oak - 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage, basement, air, beautiful home on large wooded lot, $1650 mo. After 6PM (248) 276-0356

OAK PARK-3 bedroom. Rent with option. Carpet, basement garage. Very clean. $650. (313) 767-8285

OUTER DRIVE AREA - 3 bedroom brick, hardwood floors, basement, garage, drop ceiling, $460/mo. + security. 313-785-0041

PEMBROKE AREA - 2 bedroom, basement, garage, new carpet, clean, $500/mo. + security. (313) 785-0041.

PLYMOUTH - 3 bedroom ranch on large wooded lot. Appliances, pets ok. $750. RENTAL PROS (734)513-RENT

REDFORD - 2 bedroom, appliances, utility room, fenced yard. $595. RENTAL PROS (248)356-RENT

REDFORD - Lola Park. Nice 3 bedroom, $750/ month, $1000 deposit. No pets. Reference required. (352) 394-3407

REDFORD TWP - Three, 2 bedroom homes to choose from. Rents from $595. Dave: 313-255-5678

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ROYAL OAK - 3 bedroom, ranch, appliances, option to buy. $800. RENTAL PROS (248)356-RENT

SOUTHFIELD-3 bedroom, 1 bath, single car garage, no basement. Birmingham Schools. $799/mo. (734) 994-0940

SOUTHFIELD - 3 bedroom, brick ranch, dining room, basement. $795. RENTAL PROS (248)356-RENT

SOUTHFIELD - 9 & Inkster. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, stove & refrigerator, $650/mo. + security. No agencies please. 248-737-6928

Sterling Heights - 4 bedroom, 2½ bath, 2 car attached garage, very clean, $1800 mo. plus utilities & deposit. 248-471-6498

TROY - 2 bedroom brick ranch, appliances, basement, fenced yard, pets negotiable. $725. RENTAL PROS (248)373-RENT

WATERFORD - 4 bedroom, colonial, garage, 2½ bath, deck, air, lake privileges. $1250/mo. (810) 795-3150

WESTLAND - 3 bedroom bungalow, basement, carpeted, appliances. $700. RENTAL PROS (734)513-RENT

WESTLAND - 3 bedroom brick, carpeted, dining room, section 8 ok. $750. RENTAL PROS (734)513-RENT

405 Homes

W. BLOOMFIELD - 4467 Apple Valley (Orchard Lake & Lone Pine area). Bloomfield Hills schools. 2500 sq.ft. colonial on corner lot, 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, 2 car attached garage, fireplace & wet bar in family room, den, library, finished ½ basement w/wet bar, central air, 1st floor laundry. REDUCED to $2295/mo. Immediate occupancy. Shown Sat. & Sun., 3pm or by appt. 24 hr. Mobile: 313-920-5966 Office: 734-981-3050

WESTLAND: 2 to 3 bedroom cape cod, w/basement, 2½ car garage, lots of room. Available now, $800/mo. Call Andy: (810)861-9000

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406 Lake/Waterfront Home Rentals

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407 Mobile Home Rentals

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409 Southern Rentals

NAPLES AREA - 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Free Golf, Beaches. Feb. or March, $3300/mo. 941-947-2415 or 248-474-0927

OCEAN FRONT CONDO - Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 pools, 1 hr. to Disney. Weekly/monthly. (248) 437-1548

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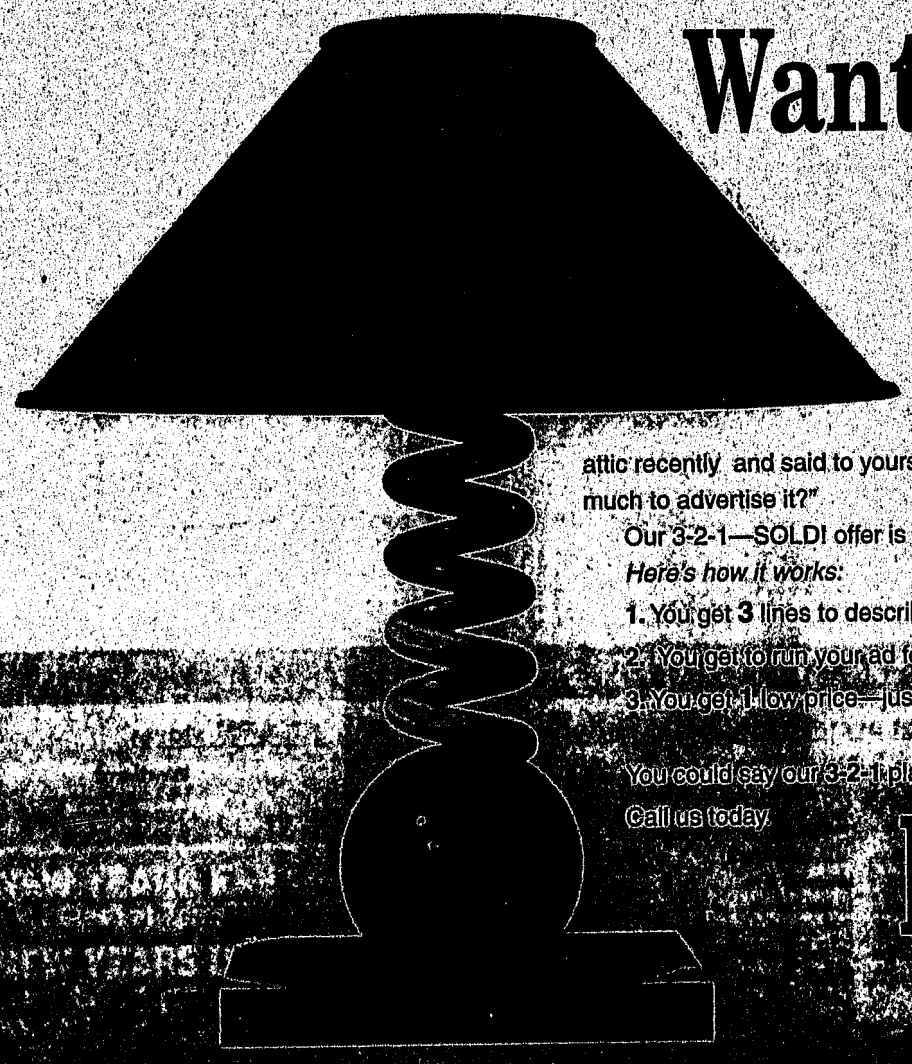
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512....Help Wanted-Sales
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526....Help Wanted-Domestic
528....Help Wanted-Couples
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Plymouth, MI. 48170
Fax# 734-207-2085

DRIVERS
Railroad crew hauling in the Plymouth area. Excellent supplemental income. Full & part time positions available. Retirees welcome. Must have valid drivers license, excellent driving record, clean & neat in appearance. Subject to drug testing. Call 1-800-471-2440 leave name; area code, & number.

DRIVER WANTED
Delivery driver needed. CDL-B with air required. 4 day week, no week-ends. Must apply in person. Apply at:
Williams Distributing Co.
13108 Waco Ct., Livonia, 8-5.

DRYWALL HANGER, taper, spotter and repairs. Experienced only. Call Ken or Doug, Standard Drywall 7am-8am. 810-254-2350

DRYWALL HANGER, Taper, spotter & repairs. Experienced only. Call Ken or Doug at Standard Drywall. 7am-8am. (810)254-2350

EARLY CHILDHOOD Education Major to teach pre-school gymnastics. Part time, after school & evenings. Will train. (248) 335-6770

EVENTS/PROMOTIONS PLANNER
Must be able to create & handle event & analyze results. 3 yrs. experience required. Send resume to: P.O. Box 3036, Farmington Hills, MI 48333

FITTER/WELDER
3-5 years experience necessary. Medical benefits available. Call: (248) 684-4177 Ask for Joe

GENERAL LABOR
$8.00/hr to start. Benefits. Full or part-time. (248) 581-1676

500 Help Wanted General

FINANCE COMPANY COLLECTORS
Immediate openings for Senior Collectors and Senior Skip Tracers. Full-Time and Part-Time with flexible hours. Senior Collectors - 2 to 3 years experience preferred, must be able to skip trace. Skip Tracers - must be experienced in locating potential skips. A great opportunity for men and women with courteous dispositions and good communication skills. Must be hard worker with good problem solving skills, great listening skills and the ability to work well with people in a team atmosphere as well as independently. Must be able to call at least 125 people per work day. Monthly bonuses based on delinquency. No phone calls! Send or fax resume with recent references to:
Mel Farr Automotive Group
Triple M Financing
10560 W. Eight Mile Road
Ferndale, MI 48220
Attn: Mr. Lee Bailey, Mgr.
FAX (248)584-0871
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR needed to direct, and supervise all aspects of food service department. BA degree in Food Nutrition or equivalent with experience in supervising a computerized food service operation required. Apply with letter of interest and resume to: Novi Community schools, Personnel Dept. 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374

FRANKLIN FITNESS & RACQUET CLUB
is looking for friendly, dependable, customer service oriented individuals to work as desk attendents. Shifts range from 5:30am-11:00pm. If you are interested in the health club atmosphere, this is the place to be. Apply at: 29350 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. (248) 352-8000

GENERAL HELP/ MANAGEMENT
HELP WANTED
INTERVIEWS NOW BEING ARRANGED ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVICE BASIS
Growing Company needs
75 PEOPLE
TO FILL IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
Expanding distribution center for large 80 year old electrical appliance company has openings in several departments from display work through management. Can do work easily. No experience necessary as we will provide training that can lead to a very secure position with high starting income.
$400-900/wk.
Call for interview.
(248) 539-7001

Hair- ESTHETICIAN & RECEPTIONIST/ COORDINATOR
Positions are available in our exciting, fast paced salon located in Novi. These are career opportunities for the right energetic, friendly people. Experience preferred. Perks! Ask for Chris or Antonette at Gina Agosta Hair Color & Design. (248) 477-9128

RECEPTIONIST
Busy full service Novi salon looking for full and/or part-time receptionist. 248-344-9944

HEATING INSTALLERS
(248) 335-4555

HOME MANAGERS - For group homes in Livonia and Garden City. Must have group home experience and some college, ability to train and motivate others, pay close attention to details, and advocate for the people served. Call Mrs. St. Louis at (248)477-5209

HOTEL
Newly renovated suburban Hotel seeking experienced, upbeat, personable, motivated individuals for full and part time positions:
• Cocktail Servers
• Dishwashers
• Restaurant Servers PM
We start our servers at $8.00/hr!
Apply in person at the front desk of:
HOLIDAY INN SOUTHFIELD
26555 Telegraph
Southfield, MI 48034
Benefits include.....
• Paid Vacation
• 401K
• Pension Plan
• Free Employee Meal
• Travel Discounts
• Great Work Environment....
AND MUCH MORE....

HOUSECLEANERS
Starting wage $8.26/hr.
248-669-6120
Union Lake

HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR
Needed for senior retirement community in the Novi/Walled Lake area. Call 248-669-5330

HVAC, APPLIANCE TECHS & TRAINEES NEEDED!
Must have good driving record. Company paid insurance and 401K, vacation and holiday pay. Good wage. Apply in person at: Maintenance One, Inc., 42400 Ecorse, Belleville 1-800-367-7199

HVAC INSTALLERS
New construction. Benefits include: health, dental, 401K, vacation/holiday pay & more. Year round work. Top wages. Call now: (248) 335-4555

If you are an experienced, self-motivated, energetic, sales focused individual, we have an excellent opportunity for you. Our Baby Boutique in 12 Oaks Mall has an opening for Management - full and part-time/lead positions. Fax resume to Joan (248)347-9825

500 Help Wanted General

IMMEDIATE OPENING - Real estate broker needs full time Assistant for model home sales in West Bloomfield. Call 248-363-2500 or fax resume to: 248-363-4756

INSTALLER
ING for responsible individual with some electrical experience. Must have truck and tools. Big career opportunity. (248) 476-6060

JANITORIAL
Cleaning person for small Southfield office. 1 day per wk. Day position.
Call Barb: (248) 352-1466

JANITORIAL
JANI-KING OF MICHIGAN, INC., seeks experienced janitorial professionals or those that wish to be trained. Apply at:
American Center
27777 Franklin Rd, Ste. 900
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 936-0040
Transportation a must.

JANITORIAL POSITION
Full time. Starting pay $8.50 per hr. Oxford area. Call between 9am & 4pm only: (810) 695-8188

JANITORIAL/SUPERVISOR
Janitorial company seeking Assistant Supervisor for the metropolitan Detroit area. EVENING HOURS. Send resume & salary requirements to: PO Box 930071, Wixom, MI 48393

JOB DEVELOPER
Person with strong presentation & management skills needed to create community based employment & oversee vocational support for people with disabilities. (248) 474-9973

★ LEASING ★ ★ CONSULTANT ★
Singh Management is seeking to fill full-time and part-time leasing positions. Successful candidate must be enthusiastic, a self starter, have the ability to work well with the public, prior sales experience, and be available for weekend work. Two Brand new complexes. We offer competitive wages plus commissions. Send resume:
FAX resume 248-865-1630
or call Marilyn @ 865-1600

LEASING PERSON
part time for apt. community in Westland 734-422-5411

LEASING POSITION
For Westland apt. community, full/part time weekends. Call or stop in - 734-459-6600. A great place to work. Westwood Village Apts.

LOOKING FOR a career change? We are seeking a motivated person to perform leasing & office duties at an apt. community located in Inkster & Livonia. Experience preferred but we will train right individual. Competitive compensation package. If interested call Mon. thru. Fri. 734-427-6970 or fax resume to 734-427-0165

LOOKING FOR motivated individual to organize warehouse & route service. Excellent benefits. Wixom, MI. 248-669-2646

MACHINIST
CNC Mill operator. Must have some experience. Able to do set-ups. BC/BS, 401K. Call for appt: (248) 352-1466

MACHINISTS & Die Makers
All levels of experience.
Apply in person at:
1225 Fendt Dr., Howell.

MAINTENANCE
Knowledgeable and dependable person needed for general maintenance at manufactured home community located in Canton. Retired person welcome. Full time, salary position, on-site housing included. Call: 734-397-0400

MAINTENANCE MANAGER
Start the New Year off with a new team! Livonia based operation looking to fill a key position in management. Candidate must have electrical, boiler & PLC experience, the ability to manage a 4 member crew, scheduling PM work and related activities. Degree preferred. Please send work & salary history to: Pure Tech Plastic, Attn: Al Jalynsky, 31764 Enterprise Dr., Livonia, MI 48150 or fax 734-522-9770 or e-mail Jalynskl@msn.com

MAINTENANCE PERSON
for apt. community in Westland, benefits available. 401K, 734-422-5411

MAINTENANCE PERSON
Needed for Senior Apartment Community in the Novi/Walled Lake area. Must have knowledge of electrical & plumbing. Please call Ron 248-476-7478

MAINTENANCE POSITIONS
for apartment communities at various locations throughout suburbs. Full time positions, health benefits, dental plan, 401k available. Experience helpful. Applications and resumes being taken at Paragon Properties, 32400 Telegraph, #202, Bingham Farms, MI 48185.

MAINTENANCE SERVICEMEN
for lighting repair. Some electrical experience required. Full-time with good benefits. Livonia area. (734) 422-8460

MAINTENANCE
Three or more years experience maintaining multi-family housing.
★ Excellent Wages & Benefits ★
★ Belleville area
Please send resume to:
Kirkridge Park Cooperatives
8205 Kirkridge Park Drive
Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 697-3555 EOE

MANAGER PERSON or couple needed for apt. community. Please send resume to: Paragon Properties Company, 32400 Telegraph Rd., #202, Bingham Farms, MI 48025 or Fax to 248-646-0836. Att. Jan

MANGER/ASSISTANT
2 days per week. Extra days & hours as needed. $7. per hour. Office work & light maintenance. Troy (248) 588-3398

MECHANIC NEEDED for truck and trailer road service. Excellent pay, great benefits. Fax resume to: 248-349-9191 or call: 248-349-4697

MEDICAL BILLING. Nationwide Company seeking billers. PC required, no experience necessary. Earn $31,500+ potential. Call 1-800-624-1478.

500 Help Wanted General

MESSENGER
MID-SIZED law firm seeks messenger to run errands for busy office and to file documents in various courts throughout the Metro Detroit area. Must have own car and must have excellent driving record. Please send resume with cover letter to:
Personnel Coordinator,
P.O. Box 222, Southfield, MI 48037-0222 or Fax to: 248-746-2760

METER READERS. Competitive pay. Full/part-time. Medical, dental, paid vacation, 401(k) retirement plan, bonuses. Reliable transportation needed. Call NOW 1(800)229-3449

MOLDMAKER
• Bench Hands (Days & Nights)
• Moldmaker (Days & Nights)
• CNC Machinist (Night Shift)
• Shipping & Receiving (Days)
Employment opportunities with Trend Tool, Inc. a subsidiary of Magna International, Global automotive supplier, Builders of Interior and Exterior Plastic Injection Molds. We offer competitive wages, medical/dental, 401(k), Profit Sharing & an air conditioned plant.
Trend Tool, Inc.
32850 Capitol
Livonia, MI 48150
Phone: 734-421-3337
Fax: 734-421-9203

OFFICE CLEANING
Start now! $8.00/hour. Full or part-time. Days/eves. Wixom/Novi area. (248) 676-1012

PAINTERS NEEDED for custom work, will train if needed. Fax resume to: (248) 628-9627 or call (248) 828-3621

PLASTIC INJECTION MOLDING FOREMAN (m/f)
Second shift. A & D Plastics. 734-455-2255

PLUMBER
Experience required. Novi family owned service company hiring at prevailing wage. Truck and benefits. (248) 348-4242

MANAGER SHIPPING/MAILROOM DEPARTMENT
With art galleries on over 40 cruise ships and fine art auctions regularly in every major city in North America, we ship daily throughout North America and internationally. We are seeking a manager with strong leadership and organizational skills to supervise this department.
Strong Logistics, computer knowledge and minimum 3 years prior management experience required. Knowledge of bulk-mail procedure preferred but not necessary.
Long-term career opportunity. Excellent salary with full Medical and Dental Benefits plus 401K.
Send resume and cover letter to:
PARK WEST GALLERY
Attn: NJY
29469 Northwestern Hwy.
Southfield, MI 48034

PRODUCTION LABORER
Growing concrete products company. Will train. Year-round employment. Good wages, benefits. 401K opportunities. 248-620-7400 EOE

MULTI-SITE PROPERTY MANAGER
needed for a large apartment management company. Excellent opportunity for a strong individual with experience in multi-site management. Join a winning team. Great benefits with medical and 401(k) plan. Send resume in confidence with salary requirements to:
Box #1509
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
36251 Schoolcraft Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT BOOKKEEPER
Needed for fast paced residential property management company. Ideal candidate should be well organized, self motivated and able to work independently. Duties include maintaining receivable resident accounts, interacting with residents and managers, preparing daily bank deposits and other clerical duties. Computer experience required. Excellent wages and fringe benefits available. Send resume and salary requirements immediately to:
Channess & Simon
Property Management Bookkeeper
31500 Northwestern Hwy
Suite 195
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

ROCHESTER LADIES SHOES MANAGER- full time retail sales. Mitzelfelds, 312 Main, (248), 651-8171 ext 102

500 Help Wanted General

ROUTE DRIVER, needed for expanding company. Best compensation package in the industry. Satellite Vending Co, Wixom, MI. 248-669-1915

SALAD PREP
Full & part-time positions available. Experience preferred. Full time benefits include medical w/dental & vacation.
Apply in person only
JOE'S PRODUCE
33152 W. Seven Mile Rd.
Livonia, MI

SHIPPING & RECEIVING
Full time position. General warehouse duties. Hi-lo experience needed. Benefits + performance bonus. Call Tony: 248-852-6729

★SURFACE GRINDER★ ★★ HAND ★★
5 years minimum experience. Retirement plan & benefits. 248-477-8040 Novi

SCIENCE PARAPROFESSIONAL
Part-time for Farmington school. Facilitate science/media programs for young children. Some computer skills. High School graduate. (248) 489-3808

TEACHER ASSISTANT needed Monday thru Friday, 11am-6pm. Call Novi-Northville Montessori at (248) 348-3033 or (248) 449-1652

TEACHER
K-8 charter school has immediate full time opening for middle school math. (313) 792-9444

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS
needed in all areas, especially High School Math, Science and Foreign Language. Certification preferred or minimum of 90 hours college credit. Please call 248-489-3387 for application.

TEACHERS - AGBU ALEX MANOOGIAN SCHOOL in Southfield needs certified teachers for Math & Science at Middleschool & High School levels. Please fax resume to: 248-569-1346.

TRUCK DRIVER
experienced in hauling steel on flat bed trailers. All local routes available originating in Plymouth. CDL Class A required. Please call: 1-800-786-3125

TRUCK DRIVER
Needed for construction company. CDL required. Tool inventory helpful, but will train. Full time, excellent benefits. Please call: (734) 542-0800

WAITING FOR fax

WASTE WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR
- 2nd shift only. Must have prior experience. Position in Detroit area. (313) 382-6701

WELDER/FITTER
TROY LOCATION
Openings for experienced people. Must be able to read blueprints. Full time, profit sharing, 401K, insurance, vacation.
DALLAS INDUSTRIES
103 Park Dr.
Troy, MI
FAX 248-583-9402

WINDOW SERVICE
Leading Window & Door distributor expanding, looking for Inside Service Reps as well as Outside Service person. Will train. Salary based on experience. Fax resumes to: 734-462-3501 or Call 734-462-3500

YARD PERSON
Reliable person to do general labor. Good driving record required. Full time position. Must be able to work without supervision. Call 248-349-2500 to set up appointment for an interview.

501 Computer/Info. Systems

COMPUTER GENUS
Novi based company looking for energetic individual to run our systems installation & support department. Must be skilled in Unix & Windows NT. Knowledge of terminal, printer, & Modem configurations essential. Must be a self-starter & willing to speak up, even if it means telling the boss he is wrong! Only motivated people need apply! Top compensation for the right individual! 248 449-2700

PART TIME - computer Desktop publishing person, flexible days & hrs. can be arranged for this interesting & challanging position. Novi area.
Call Mr Conrad 248-349-4550

NETWORK ENGINEER
Responsibility will be to supervise the Farmington School District's network environment which includes over 2,000 networked computers, including Mac's and PC's in schools/departments. Qualifications include 3 years network experience in Novell, Ethernet and TCP/IP. Multiple platform experience including DOS, Windows, and Mac OS. Associates degree in related field preferred. Qualified applicants should apply on line at: www.farmington.k12.mi.us
All supportive documentation should be sent to Lawrence J. Lobert, Executive Director, Human Resources, 32500 Shiawassee, Farmington, MI. 48336-2363. Minimum Salary $45,000.00 - plus a comprehensive benefits package.

PROGRAMMER
Full-time position needed for Troy area. Good with Microsoft Access and Excel. Good knowledge of Programming Data bases. Networking and some accounting a plus. Fax resume to Dilbert at: (248) 729-0057

502 Help Wanted-Office Clerical

ACCOUNTING CLERK
Experience with Excell and general ledger. Good, benefits. Resumes to: Controller, P.O. Box 1155, Troy, MI 48099.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
Property management company seeking individual for vendor payables, bank reconciliation and general ledger. Computer experience necessary. Salary, full benefits w/retirement plan. Send resume: 6632 Telegraph #154, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/ RECEIVABLE payroll & light clerical. 16-20 flexible hours per week. Accounting & computer skills required. Pleasant office, good pay. Fax work history/ resume to: J.J. Poured Walls, Inc. (248)348-5031 E.O.E.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Press feed manufacturer. Must have strong communication, organizational, computer (WordPerfect/Word) skills. Customer service focus & positive attitude. Full benefits.
DALLAS INDUSTRIES
103 Park St.
Troy, MI. 48083
248-583-9400-Phone
248-583-9402-FAX

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST/ GENERAL OFFICE CLERK
Farmington Hills computer consulting firm has an immediate opening at our corporate headquarters in Farmington Hills. The ideal candidate will have: tremendous organizational and people skills, ability to handle multiple priorities efficiently, computer skills including Microsoft Word and Excel, familiarity with office machines & procedures, and a pleasant phone manner. Part time candidates will be considered. Work experience required. Excellent pay and benefits. Please send resume to The TM Group, Inc., 33333 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 101, Farmington Hills, MI 48334 or email to kelleyp@tmgroupinc.com

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK
Position available in property management office for an extremely organized and detail-minded individual with excellent typing skills, telephone and customer relations. Professional appearance a must.
Reply to: Box #1568
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
36251 Schoolcraft Rd
Livonia, MI 48150

ADMINISTRATIVE
Dynamic, growing company looking for sharp customer service and administrative assistants. Must have excellent telephone skills and a willingness to sweat the details when dealing with routine paperwork. Company offers full-time opportunities with complete benefit package for qualified candidates. Fax or Mail resume or apply in person:
Fax: (734) 261-1968
IVS, Inc.
13311 Stark Road
Livonia, MI 48150

AMERICAS #1 Century 21 firm has an opening in their Downtown Birmingham office for a part-time receptionist. Some evenings & weekends. Please call Ken Kemen (248) 642-8100

BIRMINGHAM LAW Firm File Clerk needed; personal injury. Full-time. Please fax resume to: 248-258-6047.

502 Help Wanted-Office Clerical

AUTO DEALERSHIP Jack Cauley Chevrolet-Cadillac-Oldsmobile-Corvette in Livonia is accepting applications for full time clerical positions. Applicant must be customer service oriented. Excellent benefits & salaries. Apply in person, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm at: Jack Cauley Chevrolet, 7020 Orchard Lake Rd., West Bloomfield.

HIGH VOLUME - multi franchise westside auto dealer needs full charge bookkeeper, pay commensurate with experience, excellent benefit package with 401K with match. Respond with resume to: Box #1562 c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
36251 Schoolcraft Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150

BOOKKEEPER
Full charge. Must have at least 3 yrs. computer bookkeeping experience. Send resume to P.O. Box 3036, Farmington Hills, MI 48333

BUDGET ANALYST
Novi Finance Department is seeking an enthusiastic, self-motivated individual to provide financial analysis assistance to the city. Minimum qualifications: Bachelors Degree in Accounting or related field, working knowledge of Word, Windows 95, Excel and Office 97, 3 years accounting experience; budget preparation experience. Duties include analyzing managerial and accounting data, projecting wage and salary costs and carrying out the budgetary programs of the city. Salary range $31,000-$40,000 with a comprehensive benefit package. Obtain an application by January 13, 1999 from the HR Dept. - 45175 W. Ten Mile, 48375.
(248) 347-0452

CLERICAL
EXECUTONE BUSINESS SYSTEMS, a communications company located in Troy has a full time opening for individuals to perform various office functions including filing, copying, internal office mail runs, word processing of letters and proposals and backup receptionist duties. Qualified candidates must have word processing skills at 50 wpm (Microsoft Word preferred), excellent communication skills, professional attitude, well organized and detail oriented with reliable transportation. Previous office experience preferred. We offer an exceptional benefit package which includes BC/BS for you and your dependents, life, disability insurance, 401K, tuition reimbursement and more.
Send or fax resume to:
Human Resources
EXECUTONE BUSINESS SYSTEMS
1700 W. Big Beaver, Ste 100
Troy, MI 48084
FAX: 248-649-5558
or call: 248-649-9100 Ext. 8003
An Equal Opportunity Employer

CLERICAL/RECEPTIONIST
Needed for small Title Insurance Agency. Typing, computer skills & general office duties. Leave message at: 248-745-8009 or fax resume: 248-642-0935

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
Major firm has opening in its Public Relations area to assist Communications Director. Seeking excellent verbal/written skills, desire candidate with a great deal of enthusiasm. College degree, association or non-profit experience a plus.
[redacted]
248-344-6700 Fax 248-344-6704
Call For Other Openings!

CUMMINS MICHIGAN INC Novi Corporate office has openings for 2 POSITIONS:
TELEPHONE OPERATOR who will also perform general clerical duties. PC skills & MicroSoft Excel experience a plus.
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT to marketing support staff. Knowledge of Micro-Soft Word & Excel required.
Equal Opportunity Employer. Excellent fringe benefits. Contact Judy 248-478-9700 or Fax resume to Judy at 248-478-1570

EMPLOYMENT CLASSIFICATIONS CONTINUED

This Classification Continued on Page B3.

Recruitment Specialist

Our fast paced newspaper Classified Advertising Department is seeking an enthusiastic individual to join our team!

This position requires six months to one year of telephone sales experience, excellent customer service, ability to type 40 wpm, good spelling and grammar skills. Responsibilities include soliciting new recruitment advertising via telephone, contacting current customers, selling advertising, quoting predetermined rates, follow-up with customers to determine satisfaction with ads. Compensation package includes good hourly base rate with excellent commission earning potential. Please submit resume to:

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Attn: RS-Trade
36251 Schoolcraft Rd. • Livonia, MI 48150
Fax (734) 953-2057
Must have RS-Trade code.

ARE you a CPA or an MBA with accounting or financial experience? Do you desire professional flexibility and variety?

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Starting the new year off safely

MADD, WOMC offer free cab rides home for over-imbibers

BY BARB PERT TEMPLETON
STAFF WRITER

Having a few drinks can be a great way to welcome the new year, even if some of the revelers do enjoy the party a bit too much.

To ensure the celebration doesn't end in tragedy, celebrants across Oakland County can catch a free cab ride home, compliments of WOMC (104.3 on the FM dial) and MADD.

"We had over 500 calls last year and over 700 rides another year," said Michele Compton, Chapter Administrator of Mothers Against Drunk Driving of Oakland County.

"Project Life Ride is marking their 16th year offering cabs home to those who indulge on New Year's Eve.

WOMC will be footing the bill for the rides, provided by 30 different cab companies as the station has done for many years. In addition AT&T is providing MADD with a toll free number for callers in need and a a telemarketing firm donated use of their offices as a phone bank, Compton said.

A press conference Tuesday announced the annual project and included appearances by MADD members, officers from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and Prosecutor David Gorcyca.

"This is a safe and inexpensive way to make New Year's Eve night a safe one," said Gorcyca. "And Project Life Ride has been a very successful program. There have been no fatalities in the tri-county area on New Year's Eve the last three years."

Credit for that impressive statistic goes right to the county MADD Chapter, "a wonderful organization" according to Frank Cardimen, president of Traffic Improvement Association (TIA) of Oakland County.

The TIA keeps data on traffic incidents in the county and helps support the efforts of local police agencies who man the roads. In early 1998 TIA received a $60,000 grant from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning and a portion is utilized for additional law enforcement manning during the holidays.

The money is divided up between several police agencies who take part in a county based group called Drive Oakland Safely. The co-op includes Oakland County Sheriff's Department and police departments from Troy, Pontiac, Southfield, Farmington Hills and Waterford.

The money is used in different ways during different times of the year but the majority is to put additional manpower on the road and to support MADD's efforts during the holidays, Cardimen said.

Barnett Jones, Captain of Protective Services for the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, agreed the holidays produce more offenders but said the county has an alcohol enforcement unit on the job all year long.

"Our officers are always concerned with the safety and welfare of others, and if the drivers are out there we'll find them and arrest them, make no bones about it," Jones said.

The holiday atmosphere produces many first time offenders who get caught up in the celebrating and think they can still drive even after enjoying lots of beverages, he added.

"You don't have to be falling down drunk to be over the limit in this state," Jones said.

In fact, many times it's the person who is functioning in a somewhat normal manner that ends up being the one who's had too much and will be careless while driving, he said.

"That's why there's a big push to lower the limit from .10 to .08, and I would be in favor of that," Jones said.

"And driving drunk is an equal opportunity decision. Just as many women as males go out and do it."

Party hosts should also consider the liability factor when letting guests indulge in heavy drinking at their homes. Homeowners can be liable for people who leave their home drunk and get into accidents. Jones said there are also "vicarious liability suits" that see a party host sued for letting someone leave their home intoxicated even if they weren't serving any alcohol.

"We are the most suit-conscious country on the earth, so people have to be careful," Jones said.

Local restaurants and bars who do the best they can not to serve intoxicated people for the same reason, Jones said.

At Mr. B's in Clarkston staff are happy to help their over celebrating patrons get home safely. Manager Lorraine Middler feels the free cab service offered up by MADD is a good idea. It's something they would suggest to their patrons or dial up for a customer upon request.

"We would definitely do it (call a cab) if we needed to," Middler said, noting that it's always standard procedure, any night of the year, to stop serving those patrons who seem to be intoxicated.

"You can get intoxicated, that's your choice, but don't get behind the wheel of a car," Jones said. "We have a very serious attitude about it.

"They can make the choice of drinking and calling for a ride or drinking and driving and going to the Nichols, Ficano or Hackell Hilton for the night," added Gorcyca. "The choice to call Project Life Ride could be the ride of their life."

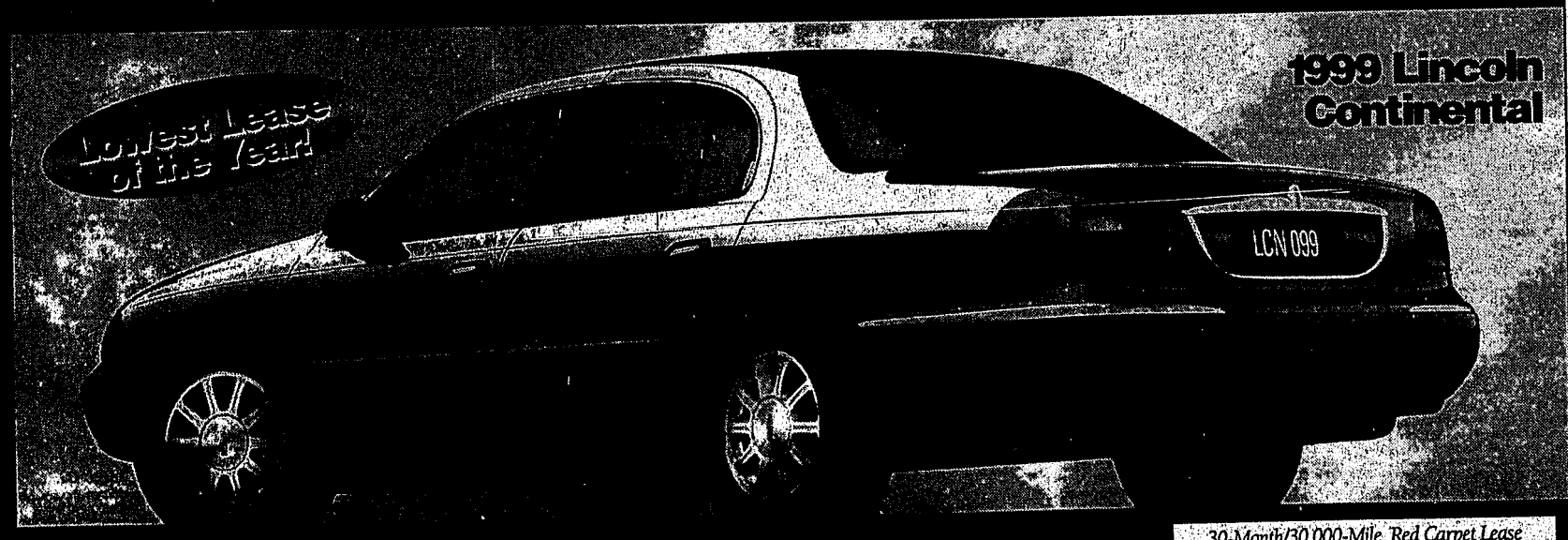
The number to call for a free cab ride home beginning at 9 p.m. tonight and until 5 a.m. tomorrow is (877) FOR-MADD or (877) 367-6233.

Money talks.
Now it says "Hurry."



STANDARD FEATURES:
4.6-liter SOHC V-8 engine • Watt's linkage rear air spring suspension • All-Speed Traction Control • Leather seating surfaces
• SecuriLock passive anti-theft system
• Automatic on/off headlamps with delay

30-Month/30,000-Mile Red Carpet Lease
Capitalized Cost $32,326
Down Payment $2,610
Refundable Security Deposit $450
First Month's Payment $429
Cash Due At Signing (Net of Incentives) $3,489
$0.15/mile over 30,000 miles



STANDARD FEATURES:

30-Month/30,000-Mile Red Carpet Lease
Capitalized Cost $32,201
Down Payment $2,270
Refundable Security Deposit $450
First Month's Payment $429
Cash Due At Signing (Net of Incentives) $3,149
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Sports & Outdoors

Clarkston Eccentric

Brad Kadrich, Editor 248.693.4909 | on the web: http://observer-eccentric.com | Page 1, Section B | Thursday, December 31, 1998

NORTH OAKLAND SPORTS SCENE

Oakland County Parks

A staple of the Oakland County Parks winter schedule is the Observer & Eccentric Ski Schools, which will be held Jan. 16, Feb. 7 and Feb. 13 at Addison Oaks County Park and Jan. 17, Feb. 6 and Feb. 14 at Independence Oaks.

The clinics, which are snow-dependent, feature instruction of ski fundamentals, including proper use of equipment and attire, health benefits of cross country skiing, warm-up exercises and open skiing. Sessions are set for 10 a.m.-noon and 1:30-3:30 p.m., with a cost of $7 per lesson or $13 per lesson with ski rental.

Ski rentals are available on a first-come, first-serve basis at both parks.

Elsewhere, Family and Friends Ski Nights is set for Jan. 16, Jan. 23 and Feb. 6 at Addison Oaks. This event runs from 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m. and involves night skiing on a lighted, 1.6-mile trail. Ski lessons, ice skating, hayrides and prize drawings are also part of the festivities.

Costs is $3 per person or $9 per person with ski rental.

Finally, Crooked Lake Ice Fishing Contests will take place Jan. 9 and Jan. 30 from 8 a.m.-noon at Independence Oaks.

Addison Oaks is located on W. Romeo Road, nine miles north of Rochester. Independence Oaks is off Sashabaw Road, 2.5 miles north of I-75, near Clarkston.

For more information, call Addison Oaks at (248) 693-2432 or Independence Oaks at (248) 625-0877. Or visit the Oakland County Parks website at www.co.oakland.mi.us for park maps and discount coupons.

Knott rewarded

Missy Knott, a first-year defender for Luther (Iowa) College's women's soccer team, was named the Norse's Most Improved Player in postseason awards announced by head coach Doug Mello.

Knott helped lead Luther to an overall record of 13-7-2 and its second Iowa Conference championship in three years. Knott saw action in 22 games, starting the final nine. The was a key factor in helping the Norse defense record eight shutouts and post a 1.49 goals-against average.

Knott is a 1998 graduate of Pleasant Valley High School. She is the daughter of Greg and Linda Knott of Clarkston.

Avery camps

Avery All-Star Baseball Camps is bringing its pitching, hitting and catching camps to Oakland Community College.

The camps, which run for five Sundays starting Jan. 10, cost $210. There are three camps:

■ **Hitting camp** — With a hitter-to-instructor ratio of 4-to-1, the camp puts emphasis on driving the ball to all fields and uses five different drills and hundreds of swings per week to develop proper swing paths and consistent contact points. Instructors include Bruce Fields, who managed the Grand Rapids Whitecaps to the 1998 Midwest League title, Mark Avery, a .310 career professional hitter, and Andy Fairman, a career .340 professional hitter who is an assistant coach at Wayne State University.

Sessions run 75 minutes and start at 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30, 3 and 4:30 p.m.

■ **Pitching camp** — Focuses on pitching mechanics, proper delivery, preparation and fielding, the camp has a 4-to-1 pitcher-to-instructor ratio. Instructors include Jeff Jones, bulpen coach for the Detroit Tigers, and Dave Marcon, who pitched six years of professional baseball.

Sessions run 75 minutes and start at 6:15 and 7:45 p.m.

■ **Catching camp** — The camp focuses on three areas: throwing mechanics, blocking tecniques and receiving techniques. Instructors include Mark Avery, former Detroit Tigers bullpen catcher and two-time minor league all-star, and Mario Borrocci, who coached the USA Junior Olympic team to the bronze medal.

Sessions run 100 minutes and start at 8 a.m.

All three camps will run Jan. 10, Jan. 17, Jan. 24, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14. at OCC's Highland Lakes Campus, 7350 Cooley Lake Road in Waterford. For more information call Mark at (810) 288-0707.



Staff Photo by Steve Cantrell

Top dog: *Clarkston's Dan Fife (right), in his 17th season at the helm of the Wolves, won his 300th game as a varsity coach last season.*

Years ago, coaching a high school varisty team was a short-term, after-school activity. However, due to an increasing commitments and time constraints on coaches, many veterans are stepping aside, creating a...

Changing of the guard

■ Young, energetic coaches are hitting the prep basketball sidelines in a new era where the demands of a program are many and time is a most precious commodity which many coaches find hard to come by.

By Daniel Stickradt
Staff Writer
dstickradt@oe.homecomm.net

As the world rapidly moves towards the new millennium, society is becoming much more competitive. The old structures and guidelines no longer fit the mold — everything is fast-paced and only the strong seem to survive.

Perhaps this is especially true in the sports world and, in particular, within the arena of prep sports. The old-school ways of playing and coaching are fading fast. And to keep pace, you need the time, energy, knowledge, and the ultra-competitive spirit or you will surely be left behind.

As athletes are pressured into spending much more time "working on their game," so to speak, so are the coaches. Seasons no longer last just 2-3 months before the next sport kicks in. It takes 5-6 months — and in many cases, virtually the entire calendar year — of devoting time to the sport of your leisure. And even that doesn't guarantee even modest success.

Coaching a team is no longer an after-school activity, where you practice from 3-5 or suit up for a two-hour game a couple days a week. A coach is required to do so much more, which is why more and more veteran coaches are stepping away from coaching preps.

"In some aspects, coaching can, at times, seem like another full-time job — you truly have a lot more responsibilities than just a couple hours each day after school," said Jim Manzo, the first-year boys basketball coach at Lake Orion High School. "You are required to a lot more than someone who coached when I was in high school (in the late-1980s)."

All throughout Oakland County, and throughout the state, many veteran coaches in a variety of sports have stepped aside in recent years, or plan to give up coaching in the near future, citing family constraints and other obligations as the reason for their departure from the sidelines.

"It's getting to be too much," said one area basketball coach who asked not to be identified. "It takes so much time out of your schedule that it effects everything else that you do. I have kids who are starting to get older and they are starting to question why I'm gone so much. I don't want them to start resenting me because I'm spending so much time coaching and not enough time with my family."

Perhaps this is why so many young individuals are stepping into the game as coaches. Most coaching staffs at area high schools are dominated by individuals under the age of 30. And although this phenomenon has seemed to have taken place in most prep sports, it is most commonplace in basketball.

For example, of the six high schools in the Eccentric's North Oakland coverage region, four varsity boys basketball coaches in the area are still in their 20s.

Orion's Manzo is the head of the pledge class at age 28; followed by Clarkston Springfield Christian's Dennis Hopkins, who is 24; Oxford Christian's Jeff Alexander, who is also 24, and Oxford's Jesse Heck, who is just 23.

Why the youth movement? Opinions

Please see **YOUNG GUNS**, B2

Fife proving old dogs can learn new tricks

By Brad Kadrich
Sports Editor
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Dan Fife has seen just about everything, from just about every perspective in his athletic career – player, coach, parent.

It's one of the benefits of longevity.

Fife, in his 17th season as the varsity boys basketball coach at Clarkston, has played major college basketball and major league baseball. He's coached at the University of Michigan and he's coached at Sashabaw Middle School.

Through it all, it's not the 302 wins or the quarterfinal appearances on which Fife reflects when he thinks about his greatest achievement.

"When you've been in this business this long, it's human nature to be judged by the wins and losses," said Fife, who is 302-77 in his Clarkston career. "But I think the best thing is to be there this long and enjoy success in this community with these kids, seeing them go on into life and be successful."

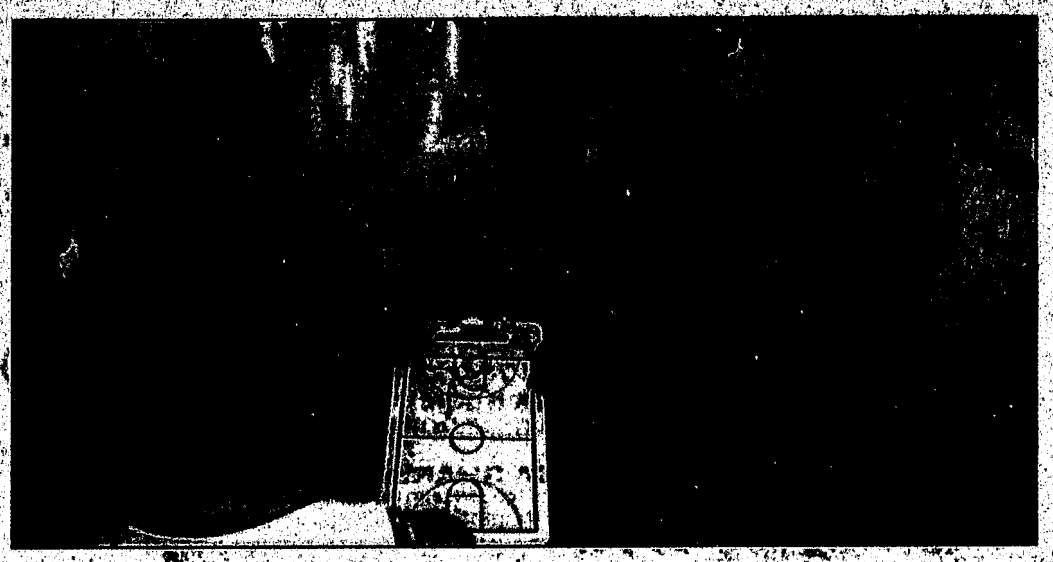
Fife's coaching career began at Clarkston 17 years ago after coaching with former Wolverine coach Johnny Orr, for whom Fife played three years.

When his college career was over, Fife did a year as a graduate assistant before getting into professional baseball. He spent time with the Detroit Tigers before a trade sent him to the Minnesota Twins. He was 3-2 for the Twins before a shoulder injury shelved him.

Coaching seemed like a natural step for someone who had spent most of his life on a playing surface of some sort.

"It's what I knew best," Fife said. "I don't remember a time in my life when I haven't played ball of some kind. And playing at the levels I've played at, I can't think of anything a

Please see **FIFE**, B2



New kid on the block: *Jim Manzo is in his first year as Lake Orion's head basketball coach, after assisting former Dragon coach Dave Collins, who resigned earlier this season.*

Fife *from page B1*



The veteran: *Clarkston's Dan Fife has been hollering on the sidelines for 17 years.*

player could go through. I haven't been through myself."

Longevity also has a way of teaching old dogs some new tricks. Fife has changed his offense several times, trying to suit the types of players he had at a given time.

Fife has also changed, from within. He still has the same high expectations of his players, but he knows he has to adjust to the personality of his squads.

"I think I've changed to a degree, and yet I haven't," he said. "I'm just as demanding. I've changed offenses to the type of kids we had. I've tried to learn to adjust, to put the kids in a position that would be positive for them."

Another thing longevity gives Fife is the confidence of parents. As a parent himself, Fife has seen both sides — coaching and parenting — of the athlete's lives. He knows parents are blinded to their children's frailties, and he's been pretty successful dealing with it.

"Being a coach and a parent, I know what parents think, which is the same as I think, which is my kid can do no wrong," Fife said. "They're love blinds them to their deficiencies. I don't have many parents who question that we do. They may not like it, but they don't question it."

One thing Fife hasn't changed is his reliance on his long-time junior varsity coach, Tim Kaul. Kaul came to Clarkston the same year Fife did, and they've been together ever since.

Actually, Kaul came back to Clarkston after spending a year at Auburn Hills Avondale with Larry Mahrle, who had coached at Clarkston before moving to the Yellow Jackets as the varsity coach.

When Fife came to Clarkston a year later, there was a junior varsity vacancy, which Kaul applied for and got.

He's been there ever since.

"It's been a pretty satisfying relationship," said Kaul, who coached for seven years at Sashabaw Middle School before moving with Mahrle to Avondale. "We're very close philosophically. We both believe in man-to-man, putting pressure on the ball at half-court. Our approach to the game is very similar."

So are their coaching experiences. Fife has coached all three of his sons to bigger and better things.

Eldest son Dugan played four years at Michigan. Middle son Jeremy plays at Grand Valley State.

Youngest son Dane led the Wolves to the quarterfinals last year and is now getting considerable playing time as a freshman at Indiana.

Kaul's son Gary is an assistant at Clarkston, and is the heir-apparent to Kaul's JV job when he quits, possibly as soon as next year. And Kaul's son Ryan is the point guard for Fife's varsity team.

"Part of the fun is having his three sons, and now Ryan is my second son, so it's been kind of a family thing," Kaul said.

With Ryan on the varsity now, it would be natural for Kaul to want to move up himself, grab a varsity job somewhere. But that's not what he wants.

"I like working with Dan, and I like working in my own district," said Kaul, who teaches in the Clarkston system. "I knew I had Gary, and I knew if I hung around long enough, I'd get a chance to coach Ryan, which I did last year.

"But he's had enough. Coaching the JV takes time away from watching Ryan play, and Kaul, who has taught 30 years and is contemplating retirement after this season, wants to watch him as much as he can.

And he's been enough of the coaching profession to know how it's changed.

Kaul thinks the biggest difference is in the coaches themselves, more than the players or the game itself.

"From the time I first started in the early 70s, coaches are a lot more knowledgeable about the game," he said. "They started coaching clinics where you could go see a Dean Smith or a Bob Knight talk. I think coaches today are exposed to a lot more."

Kaul said most people think the players of today are different, bigger and stronger. He agrees, but thinks they lack a fundamental toughness that kids of bygone eras had.

"When we grew up, you learned to be tough and competitive playing on the playgrounds," he said. "You have to impart that to these kids, because they've grown up in a softer environment."

It's a difference Fife has noticed, as well, particularly with this year's team, which is still struggling to find its identity.

The Wolves of a year ago had Dane Fife and Angelo Taylor to depend upon down the stretch, and this year's version still looks for someone of that nature.

It's a trend Fife would like to change, because he thinks a lot of this team.

"Right now I'm having a difficult time with these kids, and my impatience comes because I think they should be picking things up quicker," he said. "Sometimes I think my expectations are higher for them than they are for themselves."

It's the one thing that has kept Fife and Kaul together for so long, the quality of the kids who've come through the program.

"We've been very lucky in having quality kids to work with, kids you'd be proud to call your own sons," said Kaul, who is also somewhere in the vicinity of 300 wins. "I think that's part of what has kept me in Clarkston so long."

It's also why Fife says he'll be around for the foreseeable future.

With his sons gone, thoughts of retirement have naturally occurred to him.

But when he sees his team play hard, the way this one did even at practice this week, Fife manages to push the thoughts aside.

"We've always had good students, and even when we've had a bad kid, he's become a good kid because one bad apple can't spoil the whole bunch," Fife said. "When we have good kids who play hard, I love it."

Dragons fall at net tourney

By Daniel Stuckrad
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It's been a few weeks into the volleyball season and it appears that defense will be Lake Orion's bread and butter. As Dragons coach Mike Sopko puts it, "When we play good defense, we move right along."

Well, Sopko and Company learned that even the best defensive effort doesn't always translate into success, especially against a state-ranked team. The Dragons rode their stingy defense to the quarterfinals Tuesday at the annual West Bloomfield Invitational, but couldn't stop defending champion and eventual runner-up Fraser, dropping a 15-3, 15-7 decision to the Ramblers.

"Fraser just played outstanding against us," said Sopko. "We actually played some pretty good defense against them like we did all day, but they are very good. We threw everything at them, and we had some long volleys, but Fraser was still able to mount a solid attack on us."

The Dragons (5-2-4) went 1-0-2 in pool play, rolling past North Farmington (15-9, 15-4) and splitting with both West Bloomfield (15-6, 2-15) and Dearborn Fordson (15-7, 8-15).

In the first round of the playoffs, Lake Orion had little problem disposing of Hazel Park, posting a 15-5, 15-0 triumph over the Vikings. But the Dragons found a quick exit from the 12-team tourney against Fraser.

"We're still a young team, so I'm pleased overall with our effort today," praised Sopko. "We were competitive in every match. Our defense was strong throughout and we showed promise with our offense in a couple of the matches. But it took a good team to beat us. Fraser is a well-rounded team."

On the day, 6-foot junior middle blocker Erin Oke was on a tear, finishing 37-for-39 hitting with 13 kills and 12 blocks. Senior Bobbi Conner was 62-of-76 hitting with 13 kills, 28 digs and three aces off a 21-for-23 serving day.

Junior Dana Manard was 17-for-23 hitting with six digs and was 30-for-33 serving; sophomore Beth Martin supplied 26 digs; junior Candace Emeigh and sophomore Elizabeth Balten combined for 56 assists; and sophomore Melissa Wilson was 29-for-36 serving with six aces.



Staff Photo by Tom Hoffmeyer

Hot shot: *Lake Orion's Bobbi Conner (right) goes for the shot during the West Bloomfield tournament.*

Young guns *from page B1*

vary, but it all comes down to today's competitive arena, which involves an extensive time commitment, often which draw huge conflicts with coaches who have large families.

"I'm used to spending a lot of time toward (basketball)," said Heck, who is in his first full year at Oxford. "In college, I was used to devoting six days a week to basketball, with practices and games for 3-4 months out of the year and then training outside of the season. It was just a huge part of my life."

But perhaps it is what's required outside of games and practices that scares older coaches away, and at the same time, attracts young adults recently out of college to the coaching ranks.

Coaches are almost forced into taking their entire programs — varsity, junior varsity and freshman — to a variety of competitive team camps during the summer months to keep pace with neighboring programs. Devoting ample time to weightlifting programs in the off-season, clinics, youth camps, and the ever-increasing load of paperwork required by school and state administrations is also demanded to remain competitive.

"Coaching is more like a public relations job than anything, it is a great challenge," offered Manzo. "When you coach a varsity team, you essentially are in charge of the entire program. You have to take time to watch the junior varsity and freshman teams, maybe take time out to check out the teams at the middle schools. Plus, you have to deal with all the parents. You also have to have a relationship with the media. It's a big commitment and it extends far beyond the playing field. You have to be able to deal with a lot of people.

"Being a teacher and a coach is almost like having two full-time jobs at the same time," he continued. "It keeps you extremely busy. But I'm young and I enjoy it."

For young coaches like Manzo, who has just one young child, and Alexander and Hopkins, who are both married but don't yet have any children, the conflicts between coaching and family life are manageable — to a certain extent. But, except for a few instances where family members are involved with the coaching process — such as Clarkston Athletic Director Dan Fife, who also coached all three of his sons on the Wolves' basketball team, and Troy boys basketball coach Gary Fralick, whose son, Tim, is a senior on the Colts' squad and wife, Sharon, is the team scorekeeper — finding a happy medium between coaching and family is hard to do for some of the area's veteran coaches.

"I can see why so many older coaches are stepping aside because of the amount of time involved," offered Heck, "and I can see why there are so many young coaches out there. I'm only 23, the (boys basketball) coach at North Branch is 25, and Jon Jansen down at Clawson is 25. I guess young guys like us have the time right now to put into it.

"I guess it all depends on your family dynamics," he added. "Right now I'm single, but I've wanted to coach all of my life. I'm in a dream position right now. I guess when I finally settle down and get married, my wife will have to accept that coaching is a big part of my life."

For Alexander, who, besides being a full-time teacher, is the first-year athletic director and boys and girls basketball coach at Oxford Christian, the headaches of juggling several duties are starting to mount. But he quickly admits that he is not willing to relinquish any of it any time soon.

"I love teaching and coaching, they kind of go hand and hand," he said. "I think I would get bored extremely quick if I couldn't coach. I love playing and coaching basketball. It is a great challenge and I truly enjoy it."

For Hopkins, who is the assistant boys soccer coach and the head boys basketball and girls soccer coach at Springfield Christian, as well as serving as president of the Red Division of the Fundamental Baptist Athletic Conference, the time constraints are starting to take their toll.

"It's funny, but there are times where I hardly ever get to see my wife, Wendy, except late at night when I go to bed," said Hopkins, noting that his wife also coaches middle school girls basketball at Springfield. "I really understand why a lot of people are giving up coaching, especially if they coach two or three sports. It really does cause some family constraints. I have a tremendous love for the kids and a love for the game, but I'm even considering giving up coaching this many sports. I think I will evaluate it at the end of the school year. It just takes up so much time.

"Will the duties of coaching become too much for most individuals in the years down the road, creating a constant revolving door? Or will this competi-

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NATIONAL COMPANY seeking Person Friday. Diversified duties in suburban areas. Never a dull moment! Full time salaried. No Sundays or Holidays. Paid vacation. Must have good transportation. Call Mon-Fri 9am-5pm 248-476-8643 - 810-254-5413

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Market leading Internet security software company in need of person to run the office. Solid phone and telephone sales skills as well as Microsoft Excel, Word and Powerpoint computer skills desired. $30,000-$35,000/yr with full benefits, employee stock purchase program and 401(k). Please fax or e-mail resume to:

248-723-1707
scott@us.checkpoint.com

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Do you want a change because you're bored or you want to get ahead? You're aggressive but people say you're friendly? You enjoy solving problems & implementing new procedures? Even in difficult situations you have great tact & charm. If this is you, you're the office manager that we need. We are a Novi-based computer company providing quality solutions to progressive local businesses. You will implement general office procedures, handle Human Resource issues, perform booking & accounting functions & design internal functions to help us grow. Top compensation for the right individual. Call (248) 449-2700.

PARALEGAL

For senior partner of busy personal injury firm. Experience in medical malpractice and excellent writing skills a must. Team player but also self starter.

Please fax resume & salary requirements to: 248 355-4590 or send to: 24680 Swanson, Southfield, MI 48034

502 Help Wanted-Office Clerical

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT for fast growing marketing company to assist with marketing programs. David: 734-451-7900

RECEPTIONIST/CLERICAL

Full-time w/benefits, good phone skills a must. PC skills - Windows 95, Word, Planet Machinery Company. Phone: 248-335-8330. Fax: 248-335-3680

RECEPTIONIST/CLERICAL

Immediate Opening

Experience in answering phones, filing, typing 50WPM, and 10 key preferred and other duties. Proficient in Windows 95. Excellent communication and organizational skills. Please send or fax resume to: Attention: Jim Lee, 38701 Seven Mile Rd., Ste. 250, Livonia, MI. 48152

RECEPTIONIST

Full or part-time, Flexible hours. Non-smoking medical/legal office in Novi. Keyboard and phone skills. Send resume with salary requirements to:

Box #1410
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
36251 Schoolcraft Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150

RECEPTIONIST

Full-time for dental specialty practice. Experience preferred, however will train the right person. Must be energetic, very friendly & self-motivated. Wages based on experience. Bloomfield Hills area. 248-647-7935

RECEPTIONIST

Full-time for busy office. Must possess good phone & people skills and some typing skills. Apply at: Livonia Mall Management Office, 29514 7 Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48152, Entrance G. (248)478-1160

RECEPTIONIST--MensWear retailer in Farmington Hills. Bring smile. Will train. Full & part-time. Wonderful clientele, people, pay & benefits. Call Bob: 248-539-0525

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RECEPTIONIST

Saturn of Southfield is seeking an entry-level part-time receptionist for evenings and Saturdays to join our team-oriented staff. We offer a friendly work environment, great benefits & opportunity for advancement. Call Sheryl at 248-354-6001

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY Phones, Microsoft Windows helpful. Detroit, Farmington Hills, Novi areas. 248-344-9510

502 Help Wanted-Office Clerical

RECEPTIONIST/ SECRETARY

Full-time for Construction / Property Management Firm. Word & spread sheet experience required. Full benefits. Send resume to: Sherr Development Corp., 31555 - 14 Mile Rd., Ste. 101, Farmington Hills, MI 48334, or fax: 248-626-4571

RECEPTIONIST/ SECRETARY

A Novi based Manufacturer's Representative of electronic components is looking for a high quality individual with excellent communication skills for a Receptionist position. The ideal candidate would have experience in Word, Excel, data entry and the ability to handle a 16-line phone system. The work environment is friendly and smoke free, and the job includes a full benefit package.

Please send your resume to: Greg Rathsburg, PO Box 505, Novi, MI 48376

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY

Plymouth CPA firm seeks an organized team player. Non-smoking, friendly environment. Ask for Joy at: 734-455-1040.

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502 Help Wanted-Office Clerical

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Small business in Livonia area seeking individual for receptionist. Clerical experience necessary, some computer preferred. Hours 8am-5pm, Call 9am-Noon: 734-591-1044

SECRETARY - ADMINISTRATOR

Nationwide construction firm seeks well organized, detail oriented secretary with strong administrative skills who likes variety. Qualified applicants must be proficient in Word, Excel, general accounting including A/P, A/R, billings, collections, payroll. Livonia area. Send resume/salary history to: Ms. D. Osborn, PO Box 2198, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201 or preferably fax to 913-888-5047

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TITLE COMPANY

Needs experienced CLOSING PROCESSOR for our Troy office. Must be familiar with broker and mortgage documents. Full-time w/benefits. Please fax resume to: Great Lakes Title Attn Bob: 734-462-0818

503 Engineering

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Phone: 734-421-3397
Fax: 734-421-8203

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- Hygienists
- Receptionists - being recruited for various Wayne & Oakland county offices. Call: Performance Plus 810-566-7867

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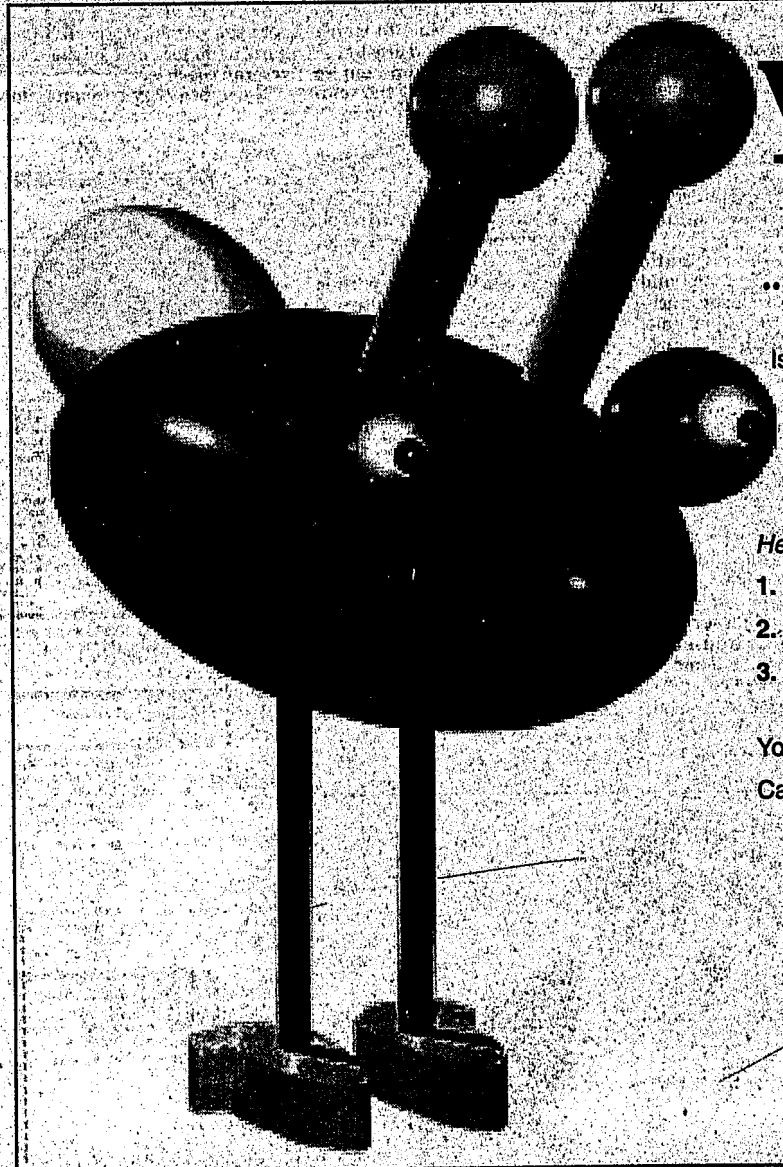
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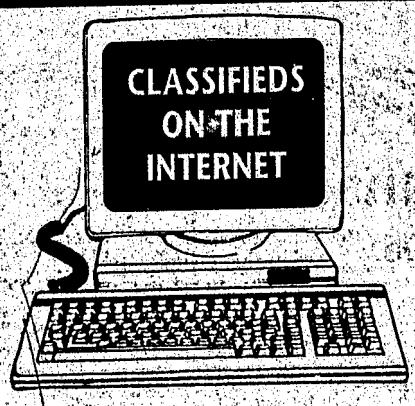
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623....Adoption
624....Misc. Notices
626....Political Notices
628....Car Pools
630....Cards Of Thanks
632....In Memoriam
634....Death Notices
636....Lost & Found
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734....Electronics/Audio/Video
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741....U-Pick
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783....Cats
784....Dogs
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788....Household Pets
789....Pet Grooming/Boarding
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792....Pet Wanted
793....Lost & Found

Dr. Mouchelles
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Saturday, January 9th at 11:00 a.m.
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Tuesday, January 5th ..... 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 6th ..... 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
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TAURUS 1992 GL - power, 80K miles! Runs great-Very Dependable! $4500. (734) 425-5297

TEMPO, 1993, automatic, air, 4 door, excellent car, $3650. (734) 464-9189

TEMPO 1994 LX - 80,000 miles, NEW engine/parts. Looks/runs great! $7000. 734-207-0919

THUNDERBIRD 1990, Las Vegas car, 83K miles, air, runs great, $4300. Jim 313-937-9221

850 Geo

METRO 1995- charming red, air, am/fm stereo w/ cassette, 49k. $4000 (248) 594-9370

850 Geo

METRO 1992 - 70k, silver, 5 speed, $900 or best offer. (248) 553-0623

852 Honda

ACCORD 1990 - excellent condition, 4 door, black, automatic, $4500/best. (734) 421-3060

ACCORD 1990, EX, 2 door, red, 85K, excellent! $5500. 248-288-4020, W-248-258-7449

ACCORD 1995, LX, 4 door, 4K miles, automatic, air, loaded, $16,350 (248) 476-0075

CIVIC 1995 - DX, 4 door, red, automatic, excellent, 78k miles, $5800. 248-681-8909

CIVIC 1997 EX, 2 door, green, 5 speed, loaded, excellent, 17K miles, $13,700. 248-642-6661

856 Lincoln

CONTINENTAL 1994 - like new, loaded, CD, moonroof, leather, 57K, silver, $10,500 (248)545-6906

MARK VIII 1994 - 77K miles, $12,500. Chrome factory wheels, CLEAN! (248) 652-9265

TOWN CAR 1996 - white, 15,500 miles, $32,000 734-354-6898

862 Nissan

SENTRA 1993 air, automatic, sunroof, excellent condition. $4500/best. (248) 645-6329

864 Oldsmobile

CUTLESS SUPREME 1990 SL. Red, sharp looking. Very good condition, 107K, $6,000. 734-434-1742

Eighty Eight Royale 1992 - 66k, one owner, aluminum wheels, power, $5800. 248-489-8009

OLDS '88' 1994- gold, excellent condition, smoke free, garage kept, 77K. $8200 (734)416-9039

866 Plymouth

LASER 1990 RS - 94k, air, power, cruise, CD, sunroof, black, $5600. 810-602-6416

868 Pontiac

BONNEVILLE 1995, SE, dark green, 72K, excellent condition, $10,750/best. (248) 644-7319

870 Saturn

COUPE 1994 - 93K miles, 5 speed, air, power windows/locks, cruise, $4100. 248-349-8927

SATURN, 1996, SL2, 36K miles, loaded, air, power windows/locks, $11,000/best. 313-705-4330

874 Volkswagen

JETTA 1997 GL, 5 speed, 4 door, air, alarm. Selling for payoff, $15,500/best. 734-397-5855

878 Autos Under $2,000

AEROSTAR, 1988, 150,000 miles, many new parts, $1,400. 248-357-6483 or 810-573-7812

ARIES 1989, 54K with accessories, $1200/best. (734) 591-0777

CAVALIER 1989, Z24, red, 110k, no rust, runs good, 1 owner, $2000. 734-844-0224

DELTA 88 1986- $500. Needs body work. (734) 722-1320

ESCORT 1990 - 4 speed, runs, needs body work - $500/best. Call after 6pm, 734-513-4072

FORD TEMPO 1988 - Runs Good, high miles, new parts. $800/best. (734) 422-4014

HONDA CIVIC 1988 4 door, new brakes & battery. Newer tires/clutch/timing belt/exhaust, 165,000 miles. $1800/best. (248) 545-6899

PLYMOUTH RELIANT 1983. Low mileage (34,500 miles). $500. Call Gary. (248) 777-0559



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Real Estate

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Thursday, December 31, 1998

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Real estate folk make resolutions for the new year



In 1999, I resolve...

BY NORMAN PRADY
SPECIAL WRITER

Will 1999 be the year you actually work at losing those 10 pounds, or the year you finally read the three Russian novels you've been talking about since high school or the year you commit to spending an hour a day teaching Spot to heel?

If you work in residential real estate sales, you might be building resolve in other subjects. Here are examples of plans, dreams and ideas some real-life real estate folks around here have for the coming year.

Joseph Kollins, Century 21 Gold House, Canton: "To provide a higher level of quality service" to our clients. "Make sure the transaction goes smoother with less headaches."

Kollins wants to strive for more and better cooperation with others in the transaction such as mortgage lenders, title companies and other Realtors, all to the goal of helping to reduce everyone's stress.

Jennifer Iannuzzi, Coldwell Banker Schweitzer, West Bloomfield: "My goal for myself for 1999 is to make a transition into real estate full time. I have another job and that takes up a lot of my time. But fortunately, with real estate, it's flexible. You can do as much or as little as you want."

Once settled into her full-time real estate career, newlywed Iannuzzi's next focus, she said, will be on entering motherhood.

Pat Terrian, Quality Real Estate NW/Better Homes and Gardens, Livonia: "I see a trend to move back into the center of town, Detroit. I think there's a real market there in the downtown area that's emerging.

"And the people who are looking to move into town are going to sell their houses out here, so that will have a roundabout" positive "effect on us," he said.

Technology also is on Terrian's mind. He's considering how he might make himself more effective and efficient in the coming year with certain computer programs which he believes can help him better organize and manage his work.

Carlina Boji, RE/MAX Executive Properties, Farmington Hills: "If the market would stay as good as it's been this year, that would be fantastic. With all the advertising that's done in the real estate community today, I think that's one of the most helpful things in real estate. Just keep a positive attitude."

Christopher McDonald, Home Master Realty, Livonia: "I have a resolution every single day - to work hard. Same resolution every morning. I wake up to it."

Janet Blanck, Bloomfield Realty, Birmingham: "I want to have more fun" in work by "letting the Irish humor side of my heritage come through and make things more relaxed.

Get into a no-hurry mode ... taking your time with every client so you really understand" their needs.

Matthew Cronk, Century 21 Town & Country, Rochester: (With a hearty chuckle), "Try to get sellers to raise their commissions. If we go to seven percent across the board, I think that would be a good start. I don't think the customers would see it my way, but that's understandable."

In exchange for the pay raise, Cronk promises good service and dedicated hope for continued favorable mortgage rates.

Manuela Martins, Real Estate One, West Bloomfield: "If you give the best you can, I think business will come."

Steve Campbell, Cranbrook Associates, Franklin: "I don't make New Year's resolutions, therefore I don't break any of them. I'm inclined to think the (real estate) year will be good again.

"The market seems to be moving opposite of what's happening in our country," he said. "I think we've had some real traumatic things happen, but the current market seems to ignore things it previously would have reacted strongly to."

For Campbell, the new year promises no change, only a continuation of this year's successful run. "I don't have any plans for any major overhaul of my practice," he said.

Birute Bublys, Hall & Hunter Realtors, Birmingham: "Giving that personal attention to every client"

Under that heading, she said her company supplies clients with extensive packets of information on a wide range of community subjects; takes clients on area tours; and does a "lot of listening, making them feel comfortable about what they're doing."

Evelyn F. Forrest, Help-U-Sell of South Oakland, Royal Oak: "Try to be more specific in interviews" for better understanding of buyers needs and interests. "What they say they want and what they actually buy could be two different things."

Forrest would like to do a better job of getting buyers to look beyond their primary definitions of ideal house.

Patricia A. Phillips, Real Estate One Southfield/ Lathrup, Southfield: "Getting our name out there a little more. Increasing our mailing program and branching into cable advertising."

Mike Care, Prudential Pickering Real Estate, Westland: "I could make more money if I could be in two places at once in the spring and summer," the most active selling seasons. "Rest of the year I'm fine."

To be able to serve more than one customer at a time, Care said multiple-personality syndrome could be helpful.

Price appreciation

Here are the six states with the largest average percentage increases in home prices from October 1997 through September 1998, along with other selected states:

State	% of increase
1. California	8.5
2. Massachusetts	7.4
3. Washington	7.0
4. New Hampshire	6.8
5. Michigan	6.0
Georgia	6.0
Colorado	5.8
U.S. Avg.	5.0
Texas	4.9
Florida	4.8
Ohio	4.7
Indiana	3.9
Illinois	3.2

Source: House Price Index, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight

HELEN FURCEAN / STAFF ARTIST

More frequently asked questions

MORTGAGE SEARCH



DAVID C. MULLY

Part 2

Q: How do I choose a mortgage lender?

A: When most people think about choosing a mortgage lender, they think about finding the lowest rate. Period. Of course, financial considerations are important to every home buyer, and you certainly should consider the different rates lenders in your area offer on comparable loans.

But you also want a lender you can trust, and someone you can work with effectively. So don't let rates be your only criterion. Here's the process I recommend:

Build a list of lenders. Talk to people you know who have bought or refinanced a home recently. Check the newspaper's real estate or business section. Or, just look in the yellow pages under "Mortgages."

Talk to a loan officer. Call or visit the lenders on your list. Get a feel for what it will be like to work with them, and how they approach your needs. If you're still uncertain, ask for references – recent home buyers like yourself – and talk to them.

Compare rates for similar loans. Among the things you'll want to discuss with prospective lenders are the rates they offer on mortgages. But when comparing rates between lenders, be sure the rates are for comparable loans – and remember to include fees and other costs so you're really comparing apples to apples.

Here are some typical questions consumers have about mortgage brokers and the services they offer.

Some people have asked, **"Isn't the broker supposed to get the best deal for the consumer?"**

Since mortgage brokers offer the products of many wholesale lenders, they often have the best selection. This question presumes that anyone can know what is "the best deal."

While many would consider "the best deal" to mean "the lowest rate," a loan program with a very low interest rate may not be the best choice for a consumer with limited cash, if that rate comes with high points and fees.

A 15-year loan may save a borrower tens of thousands of dollars in interest payments over the life of the loan, but the higher monthly payments may not be acceptable to the consumer. So, "the best deal" for any consumer depends on his financial circumstances, needs, and goals.

David Mully's company, Mortgage Search Services, helps consumers save money when shopping for a new mortgage. He is not a mortgage broker and is not affiliated with any mortgage lenders. To contact him, call (248) 305-7337 or e-mail him at dmully@mich.com. You can access Mully's Mortgage Search column and current mortgage rates on-line at www.mtgsearch.com.

Developer loses in court

REAL ESTATE QUERIES



ROBERT M. MEISNER

Q: Our developer says a restrictive covenant in our deed prohibits us from opposing his rezoning efforts.

Do you think we have a chance of getting out from under that obligation to refrain from expressing our views?

A: It's unclear how a Michigan court would rule.

But in a recent case out of the Georgia appellate court, the court held that where a covenant stated that accepting a conveyance of a lot meant that the owner acknowledged the plan of development for the subdivision and agreed not to oppose the developer's application to amend the zoning ordinances or petition for obtaining a variance, that covenant was unenforceable because it was against public policy.

Of course Georgia had what is known as an "anti-slapp" statute. This particular statute was enacted to prevent abusive litigation which denies or chills participation by exercising constitutional rights such as freedom of speech in matters that have public significance.

The court found that the developer's prohibition ran afoul of the statute because it sought to enforce a covenant that restrained protected speech and political activities of original and subsequent purchasers.

The court noted that parties of a contract may waive rights as long as the waiver doesn't affect the public interest, the waiver is voluntary and the party waiving its rights knew the rights being waived.

In this case, the covenant was overly broad and vague, which is contrary to public policy as it prevents residents from exercising their constitutional rights to oppose actions which could affect their property values and their neighborhood in general.

Robert M. Meisner is an Oakland County area attorney concentrating his practice in the areas of condominiums, real estate, corporate law and litigation. You are invited to submit topics that you would like to see discussed in this column, including questions about condominiums, by writing Robert M. Meisner, 30100 Telegraph, Suite 467, Bingham Farms, MI 48025. His e-mail address is [illegible] and he will check for [illegible] a time-to-[illegible] and [illegible] be considered legal advice.

Utility suggests steps to avoid CO

If $2 and about 20 minutes would lessen a potential danger for your family this year, wouldn't you take the necessary steps to ensure a safe and warm winter for you and your family?

Everyday activities such as warming up the car in the garage or enjoying a warm fire with a clogged chimney could be potential sources for carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless toxic gas that can be produced by any burning fuel without proper combustion. Fossil fuels like coal, gasoline, kerosene, oil, wood, propane and natural gas are all sources. This gas starves the body of the oxygen necessary to survive. If you do come into contact with CO, symptoms include headaches, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, watery eyes, disorientation and convulsions. In extreme cases, it can be fatal.

Warning signs that CO may be present: If the flame on a natural gas appliance is yellow and creating soot; it's a sign that the fuel isn't burning completely. Other signs of danger include: high humidity, condensation on cold surfaces such as windows, soot from a fireplace or heating system or a lingering pungent smell.

MichCon recommends simple precautions you can take to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Have a professional maintenance check of your furnace and other fuel-burning appliances annually.
- Make sure pipes are free of rust, gaps and leaks.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector near your sleeping quarters. Additional detectors are recommended when there are multiple furnaces or when bedrooms are in different areas of the home.
- Do not house a furnace in a small room without louvered doors.
- Do not use a gas range for space heating.
- Never operate a vehicle, lawn mower or grill in a closed garage.
- Make sure appliances are properly installed, vented and maintained.

HOMES SOLD IN OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the Observer & Eccentric area residential real estate sales recorded by the Oakland County Register of Deeds office and compiled by Advertising That Works, a Bloomfield Township company that tracks daily and most real estate records in southeastern Michigan. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices.

Auburn Hills
3805 Bromfield Ave $88,000
205 Juniper Ct $112,000
2688 Williamsburg Cir $130,000
Beverly Hills
17211 Beechwood Ave $197,000
22001 Camelot Ct $292,000
30347 Georgetown Dr $305,000
17115 Kinross Ave $210,000
32575 Lahser Rd $300,000
32630 Old Post Rd $325,000
Birmingham
600 E Lincoln St # 602 $485,000
1965 Graefield Rd $119,000
695 Hanna St $345,000
1355 Haynes St $140,000
1960 Haynes St $178,000
1997 Henrietta St $171,000
1835 Holland St $130,000
615 Kimberly St $415,000
1596 Mansfield Rd $195,000
1604 Mansfield Rd $185,000
850 N Adams Rd Unit 2 $87,000
1732 Pembroke Rd $215,000
720 N Inverness Ave $340,000
266 W Littleton Dr $390,000
Bloomfield
1348 Yosemite Blvd $185,000
Chez Bloomfield Township
2276 Lancaster Rd $157,000
4725 Tully Rd $310,000
3859 Wabeek Lake Dr E $450,000
Bloomfield Hills
460 Billingham Rd $101,000
1766 Brookview Cir $302,000
459 Henley Dr $202,000
1854 Hunters Ridge Dr $230,000
1737 S Hills Blvd $175,000
Clarkston
8201 Brookstone Ln $463,000
9131 Cayuga Dr $166,000
6080 Dixie Hwy $90,000
8717 Ellis Rd $210,000
5501 Fox Chase Ln $157,000
6071 Maybee Rd $130,000
5488 Old Cove Rd $163,000
4650 Olde Oaks $284,000
7515 Olde Sturbridge Trl $210,000
6477 Southampton Dr $270,000
7137 Springcrest Ct $43,000
4960 Summerhill Dr $118,000
5058 Tioherd Blvd $190,000
10177 Wagoner Cir $238,000
Commerce Township
4056 Bluebird Dr $88,000
5211 Bridge Trl W $65,000
316 Farr St $210,000
3265 Mapledale St $160,000
1880 Meadow Ridge Dr $165,000
22326 Floral St $110,000
34166 Six Mile St $236,000
Farmington
21997 Arbor Ln $205,000
27060 Arden Park Cir $370,000
25383 Carolton Dr $320,000
29331 Morningview $299,000
22199 N Brandon St $126,000
21163 Osmus St $89,000
25094 Pillsbury St $198,000
23147 Potomac Cir $221,000
28822 Ravenwood St $240,000
21028 Saint Francis St $86,000
30437 Salisbury St $179,000
38232 Saratoga Cir $182,000
38300 Saratoga Cir $183,000
27812 Shiawassee Rd $150,000
31520 Stonewood Ct $269,000
22745 Tuleta Ave $115,000
30515 W 14 Mile Rd $68,000
27215 Whitetail Cir $301,000
27228 Whitetail Dr $151,000
Keego Harbor
487 Cass Woods Ln $255,000
Lake Orion
3848 Bald Mountain Rd $203,000
3154 Beachtree Ct $90,000
731 E Clarkston Rd $317,000
950 Golfview Dr $133,000
2000 Hillwood Dr $247,000
190 Lake Shore Dr $265,000
2932 Meadowbrook Ct $83,000
913 Mountainside Dr $270,000
98 N Andrews St $120,000
726 N Conklin Rd $75,000
670 Renfrew $146,000
921 Ridge Rd $110,000
Lathrup Village
17387 Cambridge Blvd $152,000
27480 Goldengate Dr W $148,000
Novi
25800 Abbey Dr $301,000
43153 Ashbury Dr $310,000
44750 Bayview Dr $120,000
25300 Beck Rd $105,000
47700 Edinborough Ln $417,000
24009 Glen Ridge Ct $170,000
41432 Glyme St $215,000
44852 Lightsway Dr $288,000
23697 N Rockledge $98,000
42352 Park Ridge Dr $186,000
41801 Primrose Dr $163,000
39676 Village Wood Cir $97,000
Oakland Township
2607 Invitational Dr $108,000
Orchard Lake
$822 / Acre $74,000
Orion Township
4089 Bendury Dr $229,000
4177 Bendury Dr $224,000
Oxford
280 Davis Lake Dr $189,000
32 Dawson St $100,000
679 Dora Dr $46,000
601 Doral Dr $46,000
648 Drahner Cir $185,000
1428 Foreland Dr $132,000
1537 Heywood Dr $262,000
1407 Hertford Ct $179,000
570 Maloney St $226,000
1066 Mill Valley Ct $180,000
80 N Washington St $37,000
371 Nipigon St $127,000
125 S Washington St $65,000
1635 Seymour Lake Rd $204,000
572 Thornehill Trl $165,000
3925 Trillium Ln $185,000
1971 Twin Lakes Blvd $256,000
706 Woodleigh Way $190,000
Rochester
626 Appoline Ct $388,000
648 Appoline Ct $353,000
894 Aspen $210,000
3840 Briarbrooke Ln $223,000
1842 Chase Dr $341,000
905 Churchill Cir $209,000
1036 Churchill Cir $208,000
4700 Coal Park Cir $868,000
2201 Curn Rd $385,000
1985 Fordview Ct $121,000
317 Gordon Ct $200,000
139 N Grand Ave $210,000
774 Longstaff Ave $152,000
629 Millspaugh Ct $369,000
626 Shelbourne Dr $293,000
2150 Sky Ln Dr $110,000
6200 Rochester Rd $180,000
3346 Saint George Ct $370,000
649 Springside Ct $110,000
1707 Stony Creek Dr $155,000
1360 Sycamore Dr $164,000
5863 Wellwood Dr $765,000
Rochester Hills
366 Arlington Dr $183,000
1608 Black Maple Dr $254,000
2700 Bridget Ave $147,000
1967 Brookfield Rd $250,000
1947 Chalmers Dr W $379,000
602 Cheshire Ct $191,000
42 Clair Hill Dr $185,000
3161 Courtfield $259,000
894 Dahlia Ln $178,000
1159 E Auburn Rd $109,000
3112 Emmons Ave $64,000
958 Golfview Ct $210,000
1484 Gracedale Dr $212,000
3374 Henley Ct $249,000
1134 Kings Cove Dr $128,000
6440 Little Creek Rd $285,000
568 May Rd $149,000
178 Meadow Lane Cir $130,000
567 Misty Brook Ln $257,000
313 Nesbit Ln $170,000
1058 Palm Drive Ln $125,000
1561 Pondview Ct $160,000
1985 Pondview Ct $142,000
3175 Riverside Dr #39 $30,000
6245 S Adams Rd $210,000
2052 S Crooked Hills $311,000
626 Shelbourne Dr $293,000
1775 Sky Ln Dr $430,000
794 Snowmass St $301,000
749 Stanford Ct $314,000
3767 W Auburn Rd $87,000
2201 W Avon Rd $230,000
3657 W Fairfield Dr $367,000
3781 W Fairfield Dr $386,000
3901 Winter Creek Rd $225,000
2272 Wortham Dr $200,000
Southfield
28492 Aberdeen Rd $58,000
25014 Chamberlay Dr #4 $112,000
17025 Crescent Dr $145,000
27550 Dover St $169,000
29348 E Chanticleer Dr $185,000
27075 Everett St $119,000
24309 Evergreen Rd $110,000
26704 Farmbrook Villa $123,000
26937 Farmbrook Villa $128,000
18470 Geo. Washington $220,000
21850 Hampshire $178,000
18455 Kesh St $139,000
20407 Meda Ave $95,000
21900 N Tuller Ct $80,000
18503 Nagel Dr $152,000
24025 Philip Dr $76,000
24503 Pierce St $165,000
6727 Rockcroft $77,000
30268 Southfield Rd $60,000
30216 Southfield Rd $58,000
26784 Summerdale Dr $58,000
24955 Tuxedo St $58,000
6000 Town Ctr $145,000
16012 W 11 Mile Rd $81,000
29835 Westbrook Pkwy $96,000
Sylvan Lake
1860 Lakeland Ave $195,000
Troy
944 Brianne Ct $300,000
5058 Buckingham Pl #4 $139,000
26 Chopin St $240,000
86 Crestfield Ave $249,000
2668 Dayton Dr $60,000
924 Hannah Dr $145,000
3853 Jennings Dr $40,000
1700 Lakewood Dr $200,000
6723 Locust Dr $285,000
1376 Ogden Dr $181,000
2543 Parasol Dr $105,000
2611 Portobello Dr $200,000
2153 Prescott Dr $210,000
2312 Terova Dr $179,000
2350 Valleyview Dr $217,000
1651 Van Courtland Dr $150,000
2653 Willard Dr $214,000
Walled Lake
8934 Clubwood Dr $320,000
1146 Eddie St $114,000
114 Lake Village Dr $85,000
162 Neptune Dr $93,000
West Bloomfield
6128 Beachwood $312,000
2115 Bordman Cir $245,000
6561 Harmon Cir $219,000
6670 County Club Ln $280,000
6716 Greenleaf Dr $247,000
7543 Greenleaf Ln $255,000
6171 Hiller St $202,000
3665 Oakview St $170,000
4559 Lattimer Cir $122,000
Wixom
5576 Linton St $234,000
6787 Nashway Dr W $365,000
6405 Odessa $249,000
5889 Orchard Woods Dr $485,000
6331 Pinecroft Dr $208,000
1865 Poet Ave $197,000
5886 Shillingham Dr $170,000
5845 Swan St $70,000
5010 Village Commons $412,000
4981 W Pond Cir $250,000
5556 Walnut Cir $169,000
6108 Westbrooke Dr $177,000
7465 Westbury Blvd $235,000
7129 Westchester $150,000
6201 Wood Pond Rd $250,000
7005 Yarmouth Dr $381,000
White Lake
8815 Cove Ct $40,000
9171 Holmes St $122,000
9431 Mandon St $205,000
1295 Oxbow Lake Rd $225,000
890 Rachelle St $42,000
11112 Windhurst St $366,000
Wolverine Lake
357 Penny Lake Rd $106,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Real estate briefs features news and notes on professional associations, office activities, upcoming meetings and seminars, new services/products and consumer publications.

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SALES WEB SITE

Curious as to what houses are selling for in your neighborhood?

Steve Wiese of Southeastern Appraisal Corp. in Farmington Hills has prepared maps on a community-by-community basis with that information on the Internet. And it's free.

Just dial up www.homevaluemap.com

PROPERTY INVESTORS

The Real Estate Investors Association hosts a program on the finer points of home inspections 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, at the Southgate Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline one block east of I-75.

Cost for non-members is $10. Beginning landlords interested in a "free" introductory package should call Wayde Koehler at (313) 386-7228.

BIA FORECAST

The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan hosts its annual economic forecast meeting noon Thursday, Jan. 7, at the Northfield Hilton, 5500 Crooks, Troy.

Presenter: Dave Seiders, chief economist, National Association of Home Builders.

Cost is $30 for members, $55 for non-members. To register, call the BIA at (248) 737-4477.

CONTRACTORS MEET

The Associated General Contractors of America Detroit Chapter hosts its 83rd annual meeting 3-8 p.m. Wednesday, January 13, at the Westin Hotel Town Center in Southfield.

Programs include ISO 9000 and the Construction Industry and Update on the Y2K Computer Problem and the Construction Industry.

Cost is $55 for AGC members, $60 for non-members. Team discounts are for five or more persons from the same company. For information, call (248) 948-7000.

CONDO OPERATIONS

The Community Association Institute Michigan Chapter presents an ABCs course on condominium/community association operations 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at the Southfield Center for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road.

Topics include association documents, financial statements, maintenance and contracting, rules and regulations, meetings, and long-range planning.

Cost, which includes a handbook, training materials and lunch, is $40 for CAI members, $50 for non-members. To register, call Carol at (248) 539-2670.

HOME, GARDEN SHOW

The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan sponsors its seventh annual Spring Home and Garden Show Thursday, Feb. 4, through Sunday, Feb. 7, at the Novi Expo Center, I-96 at Novi Road.

Cost is $6.50 for adults, $4.50 for senior citizens and $3.50 for children 6-12. Family tickets good for two adults and accompanying children are available at Farmer Jack stores for $9. Parking is an addition charge.

For more information, visit http:// www. builders. org or call (248) 737-4478.

Prepare house for winter's frozen fury

It's a good idea for homeowners to prepare now for winter's fury. By taking some easy and inexpensive preventive measures before the first day of winter, homeowners can protect their property from potentially serious and costly weather damage.

Some of the most common plumbing, structural and electrical problems caused as a result of ice and snowstorms are preventable.

"The ancient proverb about an ounce of prevention may sound trite, but is very appropriate. A few easy steps need not be expensive and can go a long way toward eliminating problems before they occur," said Doug Foulks, personal lines product analyst for Howell-based Citizens Insurance Co. of America.

According to Foulks, many preventive steps are do-it-yourself projects, while others may require guidance from professional contractors. One commonsense approach to cold weather protection is installing proper insulation.

Keeping an attic insulated and ventilated will stop large ice dams from forming on roofs and later causing exterior and interior water damage. Many experts recommend installing 9 to 12 inches of insulation in an attic. Experts also suggest leaving overhangs or eaves free of obstruction so that the air can flow from them to the attic, ventilating and cooling the roof.

Severe weather conditions can also cause frozen and broken pipes, leading to extensive water damage to wall cavities, rooms and basements. While pipes that run through interior walls or basement areas are rarely affected, pipes in uninsulated walls or those leading to outside faucets can easily freeze and break in extremely cold weather.

To reduce the risk of freezing, homeowners should make sure all outside faucets are protected by inside shut-off valves and shut them off before winter arrives. For homes without existing shut-off valves, it is recommended that they be installed by a plumber before winter storm weather.

Another way to prevent pipes from breaking is to heat them. Hanging a 100-watt "trouble light" – the kind used to work on automobiles – near the pipe will protect it from the cold.

Tube insulation wrapped lengthwise around a pipe and sealed with duct tape is also effective.

Heating systems should be carefully examined during this season.

Because of rising fuel costs, many people supplement their home heating with wood or coal stoves. In homes that are heated by a hot water system, this can be a potential problem.

In severe cold weather, the pipes that lead through the walls need constantly circulating water to prevent freeze-ups. Using a wood or coal stove may raise the temperature so much that the hot-water heating system shuts down, causing serious damage. Homeowners with hot water heat need to make sure that their thermostat is set so that there is constant circulation. Also, reducing wood or coal stove use in severe cold weather reduces the risk of more serious damage from frozen pipes.

"Along with these easy steps, homeowners will want to take further measures to eliminate personal safety hazards," Foulks said.

"These range from performing regular maintenance on heating devices and cleaning chimney flues to prevent fire, to keeping steps, sidewalks and driveways free of ice and snow to prevent slips and falls.

"The moral to be learned is prevention now will save you time, money and inconvenience in the future."

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings, awards won and other news within the real estate, construction, architecture and mortgage communities.

Send a brief summary including town of residency and black and white photo to Real Estate Movers and Shakers, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150.

Our fax number is (734) 591-7279.

Alan T. Warren, credit manager in Franklin Bank's loan administration department, has been promoted to assistant vice president. He is responsible for overseeing the commercial lending analysts and their review of the bank's commercial loan portfolio.


Watts


Warren

Warren started his career at Franklin in 1992.

He has a bachelor of arts degree in financial administration from Michigan State University and lives in Royal Oak.

Steven C. Watts has joined Republic Bank as regional president. He's responsible for developing retail banking, mortgage commercial and SBA lending in suburban Detroit, Ann Arbor and Jackson.

Watts brings more than 20 years experience in the commercial banking industry.

He's earned a bachelor's degree from Ball State University, and the Wisconsin Graduate School of Banking.

Watts comes to Republic from South Bend, Indiana, where he served in a variety of community and charitable organizations.

Read New Homes Section Every Sunday

Buyers often look for history in a house

■ Well-preserved historic houses are worth 15 to 20 percent more than a similar-sized newer home.

BOSTON (AP) – Studies show that houses located in historic districts – which usually have rules about home preservation – are worth 21 to 27 percent more than similar houses outside the district, according to John Kilpatrick, a real-estate expert from Seattle.

Houses in historic districts also appreciate at a rate that is about 50 percent higher, he said.

As the real-estate market booms in New England, the market for a slice of history has heated up, too.

"If someone is deciding between two houses that are similar, but one was once lived in by someone famous or has some other historic significance the chances are that buyers will go for the historic property," Miceal Chamberlain, owner of Historic Homes in Newton, told The Boston Globe. "People like to feel like they are a part of history and are willing to pay for it."

Historic preservation, once the purview of community activists who held bake sales to save the oldest church in town, is now the business of savvy real-estate brokers and developers, who say well-preserved historic houses are worth 15 to 20 percent more than a similar-sized newer home.

But with the change in attitude toward preservation has come a deluge of false claims of historic links to homes, especially in cities like Boston, where many homes are more than 100 years old.

Real-estate brokers said they advise buyers to check out historic claims if they influence the price of the property.

"If someone told me that Benjamin Franklin once stayed at their house, I would say, 'Well that's a nice story.' But I would need to see some documentation, some primary sources, before I actually believed it," said Patrick Sklarz, an architectural historian with the Boston Landmarks Commission.

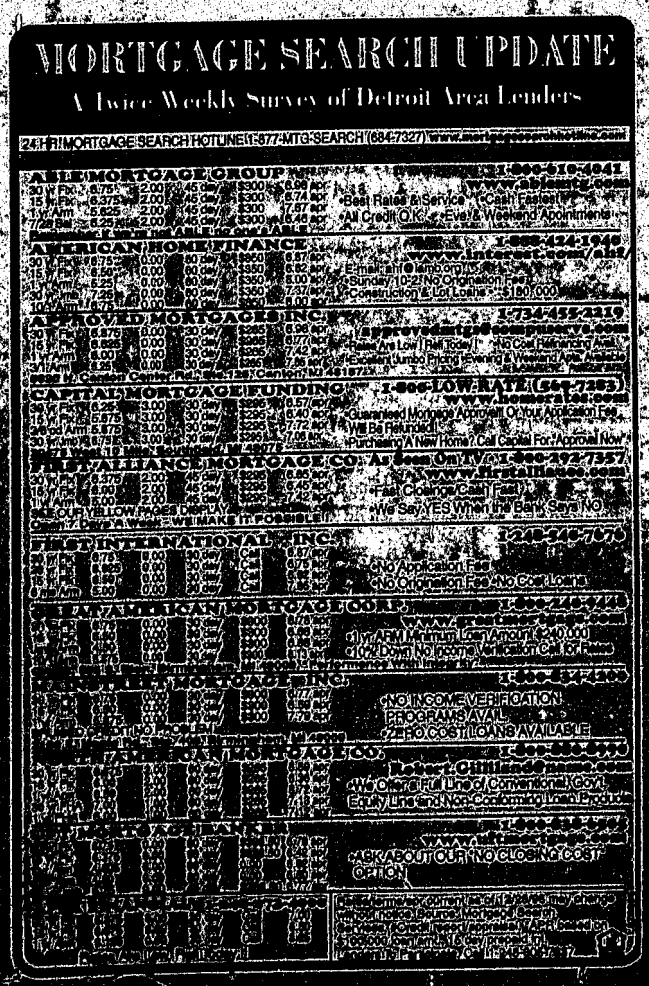
He said most people who own old houses have tales to tell – not all of them accurate.

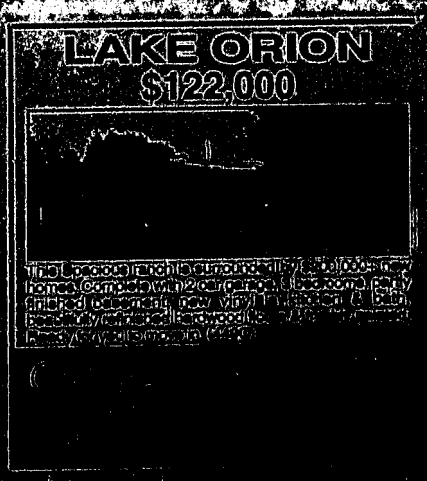
"The most common claim is that a hidden closet or odd nook served as a hideout on the Underground Railroad.

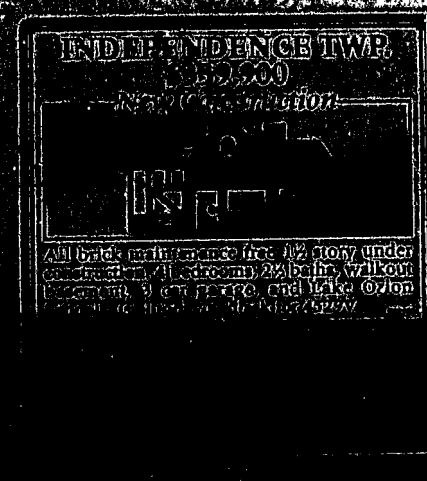
"Though Sklarz said most owners tell the stories in good faith, there's little evidence to back most of them up.

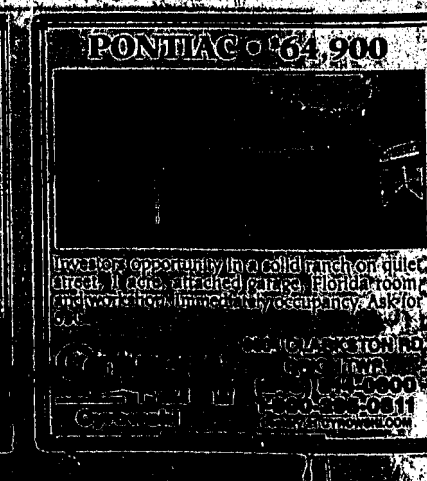
Though homeowners are prohibited by law from making false claims, there is little buyers can do if they find out Paul Revere never really ate oysters in their kitchen, unless they can prove that was the only reason they bought the property.

People can check out claims in a variety of ways, brokers say. Boston's Inspectional Services Department has building permits and information on houses built after the 1880s. Old city directories, obituaries, maps and land surveys can also give clues.









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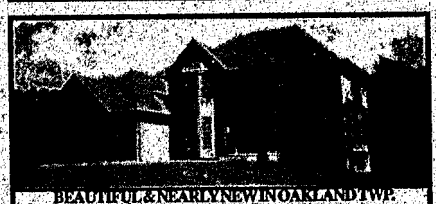
BLOOMFIELD HILLS NEW LAKEFRONT CONST.
- For information on this fine home please dial Gwen Williamson's 24 Hour Recorded Real Estate Information Line by Phone or Fax 1-800-784-6832 (Code 7074)

$2,750,000



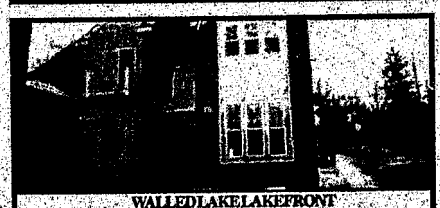
WATERFORD - CASS LAKE
- Stunning contemporary w/ all amenities in Forest Bay
- Cass Lake community w/ deeded boat slips, private beach and tennis courts. Five bedrooms, 3.5 baths
- Finished walkout, 3 car garage. Builder's own home.

$589,000 (248) 851-4400 IS442



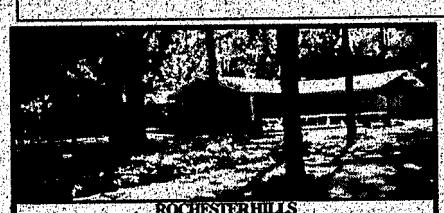
BEAUTIFUL & NEARLY NEW IN OAKLAND TWP.
- Nature area surrounds premium 1.25 acre lot
- 4 bedrooms, 3 full & 2 half baths, dual staircase
- Walkout lower level, Corian throughout, gourmet kitchen has white cabinets & dramatic 2 way fireplace

$569,900 (248) 651-8850 GR477



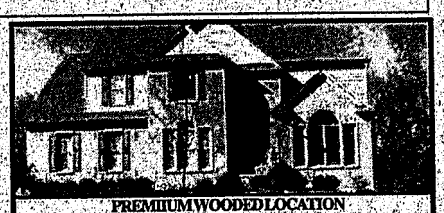
WALLED LAKE LAKEFRONT
- New construction with 2 story foyer, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, great room, library and finished bonus room
- Very open, impressive home. Three car garage.
- Sandy beach, great fishing, boat to restaurants!

$430,000 (248) 624-3015 SO109



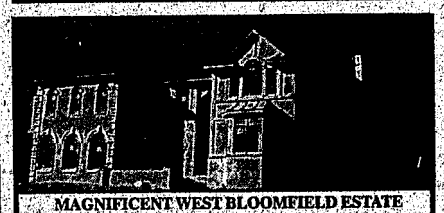
ROCHESTER HILLS
- Marvel at the unique architecture of this ranch home
- Fireplace in living room & family room, 4 bedrooms
- Functional kitchen features all built-in appliances
- Four season ThermoPane windows throughout

$399,600 (248)651-8850 ST267



PREMIUM WOODED LOCATION
- Spectacular Oakland Twp. Colonial on wooded cul de sac deep within prestigious Country Creek Community
- Neutral decor, large center island kitchen, library
- Fabulous master bedroom suite, lower level walkout

$379,900 (248) 851-4400 DE460



MAGNIFICENT WEST BLOOMFIELD ESTATE
- Newly built by Crystal Homes on heavily wooded lot
- 7,000 sq. ft. with 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths & master bedroom with marble roman spa. Guest suite quarters
- Extensive use of granite, high-dramatic ceilings

$1,250,000 (248)851-4400 MI663



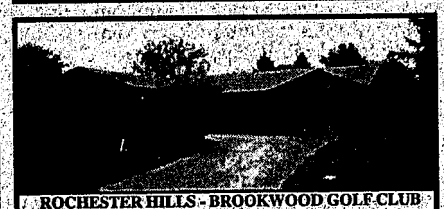
SPECTACULAR SITE IN BLOOMFIELD
- 1.5 acres of trees & rolling grounds
- Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath with neutral colors
- Two car garage and more. City sewer and water
- Bloomfield Schools.

$359,900 (247)647-6400 SQ357



ROCHESTER HILLS - PICTURESQUE SETTING
- Enjoy the view of Avon Lake from this majestic four bedroom brick Colonial
- Large open hardwood foyer, walkout basement
- Central air, multilevel deck, professional landscape

$349,000 (248) 647-6400 SH173



ROCHESTER HILLS - BROOKWOOD GOLF CLUB
- Stunning brick ranch on the 4th fairway of lovely Brookwood Golf Course offers all you've dreamed of
- Marble foyer, hardwood floors, den and fireplace
- Finished L.L. with 2 bedrooms, full bath & rec room

$340,000 Ask for: Cecelia Brown (248)656-4401 AU559



COMMERCE - NEW CONSTRUCTION
- This four bedroom new build is a perfect "10"!
- Two story great room, sparkling white kitchen opens to dining area and gathering room with fireplace.
- Lots of hardwood flooring and windows throughout

$325,500 (248) 624-3015 DR441



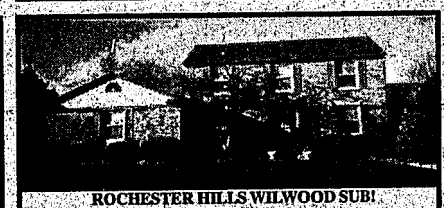
STUNNING NEW CONSTRUCTION
- Ranch home with 12 ft. or greater ceilings thru-out
- Beautiful windows provide views of woods, water
- Upgraded carpet, wood floors, custom fireplace
- Jetted tub in spacious master. Walkout basement

$286,900 (248) 624-3015 CU250



ORION - QUIET COURT SETTING
- Custom Contemporary floor plan with lots of space
- First floor den, formal dining room & fabulous kitchen
- Four large bedrooms w/ storage space, 2.5 baths
- Wonderful family location with lake privileges!

$272,000 (248)651-8850 HI213



ROCHESTER HILLS WILWOOD SUB!
- Beautiful family home with many recent updates
- Newer carpet, thermal windows, brick pavers
- Four large bedrooms plus library and finished office
- Gas fireplace in family room, attached garage

$269,900 Ask for: Nancy Ritter (248) 656-4420 SU56



STERLING HEIGHTS - POPULAR HATHERLY SUB
- Almost new Colonial offers an excellent floor plan
- Enjoy the georgeous backyard view from the deck
- Crackling fireplace in great room, large formal dining
- Four bedrooms, 2.5 baths, deck and 2.5 car garage

$249,900 (248) 641-1660 SJ455



ON THE BOULEVARD IN ROYAL OAK
- Totally charming & updated 4 bedroom Cape Cod
- New honey oak kitchen, updated baths, vinyl windows
- Living, family & dining rooms, polished hardwood floors
- Central air, brick paver patio, 1 year home warranty

$249,000 (248) 646-6000 VI330



ROCHESTER HILLS - PRIVACY!
- Magnificent Tudor that provides privacy
- Built in 1995, large great room with a soaring ceiling and fireplace w/ marble surround, formal dining room and study
- Large master with Jacuzzi. Attached two car garage

$244,900 (248) 641-1660 TH104



CANTON - MINUTES FROM SUMMIT
- Beautiful Covington Square Colonial with oak island kitchen and large breakfast area opening to great room
- Cozy fireplace, private library, spacious master suite
- Full basement offers glass block windows

$229,900 (248) 324-3800 DU104

NEW CONSTRUCTIONS — OPEN SUNDAYS 1-4 PM



Lot #11 Hickory Ridge Ormond to E. on Big Lk. to Ridge Hollow
- Phase 2 Now Open: Only 12 lots remain
- One acre wooded walkout sites
- Four bedrooms, 2+ baths, 2 car attached garage
- 2,150 sq. ft. Prices starting at

$229,000 (248) 324-3800 HI11



FARMINGTON HILLS - ROMANTIC VIEWS
- Beautiful and neutral decor throughout this Colonial
- Delight in gorgeous views of secluded site adorned with pines and boulders from wrap around deck
- Family room and dining room, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths

$217,411 (248) 324-3800 CE311



SOUTHFIELD - THIS IS IT!
- This four bedroom Colonial has it all!
- Some hardwood floors, kitchen with breakfast nook
- Florida room. Finished basement w/ 5th bedroom
- Wall to wall fireplace, custom deck, inground pool

$199,900 (248) 641-1660 PA173



CHESTERFIELD TWP.
- Outstanding 18 month old builder's model!
- Custom extras and upgrades for bonus luxury
- Natural fireplace, large kitchen
- Professional landscaping and air conditioning

$185,900 (248)651-8850 EN311



ROYAL OAK - FABULOUS DOWNTOWN CONDO
- Cathedral ceiling, skylights, fireplace
- Open floor plan, neutral carpeting
- White tile baths, door wall from dining room
- New window blinds, appliances included

$177,000 Ask for: Jane Solomon (248) 647-6400 WA130



FARMINGTON HILLS - BRING YOUR FAMILY
- Settle in for the holidays and cozy up to the fire
- Hardwood floors, custom moldings & neutral decor
- New kitchen, baths, furnace, plumbing & electrical
- Appliances stay. Backs to vacant land for privacy

$169,900 (248) 324-3800 SP231



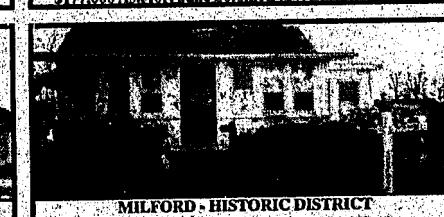
TROY RANCH
- Surprise! This 3 bedroom 2 bath ranch is a real find.
- Huge family room added in '93 with skylights, fireplace and doorwall to deck. Jacuzzi tub in master bath.
- Award winning Troy Union Elementary. UPDATES!

$169,900 (248) 641 1660 ST205



ROYAL OAK
- Wonderfully spacious ranch on gorgeous double lot
- Hardwood floors throughout-some exposed, eat-in kitchen
- Breezeway and attached garage, tons of storage closets
- Partially finished basement with bath. Great buy

$163,000 (248) 646-6000 BA304



MILFORD - HISTORIC DISTRICT
- Charming setting for this large Colonial on tree lined street with hardwood floors & wood trim throughout
- Three bedrooms, 2 baths, sun room, enclosed porch
- Separate entrance apartment with its own garage! (HI340)

$157,000 Ask for: Robyn Lewis (248) 620-4373 (HI340)



ROYAL OAK - LIGHT & AIRY CONDO
- Walk to downtown from Maryland Club!
- Better than new, clean light neutral decor.
- Light oak kitchen with ceramic flooring. High ceilings
- Attached garage. Beautiful grounds. Steps from pool

$149,800 (248) 641-1660 MA154



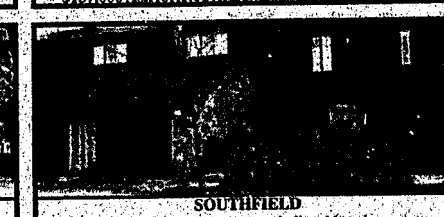
ROYAL OAK - BRICK BUNGALOW!
- Very sharp with many updates & 3 bedrooms
- Neutral decor, tile floor in kitchen
- Maintenance free home close to everything!

$144,900 (248) 851-4400 CH150



BERKLEY BRICK BUNGALOW
- A real charmer with hardwood floors and bay window
- Fireplace in living room, three bedrooms
- Two car detached garage.

$129,900 (248) 646-6000 CA170



SOUTHFIELD
- Sharp and luxurious condo at an unbelievable price
- Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, gorgeous master suite
- New neutral carpet throughout, formal dining room
- Private entry, deck & basement. Backs to commons!

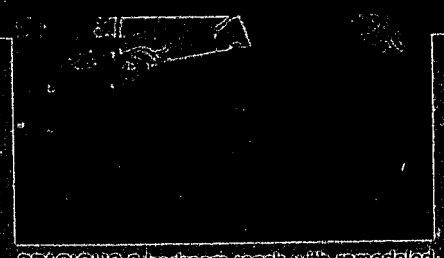
$131,900 Ask for: Katie Rosario (248) 851-4400 SU262



BEST BUY IN BLOOMFIELD
- Wonderfully updated & sparkling clean 1 bedroom condo
- Kitchen, bath, windows, central air all redone
- Freshly painted, plus in-unit washer and dryer
- Close to Chrysler & GM Tech centers

$67,900 (248) 646-6000 FO743

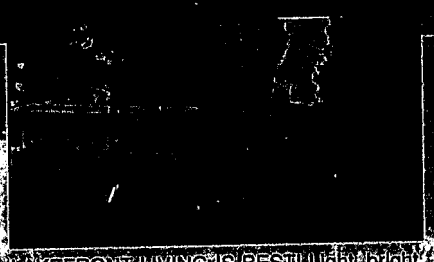
CENTURY 21 To
Americ
CENTURY



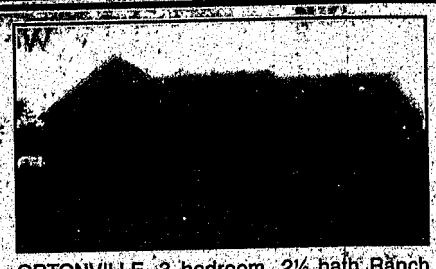
SPACIOUS 3 bedroom ranch with remodeled bath in Farmington Hills. Newer appliances, upstairs carpet & roof. Glass block windows in basement. Two garages. Hardwood floors on main level. Walk-in closet in master bedroom. $127,900 (21ALB) (248) 626-8800



TROY. 4 bedroom, 2 full bath Quad-level with neutral colors. Updated oak kitchen. French doors to Florida room. Vinyl windows, treed lot and much more! $244,900 (35HEA) (248) 524-1600



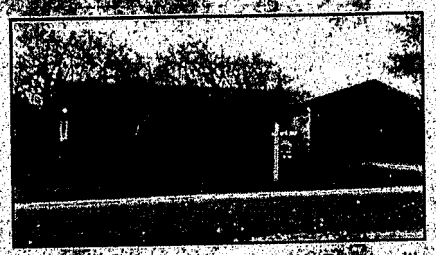
LAKEFRONT LIVING IS BEST! Light, bright, open & totally updated! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, high ceilings, fireplace, 2+ car garage. Lakeside deck. "A" kitchen. Don't miss this one! $249,000 (91BIS) 363-1200



ORTONVILLE. 3 bedroom, 2½ bath Ranch home on 7 plus acres. Built in 1992. Surrounded by state land. Natural fireplace in great room. First floor laundry. Call today! $289,900 (55SAW) (248) 524-1600



OUTSTANDING VALUE in lakes area. Launch your boat in Cass Lake. Lake privileges. Completely remodeled and updated. Has 2 story barn & one car garage. All appliances. Home warranty. $104,999 (49GRE) (248) 626-8800



TROY. 3 bedroom, 2½ bath brick Ranch with a first floor laundry. Family room and living room. 2 way fireplace. Brick paver walkway in front. Extended garage. Much more! $215,000 (42TRE) (248) 524-1600



BIKE TO ROYAL OAK. Wonderfully cared for 3 bedroom, 2 bath Colonial. Renovated kitchen with lots of oak cabinets, opens to warm family room. Many updates! New roof in '97. Newer windows and carpets. Great deck and garden. 1 year Home Warranty. $194,000 (35AME) 363-1200



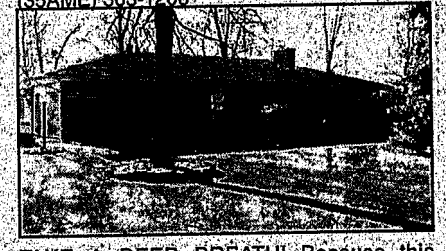
WHITE LAKE-LAKEFRONT. Enjoy the beautiful views from this gorgeous 1994 contemporary, 3 bedrooms, 2½ bath, full fin. basement, 3 car garage, Huron Valley schools, is just some of the many features. Call today. $359,900 (14DUO) 363-1200



TERRIFIC LOCATION! Very special corner lot w/scenic views from every window. Family room doorwall opens to patio w/built in gas grill. Updates include driveway, roof, hot water & some carpeting. You will love this quiet & friendly neighborhood. $112,500 (17RYL) (248) 626-8800



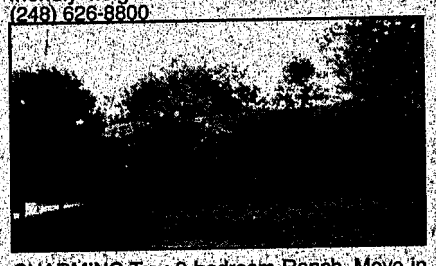
TROY. 3 bedroom Ranch home in Emerald Lake Village. Lake privileges and located near beach access lot. First floor laundry. Finished basement. Call today! $209,900 (05EME) (248) 524-1600



TAKE A DEEP BREATH! Because this gorgeous brick ranch, in a popular Farmington Hills sub is guaranteed to excite you! 3-4 bedrooms, 1½ baths, finished lower level, 2 car attached garage, Florida room, custom hardwood floors & fireplace. $189,900 (25PEP) 363-1200



Town &



CHARMING Troy 3 bedroom Ranch. Move in condition. Finished basement w/huge family room. Brand new carpeting T/O (98), newer shingles (97), new kitchen floor, sink & counter top (98). Freshly painted interior (98). All appliances stay. $154,900 (91COL) (248) 626-8800



TROY. Ranch home in Long Lake Village sub. Remodeled large bath with oversized jet tub and shower stall. Finished basement. Nicely treed lot. Side entry garage. $179,900 (83CAL) (248) 524-1600



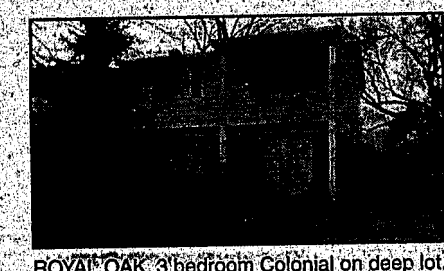
BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS. West Bloomfield Twp. services, Walnut Lake privileges and Birmingham schools come with this warm, 3 bedroom, 2 bath Colonial home and 2 car attached garage. Good location for easy commuting! $184,900 (62SUN) 363-1200



MINT CONDITION executive Colonial. 4 bedrooms with private den. Many updates, large rooms accent the open, neutral decor. Large bay windows, crown moldings, premium window treatments. Newer carpeting throughout, multi-level deck. $239,900 (28MED) (248) 652-8000



PRICED TO SELL! Gorgeous well maintained updated 4 bedroom Tri-level in W. Bloomfield with lake privileges. Lots of updates which include roof, carpeting and water softener. Large lot, desirable area. $169,900 (69LEY) (248) 626-8800



ROYAL OAK. 3 bedroom Colonial on deep lot. Updates include kitchen with doorwall to deck, roof, furnace, central air, windows, floor coverings. Living room with big window. Move in condition! $168,900 (09EDI) (248) 524-1600



WALK TO TOWN. Quality home in golf course community. 4 bedroom, 2½ bath, hardwood floors, crown moldings, formal dining, library, finished basement, C/A, sprinklers, gorgeous yard. Premium lot. Immaculate! Just move in! $269,900 (80GRE) (248) 652-8000



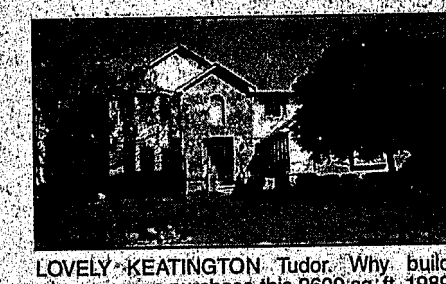
ALL SPORTS LAKE ORION lakefront, move in condition, totally updated. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, great kitchen, living room with brick fireplace, formal dining room, full basement, 2 car garage, newer furnace and hot water heater. Walk to town. $224,900 (49PAR) (248) 652-8000



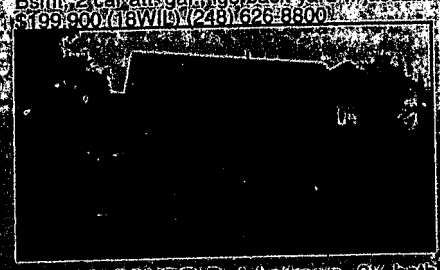
LATHRUP VILLAGE–This is the one! Shows well! 3 spacious bedrooms, 2 full baths, 1 lav., MBR w/full bath, lrg LR, FR, warm dining room, roomy kitchen, cozy Blast hook, N/W floors, cathedral ceiling, full fin. waterproofed Bsmt, 2 car att. gar., lge back yard w/jacuzzi. $199,900 (18WIL) (248) 626-8800



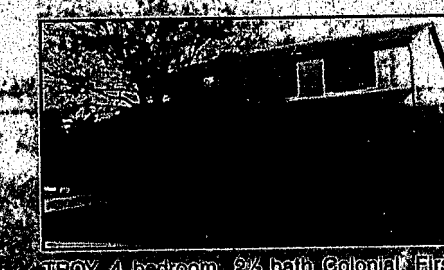
TROY. 3 bedroom Bi-level. Spacious throughout. Natural fireplaces. All appliances included. 2 car attached garage. $156,950 (24WIN) (248) 524-1600



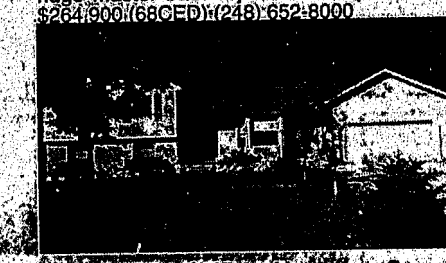
LOVELY KEATINGTON Tudor. Why build when you can purchase this 2600 sq. ft. 1989 built home across the street from Lake Voorhees? Sun room overlooking prof. landscaped private yard. You won't believe the huge master bath w/jacuzzi & sep. shower. $264,900 (68CED) (248) 652-8000



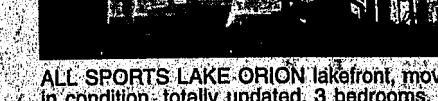
WEST BLOOMFIELD 4 bedroom, 2½ bath Two story home built in 1992, offers basement, family room, dining room, deck. Home backs to woods, 2 car attached garage. $255,000 (52JEN) (248) 524-1600



TROY. 4 bedroom, 2½ bath Colonial. First floor laundry, den. Family room with natural fireplace, basement with newer furnace. Newer roof, 2 car attached garage. $209,900 (56STO) (248) 524-1600

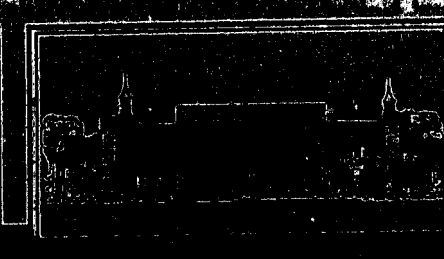


VERY NICE HOME in Metamora. Over 2 wooded acres! Sharp home built in 1991 with many amenities: C/A, security alarm, finished basement, cedar closet, all kitchen appliances, wood stove, extra insulation. Choice of 2 high schools. Master bedroom with bath. $244,900 (40MIL) (248) 652-8000



LAKEFRONT-LAKEFRONT – Brand new West Bloomfield Colonial with finished walk-out basement. Just completed. White kitchen. Hardwood floors & high ceilings on 1st floor. Large living room with fireplace. Master suite with separate shower & whirlpool tub. 1st floor laundry. $359,900 (30LEY) 642-8100







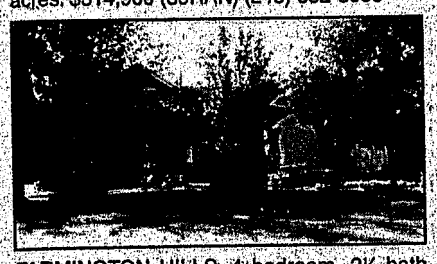


(248) 652-8000

...wn & Country
...a's #1
...21 Firm!



PRIME SUBURBAN LOCATION. Almost new 4 bedroom, 3½ bath Colonial. Neutral throughout. Many extras, hardwood floors, 6 panel doors, large master suite with jet tub. Additional 600 sq. ft. finished in walk-out, 1.3 acres. $314,900 (89RAN) (248) 652-8000



FARMINGTON HILLS. 4 bedroom, 2½ bath Colonial offering over 3200 sq. ft. Bay windows in library and master bedroom. Master with his and hers closets. 3 car garage, extra large lot. Full basement. $389,900 (51STO) (248) 642-8100

...ur 21
...Country



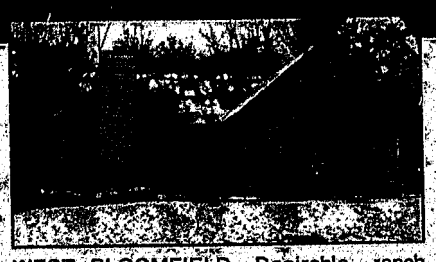
BLOOMFIELD. 4 bedroom quad with over 2800 sq. ft. on 1+ acre. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, 2 fireplaces, and much more! $344,000 (30MAL) (248) 642-8100



AUBURN HILLS. Great Colonial built in 1994. 4 bedrooms, master suite, family room, Hardwood floors, white cabinets, huge deck, sprinklers. Great schools. No main roads. $239,900 (68HAT) (248) 642-8100



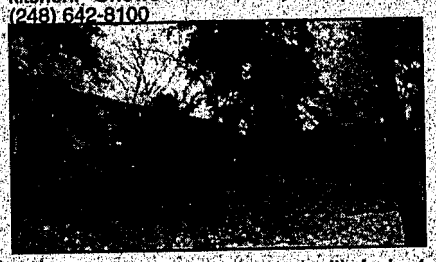
TROY. Built in '86, located in Troy! Tastefully decorated and well maintained home offers 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths, family room w/fireplace, C/A, att. garage, large corner lot, inground sprinklers, manicured lot and more! $158,500 (54CON) (248) 642-8100



WEST BLOOMFIELD. Desirable ranch detached condo with loft and finished LL walkout. Private wooded site! Lite & brite. Newer carpet. Master bedroom w/jacuzzi tub, living room and dining room offer high ceilings. Open floor plan and security system. $335,000 (10HER) (248) 642-8100



WEST BLOOMFIELD. Clean, beautifully maintained Colonial. 5 bedrooms, 2½ baths, 2700 + sq. ft., formal dining room, office, FR, LR, fin. basement. Deck backs to private, treed lot. Master bedroom suite, updated kitchen. Shows well. $279,900 (84MAC) (248) 642-8100



EXCITEMENT! Is what you will feel. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Hardwood floors, white interior, huge windows & skylights. Separate master bedroom suite. Extensively updated plus a finished walkout basement. Almost an acre lot. $270,000 (29SUG) (248) 626-8800



CASS LAKE PRIVILEGES. Almost new 2400 sq. ft. contemporary quad, 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, garage & basement. A real cream puff w/neutral decor & upgrades galore. 2 story foyer, vaulted ceilings, center island open to GR & DR, WIC, whirlpool tub, panoramic views. $269,900 (11KIR) (248) 626-8800



LOCATION, loving care & large lot! Combine the 3 L's above with Farmington Hills schools & a high turnover sub & you have a great buy. Bay windows, new neutral carpet T/O. Large kitchen, formal dining & family rm, living rm. Trees in back afford privacy. $259,900 (35FRE) (248) 626-8800



IT'S LOADED with upgrades. Exquisitely furnished. Custom built-ins galore. In-ground pool, wet & dry sauna, whirlpool, custom kitchen, granite counters, Bloomfield Hills schools. A rare find! $449,900 (33WOO) (248) 626-8800



TOTAL PERFECTION! Family room has 2 story ceiling and fireplace. Huge kitchen has breakfast room. Finished walkout lower level with 4th bedroom, bath & office. Lake privileges. Cul-de-sac. $359,900 (20SHI) (248) 626-8800



AWARD WINNING Walled Lake Schools. 1997 built Cape Cod. Neutral decor, fantastic kitchen. Formal dining, 2 way fireplace. Beautiful deck. Loads of upgrades. First floor master, 2½ baths, Library. $399,900 (46WOO) (248) 626-8800



TROY. 4 bedroom, 2½ bath Colonial. Updates include windows, roof. Large bedroom with bay and 2 closets. Huge family room with 2 skylights and a fireplace. This home is a Must See! $209,900 (58WAS) (248) 524-1600



A WEALTH OF FEATURES. Dreams become real with this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 story on waterfront site. Brick facade, on cul-de-sac. Side drive, fireplace coziness. Gracious living room, extra-large closets, ceramic tile baths, modern kitchen, formal dining rm. Washer/dryer incl. $179,500 (25WIG) 363-1200



NEW CONSTRUCTION 4 bedroom home. Lots of room for all 4 bedrooms, 1¼ baths, 2nd flr. laundry, open flr. plan with large eat-in kitchen, full basement, 2 car attached garage. To be completed 2/99. Buy now, pick your own colors, city water & sewer. $162,900 (08KEE) 363-1200



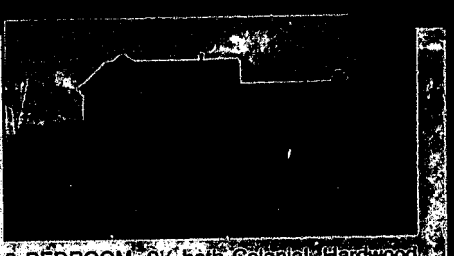
NEWER HOME has lots of room. Priced to sell quick, don't miss this 1994 beauty with 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, master suite with WIC, C/A, vaulted ceilings and open floor plan, finished w/o lower level with deck and 2 car attached garage. $149,900 (84ROL) 363-1200



COMMERCE LAKEFRONT. 2 bedroom cottage with 70' frontage. Updated ranch has living room with fireplace, eat-in kitchen with doorwall and room to expand. Move in or tear down! $148,500 (03VOL) 363-1200



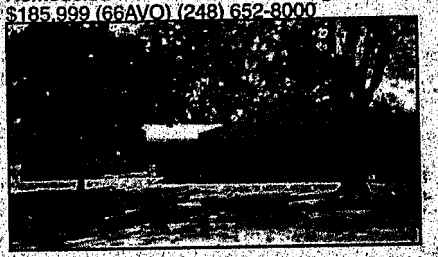
NEW CONSTRUCTION. Ready now – hottest spot in Waterford with 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths. Full basement and attached 2 car garage. Many amenities. $144,999 (91BON) 363-1200



3 BEDROOM, 2½ bath Colonial. Hardwood entry, light oak kitchen cabinets, formal living & dining rooms, family room with fireplace. Master suite with walk-in closet & private bath. All kitchen appliances included. $196,700 (70WHI) (248) 652-8000



EXTRAS INCLUDED in price. Many extras--brick exterior, att. garage, family rm w/ fireplace. Newer carpet & paint, hardwood floors, huge family rm. Private yard w/patio. 2½ baths, cove ceilings, cedar closet in bsmt. Remodeled master bath. Weinberger home! $185,999 (66AVO) (248) 652-8000



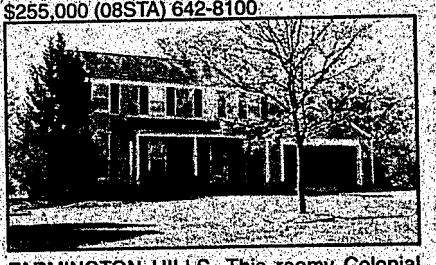
EVERYTHING FOR THE RECREATIONALLY MINDED FAMILY. Beautiful fieldstone and brick ranch with full basement. 2 three car garages, one attached, side entrance and one detached with direct entrance. Move in condition. $179,500 (47EDI) (248) 652-8000



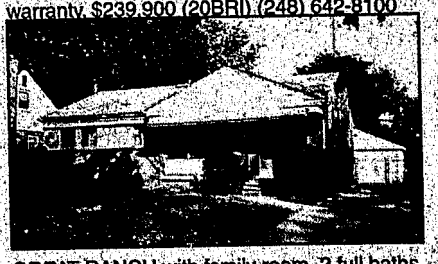
COUNTRY LIVING in the city. Mini-farm w/ greenhouse. 2 story Greek Revival historic home built in 1848. 4 bedrooms, 1 bath. Updates incl. well, septic, plumbing & electric on 1 acre. Adjoining 1.2 acres available with barn and produce stand--become self sufficient. $155,000 (25MOU) (248) 652-8000



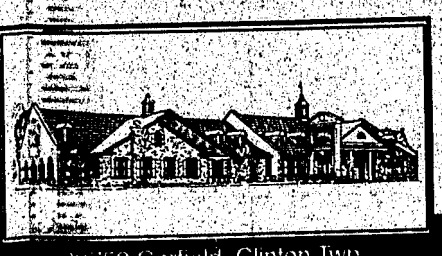
WEST BLOOMFIELD. Originality home. Brick/wood. Nearly new. Tiled foyer, cathedral ceilings, ceramic tile baths, modern kitchen. Large view deck. Also quiet street, superbly maintained, 2 car garage. Stunning two-story, 4 bedrooms, 2½ bath contemporary. Priced at $255,000 (08STA) 642-8100



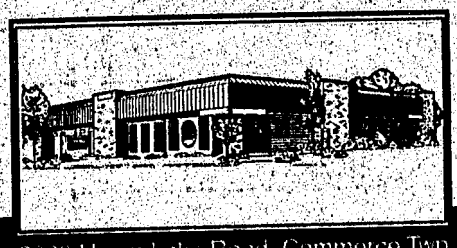
FARMINGTON HILLS. This roomy Colonial backs to the woods and features 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, LR/DR/FR with fireplace. Large kitchen. Huge BRs, 21x16 master suite with private dressing area! Nice covered deck overlooks woods. Room to roam and home warranty. $239,900 (20BRI) (248) 642-8100



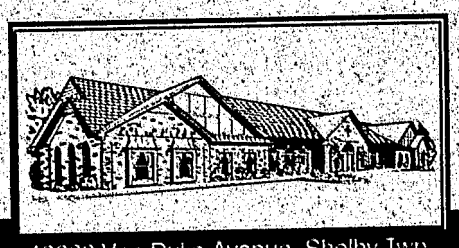
GREAT RANCH with family room, 2 full baths, updated kitchen w/eating space, half bath off MBR, plenty of closet space, finished rec room with fireplace, and hardwood floors under most carpet. Newer central air, furnace and roof. Perfectly maintained. $234,900 (27BAT) (248) 642-8100



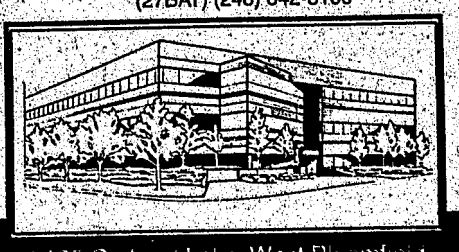
...750 Garfield, Clinton Twp
(810) 286-6000



2600 Union Lake Road, Commerce Twp
(248) 363-1200



48680 Van Dyke Avenue, Shelby Twp
(810) 731-8180



...125 Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield
(248) 626-8800

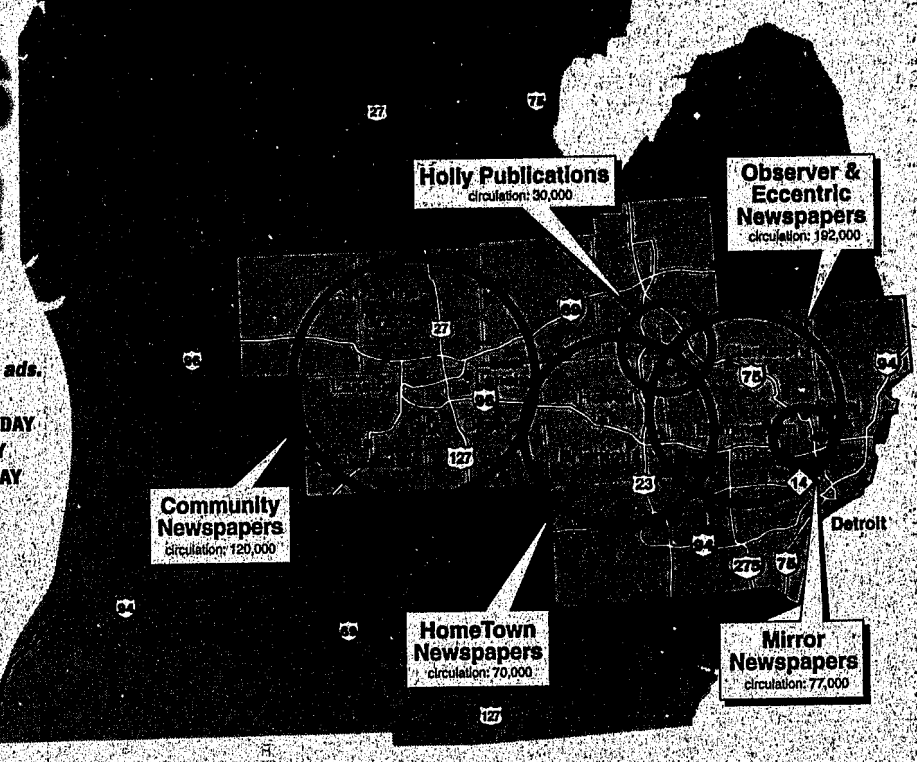
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322....Holly
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338....Salem/Salem Township
339....Southfield/Lathrup
340....South Lyon
341....Troy
342....Union Lake/White Lake
344....West Bloomfield/ Orchard Lake/ Keego Harbor
345....Westland/Wayne
348....Wixom/Walled Lake/ Commerce
349....Ypsilanti/Belleville
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353....Macomb County
354....Oakland County
356....Washtenaw County
357....Wayne County
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359....Other Suburban Homes
360....Out of State Homes/Property
361....Country Homes
363....Farms/Horse Farms
364....Real Estate Services
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LIVONIA - Sun 1-4, brick tri-level on corner lot, 2,000 sq. ft., new carpet, deck, paint designer kitchen, central air, fireplace, 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, bathroom newly remodeled, 2 car garage, $156,900, 20071 Weyher. (248) 476-0399

306 Brighton

COUNTRY CHARMER on 3+ acres!! Large ranch with full finished walk out basement. Ideal for in-laws or extended families. Plymouth-Canton schools. Quick occupancy. 3 full baths, 2 fireplaces. 50150 Hanford. Just west of Ridge Rd. For details call,
John O'Brien
(610) 970-7568 Voice Mail
(248) 348-6430 Office
Real Estate One...

308 Canton

AWESOME
4 bedroom, 2.5 bath 3 year old colonial backing to private park. 9 ft. ceilings, tons of upgrades. $239,90 #F6666
REMERICA
HOMETOWN ONE
(734) 420-3400

BEGIN 1999
In this lovely 4 bedroom 2.5 bath colonial w/large kitchen opening to family room w/fireplace, full basement, 2 car garage backing to nice treed area. $174,900.
Century 21
CASTELLI & LUCAS
(734) 453-4300

SUNFLOWER VILLAGE COLONIAL
Private low traffic street w/sidewalks. Close walk to clubhouse, field, and elementary school. 1st floor laundry, 1 1/2 water heater ('97), cathedral ceilings and fireplace in great room. $219,900. (643WH)

CANTON'S FAIRWAY COLONIAL
2 story foyer, oak floors, 1st floor kitchen and powder room, 1st floor laundry, butler's pantry off dining room, cathedral ceilings on 1st floor, pazzazi and crown in master suite and 2½ car garage. $339,900 (617MO)

BEAUTIFUL BONADEO BUILT
New construction located in Canton's most desirable golf course community. Call us for more information on this and other homes with luxury specs. $289,900
Century 21
CASTELLI & LUCAS
(734) 453-4300

311 Dearborn-Dearborn Heights

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
$85,500 - Attractive Bungalow plaster walls, cove ceiling, hardwood floors. Huge garage w/opener. All appliances stay! Extra storage addition. Motivated seller will negotiate if repair costs are assumed. Call:
REMERICA
HOMETOWN ONE
734-454400

314 Farmington/ Farmington Hills

BACKING TO THE RIVER
Absolutely mint 3 spacious bedroom, 1½ bath brick ranch. Fireplace in family room, remodeled kitchen, large living room w/picture window, finished basement, attached 2 car garage. $186,900.

OLDER CHARMER
Well maintained, freshly painted 1½ story. Hardwood floors, beautiful remodeled kitchen w/breakfast room, 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, large living room, formal dining room, 2 car garage. $194,900

CENTURY 21
Nada, Inc. 248-477-9800

317 Garden City

BETTER HURRY ON THIS ONE!
Beautiful home with a huge master bedroom up-dated bath, central air, attached 2 car garage only $96,900
LOCATION, LOCATION, Location! Fantastic 3 bedroom brick bungalow w/huge master bath, family room w/gas fireplace, remodeled kitchen, central air, newer windows, full basement, 2½ car garage $132,900.
Century 21
CASTELLI 734-525-7900

CLEAN AS CAN BE
3 bedroom, 2 bath, ranch w/finished basement, 2 car garage. Newer windows, roof, gutters and dishwasher. Basement has full bath, bar, nice deck. $117,500
MIKE ORLUNDA
(734) 326-2000

325 Livonia

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch w/many updates including bathrooms, interior doors, new finished basement w/ ½ bath, 3 season room. Fireplace in 3rd bedroom, newer roof & carpet throughout. Price includes all kitchen appliances, washer/dryer. $146,900. By appt. (734) 458-1718

LARGE LOT
3 bedroom ranch with large living room, 1st floor laundry & detached garage. Lots of potential! $99,900 #F6667
Ask for RUTH MARTIN
REMERICA
HOMETOWN ONE
(734) 420-3400

LIVONIA $179,500
Wayne Rd/Six Mile area. 3 bedroom colonial, 1½ baths, full basement, attached 2 car garage. Priced for quick sale.
REMAX CLASSIC
JOE DURSO
1-800-261-1401

STOP!
YOUR SEARCH IS OVER
when you discover this newer brick ranch in NW Livonia! 3 Bedrooms, 2½ baths, full finished basement, 2½ car attached garage & more. Only $237,000.
Call ANNA or RAY
Direct Line - 248-442-7700
Pager: 810-704-7739
Century 21 Hartford North

328 Northville

HISTORIC DISTRICT in Northville! Completely restored! Hardwood floors, new electrical, custom windows/doorwalls, slate roof, plaster. Finished lower level w/2nd kitchen - $435,000. Sheila Shulman - 747-7777. Eves: 996-3523. Charles Reinhart Co. Realtors

334 Plymouth

West of Bradner/South of 5 Mile. 42513 Five Mile. 3 bedroom brick ranch, 1½ bath, 2 car garage, finished basement. $145,000. Agent/Owner. (248) 624-2249

www.oeonline.com

334 Plymouth

TASTEFUL TUDOR!
Tons of updates, large rooms, great location in Beacon Estates is the formula for your next home. $319,900 (015CO)

LOVING CARED FOR
3 bedroom Plymouth ranch under $150,000! New vinyl windows, new furnace, finished basement, workbench and bookcases, carport has trim maintenance free exterior. $141,900 (51LE)

BEAUTIFUL NEW CONSTRUCTION
Situated on ¾ acre with picturesque wooded area in back, this home features 1st floor laundry, gourmet kitchen & formal dining room, cathedral ceilings and 9 foot walls on 1st floor. $[illegible]

338 Salem/Salem Township

BEST BUY!!
Super ranch on a beautiful 6+ acres! Convenient to Northville, Plymouth, Ann Arbor, South Lyon. Nicely updated home. New roof in November. Private golf hole. Horses allowed. 7910 Seven Mile Rd. Just west of Currie. For details call,
John O'Brien
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Real Estate One...

340 South Lyon

NEAT AS a pin!! Super updated home on 1.7 acres. Newer windows, roof, furnace, central air, paint, garage. Very convenient location to highway. South Lyon schools. You will be pleased. 13909 Silver Lake Rd. Just west of Ken & Lake road.
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341 Troy

TRADITIONAL. 3 bedroom, 2 bath colonial located in Troy. Must see. $199,900. Call for appointment. (248) 524-1014

345 Westland/Wayne

WESTLAND - with Livonia schools. North off Ann Arbor Trail/East of Merriman, 8136 Gary. 3 bedroom brick ranch, 1½ bath, 1½ car garage, finished basement. $135,000. Agent/Owner. (248) 624-2249

CLASSIFIEDS WORK

303 Open Houses

BEAUTIFUL LIVONIA RANCH
[illegible]

BEAUTIFUL DETACHED [illegible] condo community. Commerce near Novi/I-96 & Pontiac Trail. 2 GM [illegible] 1st floor laundry, 2 car [illegible] vaulted ceilings in Great Room. Open Sunday 1-5. $189,000. THOMPSON BROWN (248) 932-9700

[illegible] UPDATED 3 BR [illegible] Basement [illegible] Garage [illegible] $[illegible]

CLASSIFIEDS WORK

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345 Westland/Wayne

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CENTURY 21 DYNAMIC

LIVONIA SCHOOLS
3 bedroom ranch needs a little TLC, roof 2 years old, freshly painted inside, garage, just $69,500

SHARP CONDO - 2 bedroom end unit ranch, new windows & C/A in '98, appliances stay, lovely view - must see $95,900

UNDER $50,000 - great starter or investment, 3 bedrooms, newer kitchen floor & cabinets, newer furnace, hardwood floors, great potential $48,900

Century 21
CASTELLI & LUCAS
(734) 453-4300

WESTLAND....
IN desirable Tonquish Sub. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with a master suite (dressing room, walk-in closet, closet and private bath) on its own level, dining room, 1st floor laundry, fireplace, a kitchen loaded with cabinets and a patio. $149,900 (793GE)

VERY MUCH ROOM TO ROAM....
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COLDWELL BANKER
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348 Wixom/Walled Lake/Commerce

WALLED LAKE - Maple & Decker. 3 Bedroom, 1.5 bath, 1 car attached garage. Backs to quiet woods. $134,900. 248-624-3769

357 Wayne County

Taylor
PRICED RIGHT $79,900
2 bedroom bungalow, full basement, upstairs unfinished, could be 2 more bedrooms.
REMERICA
HOMETOWN ONE
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372 Condos

LIVONIA - THE WOODS
REDUCED $99,900 —
OPEN SAT. 1-4
18399 UNIVERSITY PARK N. of 6 Mile, W. of Newburgh. Super sharp 1st floor 1 bedroom Ranch Condo, all appliances including washer/dryer, screened porch, club house with heated reground pool, walking distance to shopping, convenience to x-ways, immediate occupancy. Call Esther Baxter 313-870-9784. Meyer Realty (734) 522-8000

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379 Northern Property

HORSEHEAD LAKE-BIG Rapids area, 2 bedroom, furnished, w/dock space. $75,000. 734-458-7928 leave message

381 Southern Property

SOUTH CAROLINA WATERFRONT!! Point lot with 400 feet frontage on 80,000 acre recreational lake. Only $79,900. Financing from only $69,900. Unbelievable bargains!! Now 800-715-5533.

382 Lots & Acreage/Vacant

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5 acre perced walk-out, 272x800, $70,000
8 MILE near US 23
¾ acre improved with 9 acre private park. $43,000. Owner/Broker. James F. Edwards
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383 Time Share

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388 Cemetery Lots

Mt. Hope Garden of Valor, Livonia (2) graves, w/vaults & 1 bronze marker w/vase, $4000/best. 1-800-777-5759

390 Business Opportunities

BEECH DALY
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ALSO 6 ROOM SUITE
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DAYS: 734-525-2412
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(734) 591-4555
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- Balconies & Carport
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- Vertical blinds
- Great location to malls
- Livonia school system

(734) 261-5410

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Deluxe 1 & 2 Bedroom Units
From $620
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Except Wednesday.

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APARTMENT REANTALS CLASSIFICATIONS CONTINUED

This Classification Continued on Page A12.

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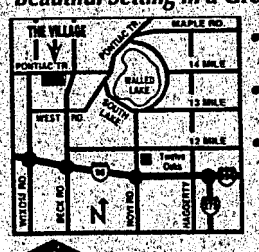
ACROSS
1 Humor
4 Film critic Pauline —
8 Abbr. on a police blotter
11 Populace
13 Sideboard reading
14 Running
15 Author Anais —
16 Mr. MacRae
18 Type of tuber
20 African antelope
22 Egg —
23 Attention-getting sound
25 — Sumac
27 So-so grades
30 Blackbird
32 Storage compartment
34 Caviar
35 "Old Blue Eyes" (Inits.)
37 Insulated bottle
40 A cont.
41 Parlor
43 Mrs. (Sp.)
44 — King Cole
46 Hard of hearing
48 Epoch
50 Papa's mate
53 Filch
55 Vast age
57 French yes
58 Blew
61 Cry
63 Grad-to-be
64 Spaniel gold
65 Supplies plant's water
66 Yearly (abbr.)
69 Senator Sam —
70 Digits, for short

DOWN
1 Bats one's eyes
2 "Tao" player
3 "— Pan Alley"
4 Singer — Rogers
5 Article
6 Work unit
7 "Lolita" star
8 The Artful —
9 Court
10 Ending with "act"
11 Flew the —
12 Sharp turn
17 Prehistoric
19 Cool — — cucumber
21 Resentment
24 Explosive (abbr.)
26 Direct
28 Dawn goddess
29 Body of water
31 Christian symbol
33 — aequitur
35 Craze
36 Opp. of NNW
38 Epoch
39 Uncle —
42 Singing trio of brothers
45 Chinese philosophy
47 — as a fiddle
49 Chemical dye
51 Pendera
52 Variables
54 Chicken chow —
56 Egg drink
58 Tibetan gazelle
59 Fancy vase
60 Joanne —
62 Prohibit
66 Doctor's asst.
67 As far as

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	O	N	I	C			T	I	S	O	N	E
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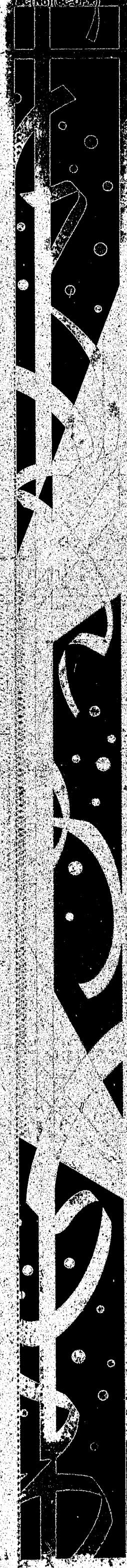
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Archie's Family Restaurant
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Livonia
734-525-2820



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Livonia
Open New Year's Eve & New Year's Day
7am - 2am
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Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe New Year from all your friends at
Mr. Pita
LIVONIA
734-266-9120
34708 Plymouth Road

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year
New Peking
RESTAURANT
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Garden City, MI
Open New Years Eve 11:30am - 9:30pm
New Years Day 4-8pm
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Happy Holidays & Best Wishes to our customers.
Joe's Produce
33152 W. 7 Mile
Livonia
248-477-4333

Ram's Horn
7020 N. Wayne
Westland
Wishing all of our customers, friends & family a very Happy New Year!
Open New Years Eve
6 am-9pm
New Years Day
6 am-3pm



"Thank You for your patronage throughout the year! Happy Holidays to all & your families...."
Amantea Restaurant
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Garden City, MI
734-421-1510

Wishing Our Customers & Their Families a Happy & Prosperous New Year.
Carmack
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AT HOME

COVER STORY: How times have changed, Page 6



Inside: Garden Spot, Page 4 • Appliance Doctor, Page 5 • Inviting Ideas, Page 10

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Emphasize sky in your photos



MONTE NAGLER

The expression "the sky's the limit" is often used in our daily lives. Today, I'd like to apply it to our photography. After all, a dramatic sky can indeed enhance our pictures and turn an ordinary shot into something quite special. I'll frequently add an impressive sky to many of my photographs, waiting sometimes for hours, even days until spectacular clouds are available.

In color photography, the best way to strengthen the sky is by using a polarizer filter. A polarizer renders the sky a much deeper blue adding important impact to your shot and giving the sky separation from the white clouds.

By carefully selecting your camera position relative to the direction of the sun and by proper use of your polarizer filter, you can choose the degree of blue you want.

With black and white film, as I've previously written, the yellow-orange-red family of filters darken a blue sky without affecting the tonality of the clouds.

How can you emphasize the sky and give is "pizzazz" when there just are no clouds at all? Soloution: combine two pictures into one. With black and white, two negatives, one with clouds, one with a cloudless scene, cna be combined to produce a truly remarkable picture. This can be done in your own darkroom or at a professional lab.

With color slide film, it's easy to combine two transparencies, again one of clouds and one of the scene, into a "sandwich" that will result in a spectacular shot.

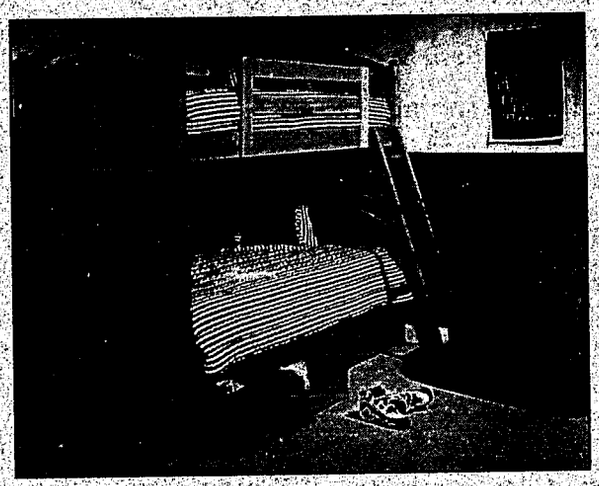
A perfect blue sky/white cloud day greeted me in Te Anau, New Zealand as shown in the photograph here. A red filter darkened the sky perfectly to give it separation from the clouds.

Remember to emphasize the sky. If you do, you'll add many great shots to your photographic portfolio.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (248) 644-1314.

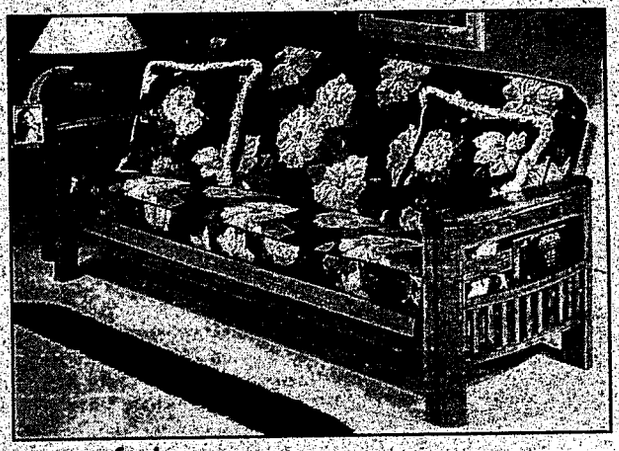


Blue sky: *Monte Nagler shot this scene in Te Anau, New Zealand, using a red filter to darken the sky.*



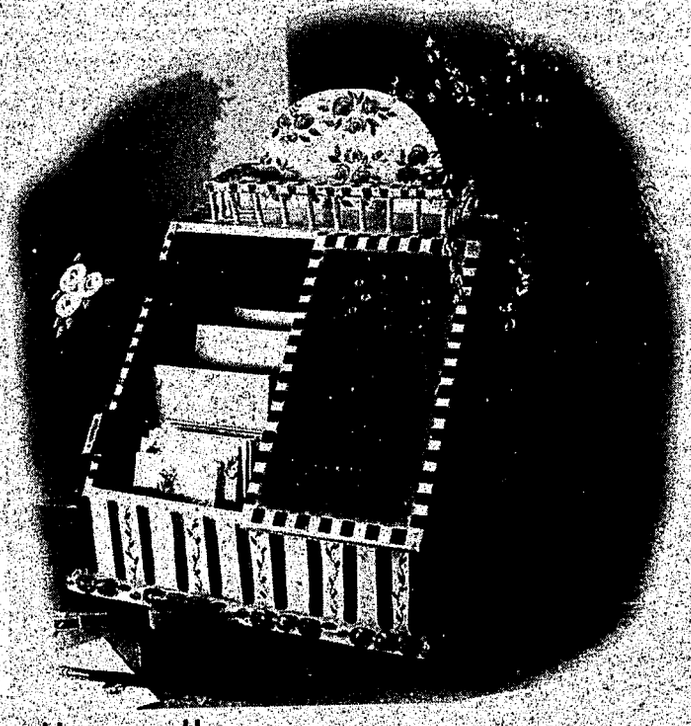
Have a ball

Slam dunk: *Art Van is offering a line of "Slam Dunk" Grant Hill bedroom furniture produced by Lea Industries. The furniture in ash with brushed platinum hardware features a basketball backed chair, bookcases, a Grant Hill signed poster front cabinet door and a display cabinet with a faux locker painted front. There is also a "Center Court" collection for young women. Pieces retail for $149 to $1299.*



Flowery futon

Solid oak: *This futon from Big Tree is made of solid oak, easy to open and close and comes in five different mattresses including an innerspring. The Redondo is available at The Mattress & Futon Shoppes in Livonia and Canton.*

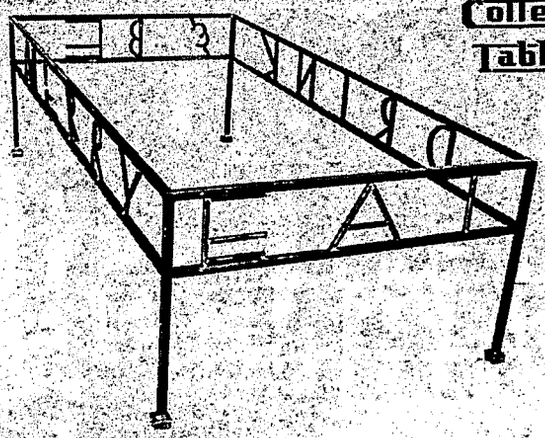


Pretty postings

Get organized: *This handpainted wooden organizer features a topiary theme to hold stationary essentials for $79. It's available at Jacobson's. The garden topiary made of dried natural florals in a moss-coverd pot sells for $50.*

Eat, Drink & Be Merry

Coffee Table



Whimsical touch

Celebrate: *Rachel Deitsch produced this limited edition steel furniture with a touch of whimsy. She likes to think of it as whimsy with an edge ... serious fun. Hers is furniture that will make you look twice. Coffee table size sells for $1,395, dining table for $995, at the Print Gallery, 29173 Northwester Hwy., Southfield.*

AT HOME, Mary Klemic, *editor (248) 901-2569*
We are looking for your ideas for At Home and for the Marketplace roundup of new ideas. Send your comments to: **Mary Klemic, At Home, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009**

Garden books fill the winter hours



MARTY FIGLEY

Now that the holiday rush is over, it's time to sit back and enjoy the books that fill the shelves in the bookstores.

"Merry Hall," by Beverly Nichols (Timber Press, $22.95) is the often humorous story of the restoration of the mansion and gardens. Nichols' account takes the reader frolicking through his adventures and dreams. We meet Mr. Oldfield, who 'came with the property,' an extraordinary vegetable gardener, Marius, the scholarly helper and others. Also, Miss Emily, who covets Oldfield's vegetables and Our Rose, a flower arranger who fashions unusual pieces. "One" and "Four," his cats, that wend their way throughout the story. Not one to mince words, Nichols tells us that lilies in all forms are his favorite flower and why and that berberis makes excellent hedges with season-long color. We chuckle as we read his witty remarks. His account of the cypress see sprouts is sheer poetry. There's much more to be savored. First published in 1951, the book is one of a trilogy by this engaging writer. The other two will follow – you'll want them all.

"Country Acres," by David Larkin (Houghton Mifflin, $35) relates the history of outbuildings, fields, trees, animals and many other aspects of country life. It is filled with practical advice. For instance, Larkin shows how to build workable, yet historic fences. We learn the function of old country tools. For gardeners he shares his ideas of growing, harvesting and preserving the bounty (when and how), fruits and vegetables, from rhubarb and Brussel sprouts to peppers and pumpkins. Old country methods such as drying the harvest, could still be done today. This book will appeal to history buffs as well as gardeners. Color photos illustrate beautifully.

"The Illustrated Book of Women Gardeners," edited by Deborah Kelloway (Bullfinch/Little Brown & Co., $35) contains selected writings by famous women; gardeners, writers, observers. Women have shared their experiences of design, plant care, flower arranging, etc. for years, and now we have a chance to learn and gain insight into their world. For instance, about advice to beginning gardeners, Gertrude Jekyll wrote, in 1899: "The real way its to try and learn from everybody and from every place. There is no royal road." And Penelope Hobhouse wrote, in 1976: "No garden, great or small, should be seen all at one glance ..." Women wrote about certain flowers, conditions, color and other aspects of gardening which shows their love of the art. I especially enjoyed Elizabeth Von Armin's account of her journey through her garden in the middle of the night, written in 1899. All women who garden should have this lovely book to enjoy at leisure. Treat yourself to this volume, enhanced with exquisite color photographs.

■ Women have shared their experiences of design, plant care, flower arranging, etc., for years, and now we have a chance to learn and gain insight into their world.

"Lilies, A Guide for Growers and Collectors," by Edward Austin McRae (Timber Press, $34.95) is the book for those who wish to learn more about these flowers. McRae currently hybridizes lilies at the Oregon Bulb Farms and shares his expertise about cultivation, propagation, pests and diseases. He suggests where they will perform best in the garden. The main focus of the book is the wild lily species – their history, cultivation and how they are used in hybridization. Information about currently available Asiatic, Oriental, trumpet and polyploid lilies will guide the lily fancier to proper choices. The excellent color photographs illustrate the many colors and varieties available. He shares his personal anecdotes of personalities in the lily world.

Another Timber Press book, "Trees of the Central Hardwood Forests of North America," ($49.95) is an identification and cultivation guide. Written by Donald J. Leopold, William C. McComb and Robert N. Muller, the book describes the illustrates (in black and white) the pertinent characteristics that help identify the plants. One hundred sixteen color photos show the diversity of trees in the forests. The goal of the authors is to "promote appreciation and conservation of the forests as they remain today, and encourage the use of native trees in the landscape." Much valuable information here.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.





Good reading: *Wintertime gives an excellent opportunity to study plants and gardening.*

Manufacturers ignore tank problem



JOE GAGNON

In last week's column I asked you to get the bill of sale of your purchase of the hot water tank in your home. If you purchased it between 1993 and 1997, there is the potential of a serious problem with the dip tube.

In literature I have read, it appears that the manufacturer of a certain dip tube who supplies the tube to different hot water tank producers failed to include certain material in their production. As a result, the tube will be eaten away by the byproducts of the water inside the tank. When this happens, little chunks of white material will clog up the aerators on your sinks and also the screens on your water valves of the dishwasher and washing machines.

It is also possible that the water valve will jam open on the washer when not in use and cause your washer to fill with water and continue until it overflows all over the floor and cause serious damage to floors etc.

I know these problems can occur because they have happened to me. A little mention on my radio program brought calls from radio listeners with the same problem. I have made two contacts with the plumbing industry and both say that the manufacturers are doing nothing to help consumers. The phone call I made to the producer of my hot water tank was useless, they went out of business.

I think that we as a group can approach the manufacturers of these hot water tanks and ask that they be fixed under some terms of warranty, but it will never happen if we ask individually. Therefore I am asking every consumer who reads this column who purchased a tank between 1993 and 1997 to contact the Appliance Doctor at the phone number below or write me through the office of this newspaper. It might be necessary to start a class action lawsuit against the manufacturers of hot water tanks. I believe it's time to stand together against inferior products. There are millions of hot water tanks sold every year in this country and if it took the plumbing industry five years to realize they had a problem with the dip tube, can you imagine how many consumers and homeowners are going through this problem.

And the industry says they won't do anything for consumers!

I was told to purchase a new dip tube for $10 and I could replace it myself. I was faxed the instruction sheet on how to do it. I need to disconnect the cold water line on the top of the tank which is soldered and remove the old dip tube. After that I am to remove the relief valve on the side of the tank and also remove the drain valve on the bottom of the tank. I am to take a garden hose and flush out the tank from the bottom and the top and then put things back together again. I need to go out and purchase new tools to do this job and I bet when I'm done, the thing will leak all over the place.

No way am I going to do this job, and I don't expect that many others will as well. After the first of the new year, I will begin to write and call the plumbing industry to find out what they will do for US. I will keep you informed as to what transpires and how you can become involved. Meanwhile, I ask you once again, if you purchased a new hot water tank between 1993 and 1997, please get in touch with me.

NOTE: On this day the Appliance Doctor was married to Valorie Williams in a small ceremony in a beautiful little resort in northern Michigan. After a 10 year courtship, it was decided that they were still crazy in love and that love will last until the end of time.

P.S. She wants to get the ring checked to make sure the diamond is real. I assured her it is and to always continue to read this column. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon was the president of Carmack Appliances for 20 years and is today a weekend talk show host on 760 WJR. He can be reached at (313)873-9789. His book "First Aid on Appliances" is available in book stores and Damman Hardware.

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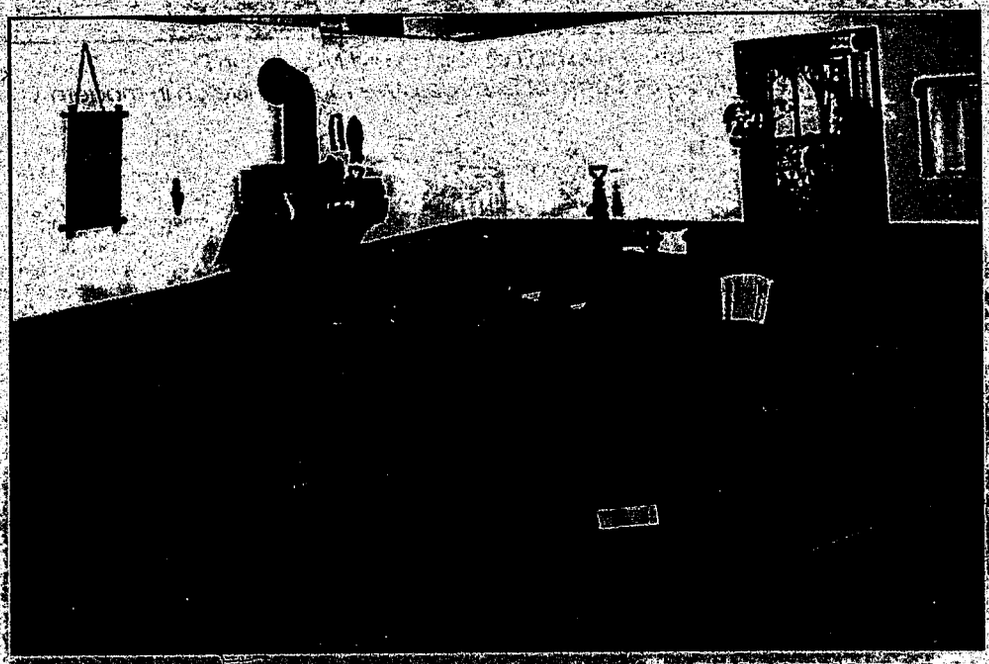
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Mon-Thur 10-9 Fri-Wed-Fri-Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5

'Good old days' were far f



Goodnight: *This representation of a bedroom is found in the Plymouth Historical Museum.*



HENRY FORD MUSEUM & GREENFIELD VILLAGE

Times have changed: *This exhibit at Henry Ford Museum shows a kitchen of the 1890s-1900s. Food storage and preparation was a big undertaking in those days.*

BY JULIE BROWN
Staff Writer
jbrown@oe.homecomm.net

Just what would you see if you traveled back in time home of 1900? A key difference would be "the systems, Hank Prebys, curator of domestic life at Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. "Electrical would be the biggest one."

Heating would be a close second, he said, followed by water. "All this depended on where you lived and what you had access to," said Prebys, an Ypsilanti resident who earned a master's degree in communications from Indiana University.

Suburbs likely wouldn't have electricity, and turning on a light when entering a room wo to do. "I think that would be the hardest thing for us to

There would be gas lamps or kerosene, which had t daily: "All that had to be done during daylight hours,"

Residents of that era knew how to operate such lam know how to change a light bulb."

Heat would have come in part from a range in the kitchen, which would heat part of the home even in summer. "An average home might have a stove or base burner set up in the parlor or sitting room. That would be the heating source."

It would have been necessary to haul coal in, and clear ashes out. If a gas supply were nearby, there might be a gas burner for cool mornings and evenings.

A log fire would be unlikely, Prebys said, because it "Bedrooms would not be heated in the winter."

Most homes had coal burners, said Beth Stewart, di Plymouth Historical Museum. The stoves for public di highly decorative, almost like a piece of furniture.

For water, it could be a town well piped to the hous fem. An outhouse would be likely. "It depends on whe Prebys said, estimating that half of the homes in Detroit had indoor toilets in 1900. "But in Troy, that was a little farming community," with indoor toilets unlikely.

"By that time, Plymouth had quite a bit of industry," said Stewart, 42, of Plymouth Township. Not as many residents were living on farms. The birthrate dropped, as did the child mortality rate with improvements in health care coming on the scene.

City residents would have had an icebox. "But in the country where are you going to get the ice?' There would be a cellar for food store, and plenty of home canning/preserving and salting.

"You'd go shopping every other day. Prepared foods were only just coming in," Prebys said.

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said Prebys, 57,
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Do you remember? *This kitchen exhibit at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn shows a kitchen from the 1930s-40s. Some of its decorative touches live on in modern*

Jell-O was appearing on the scene. There would be baking, frying and ethnic cooking, but not a lot of trading of ethnic recipes from other cultures. "If you were Polish, you ate Polish, you didn't eat German."

Some foods, such as spaghetti, became Americanized, he said.

Kitchens by the turn of the century would have had an indoor pump, Stewart said.

The kitchen was an important room focused on preparation and preservation of food. "It was a great place in the wintertime, but it was probably horrible in the summertime," she said.

Lawn mowers came along around 1850, but mowing wasn't common. "Attitudes toward landscaping were a lot different from what we expect today," Prebys said. Landscaping was on a smaller scale, except for those who were wealthy or had pretensions.

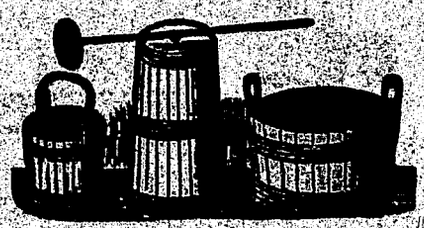
Fun would have involved time with friends and neighbors, parlor games, music and playing instruments. "People could dance in the parlor." Attending lectures was common, even in smaller towns, Prebys said.

Stewart said the early 20th century home often had an organ, piano or spinet in the parlor, "which was like your living room. The sitting room was more like a family room we have today." The parlor was kept picked up for visitors.

Charades and other parlor games were popular, she agreed, adding that phrenology, analysis of character done through study of the skull, was popular although since rejected.

There would be church and activities associated with church. In the mid-1920s, radio came into the home big time. TV was common by the late 1950s. The telephone came in surprisingly early, but not necessarily in the home, he said. General stores had phones which were used by residents from the surrounding area. By the mid-1920s, many had phones, although some were party lines shared by two households.

"You probably would have had a telephone by then," Stewart, who earned a master's degree in historic preservation from Eastern Michigan University, said of the early 1900s. Not all had phones, however, and going to visit, especially on Sunday, was important.



Was life harder in 1900 than it is today? "No, it was just different," Prebys said. "I think harder is just a state of mind. We have a different mindset, different expectations." We could adjust to such a life if transported back in time, he said.

If traveling back to 1900, we'd notice the darkness, even with street lamps, he said. "I think we'd be taken by the smells." The combination of animals, outhouses and different attitudes toward hygiene produced a "rich combination of smells." Clothes were often aired rather than being cleaned.

Today, we live in plentiful times for most. "We forget that, I think," Prebys said. "We have so much more now." Incomes are commensurate with prices.

Stewart's found her studies in history interesting and would like to go back in time to ask questions. At the same time, she'd miss the modern creature comforts; women also have greater rights and opportunities than was true then, she said.

On the Cover:
Dining drama: *The Plymouth Historical Museum shows how home life has changed through the years. Many turn of the century living areas were ornate. Staff photos by Paul Hurschmann.*

Adopt-a-pet



Seven: *We're not sure how "Seven" got his name, but the the two of you can spend lots of time pondering its origins together. Seven is 1-1/2 years old and neutered. If you can offer this cool cat a "feline free" home he'll be yours forever. Seven (No. WO30381) and other pets are available at the Michigan Humane Society Westland Shelter, 37255 Marquette, (734)721-7300, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.*

How to shop for custom moldings

Homeowners are discovering that solid hardwood moldings give every room a different character, from injecting drama into a formal dining room to adding a custom touch to stock kitchen cabinetry.

The Hardwood Information Center offers the following tips when shopping for moldings at your local home center:

Molding the possibilities. The secret to getting the most out of solid hardwood moldings is understanding the wide range of possibilities. Available in species such as oak, maple or cherry, solid hardwood moldings offer an unmatched combination of natural beauty and unsurpassed versatility.

Know your profiles. A molding's "profile" refers to its shape. For anything beyond the basic, it may be necessary to combine two or more profiles through "stacking." Stunning results are achieved by stacking profiles, which can make for an infinite variety of looks.

More than 350 standard moulding profiles are available, so you are sure to have plenty of options. With this many possibilities, it makes sense to ask the salesperson which profiles typically work well together.

Speaking the language. When shopping for mouldings, you may encounter the following terminology:

n skirt board: The moulding that conceals the joint between the floor and wall, when it slants upward along a staircase.

n millwork: A general term for lumber planed and shaped for finished work. In addition to mouldings, millwork also includes doors, cornices, panelwork and other items of interior or exterior trim, not including flooring, ceiling or siding.

n chair rail: A moulding applied along a wall for protection against chair backs, or as a design element.

n crown moulding: The decorative moulding that conceals the joint between the wall and ceiling.

n base block: The squared block terminating a moulded baseboard at a doorway. Also commonly called a "plinth block."

Is it solid hardwood? The modern home center carries an unprecedented variety of building products. With materials available to suit any budget, a wide disparity exists in quality. This is especially true with mouldings. Solid hardwood mouldings contain no other material. Down the road, if you decide to go with a totally new interior, you can refinish the solid hardwood to achieve a different look — without replacing the mouldings.

Seek out sound advice from salespeople. Whether you plan to tackle a moulding installation as a Saturday project or hire a professional contractor to do it for you, be sure to draw on the expertise of the salesperson at your local home center. This professional can be an invaluable source of information on solid hardwood mouldings and how to properly install them. Tap him or her for information such as:

n The right quantity you will need to buy for your project. Always buy a few feet extra, to allow for cutting and trimming.

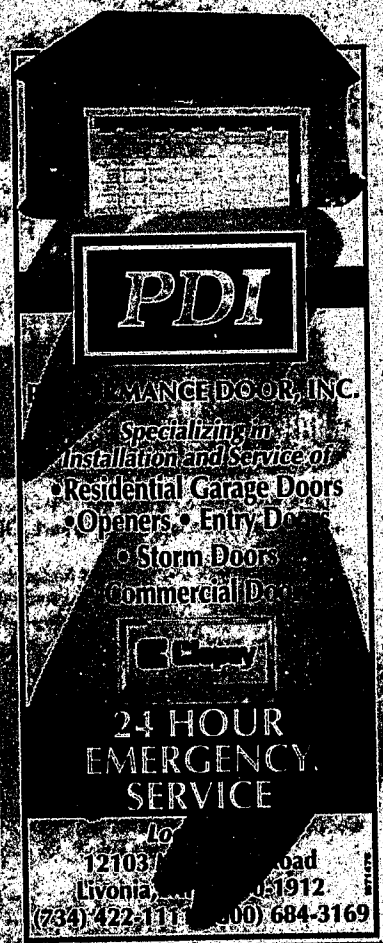
n Special tools that may be required. Every room, and every job, is different. Be sure to ask about any supplies or equipment that might make your particular job easier.

n Tips to ensure that your project is a success. A knowledgeable salesperson should be able to tell you how to prepare the room, save time and select the right finish products.

Free information on selecting solid hardwood mouldings and millwork is available by visiting the Hardwood Information Center on the World Wide Web: http:// www. hardwood. org

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Designs look 'back to future'

BY BARBARA MAYER
For AP Special Features

An odd thing has happened with modern furniture: The emphasis on breaking new ground that began the century has turned into an exercise in recollection.

An abundance of new modern furniture is scheduled to make its first appearance on retail sales floors this winter. A few items will startle, but most will be recognizable as a homage to what has gone before.

Collections billed as modern work their way through the 20th century. Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, streamlined designs of the 1940s, the biomorphism of the 1950s, Scandinavian modern and designs of the 1960s and 1970s are all represented.

Barbara Barry's new collection for Baker recalls Hollywood and Paris of the 1940s. She made a comment about her own designs that summarized the new attitude and could apply to quite a few collections shown at the October furniture market in High Point, N.C.: "Each piece has that timeless quality that evokes history," she said.

"The encompassing quality of modern reflects the broadness of our visual education. Blended rooms are the new modern," Vicente Wolf said. His 20th Century Collection for Casa Bique and Carson's Inc. draws from almost every decade.

More than one stylistic inspiration can be seen in several new furniture groups. Bassett's Meditations group combines Chinese, Japanese and an Arts and Crafts feeling; Century's Silk Road has Oriental and Scandinavian modern influences, and Lane's Ebb Tide in walnut pairs Oriental with simple modern shapes.

Among other characteristics of new modern designs:

■ Mixed materials, such as wood, glass, metal, stone and plastic, are employed within collections and even on the same pieces.

n Two-toned finishes pair light-colored woods such as maple and cherry with dark woods like walnut and mahogany or painted finishes.

■ Pieces such as headboards and huge armoires often are larger-scale than the originals on which they are based.

■ A crisp, tailored appearance, streamlined shapes and bright solid-color upholstery give seating a different look from the overstuffed sofas and chairs that have been popular.

One of the largest categories, among the most popular with consumers, is not even called modern. It is known as "lifestyle" furniture, a shorthand term that typically means clean-lined, contemporary pieces suited for casual living.

Usually there are enough references to the past, especially Shaker, neoclassical and Arts and Crafts styles, to make the furniture comfortably familiar.

Examples include Thomasville's Encounter, Lane's Monogram and Stanley's Preface collections, introduced in April and already in stores, and Stanley's Concerto, new in October.

Concerto, in cherry with walnut accents, combines neoclassical style with modern. Preface, in maple with satin-finished nickel hardware, has been described as "Shaker meets contemporary."

Preface has been on retail sales floors for about nine months and is already Stanley's best-selling bedroom, dining-room, living-room and home-entertainment furniture.

"Eighteenth-century business has slacked off in the past four or five years and lifestyle furniture is replacing 18th-century," Gary Hokanson, Stanley vice president of design, said.

If many modern designs co-opt the past, what do you call the more novel pieces? The short answer is: modern.

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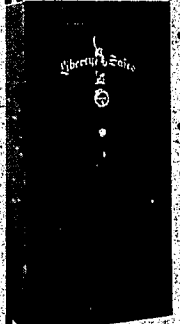
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Celebrate with these delicacies



RUTH MOSSOK JOHNSTON

You can always find flavor-infused caviar in my freezer, water biscuits in my pantry, and some quick and easy ingredients to pull together those not-so deliberate delicacies.

No New Year's Eve or New Year's Day Plans? Be on the lookout for friends and family stopping by with Happy New Year wishes. Our grown daughter Kim (who lives in Chicago) always calls on New Year's Eve to wish her father and I, a happy New Year. Some of our friends by-pass the phone and drop on by to extend their good wishes – so what to feed them when a glass of bubbly just isn't enough?

There are those constant entertaining staples I keep around for just those types of situations. You can always find flavor-infused caviar in my freezer, water biscuits in my pantry, and some quick and easy ingredients to pull together those not-so deliberate delicacies.

Cream cheese is a must – easy and delicious pâté-type dips are made in minutes with cream cheese – just drop some smoked fish (salmon, bluefish or whitefish) into your food processor with a large chunk of cream cheese and some dried dill weed. Process the mixture until pâté-consistency – and instantly, a delicious spread.

Add some hard or semi-soft cheese with your favorite herbs to cream cheese, process as before – roll in crushed nuts, cracked pepper or black sesame seeds (goma) and you instantly have a cheese dip that is fresh, delicious and convenient.

This year I utilized this 'quick cream cheese concept' as part of my planned holiday appetizers. As with all foods, fresh ingredients are key. Some great smoked salmon (not lox, although you could use it)-mixed with fresh cream cheese and dill – instant appetizer. The next day, I took the leftover smoked bluefish filet and transformed the remnants into a pâté, again made just like the smoked salmon. That bluefish pâté was saved for another night of guests – along with a cheese ball that is made out of leftover Stilton cheese, roasted garlic and a huge chunk of cream cheese - processed until smooth, rolled into a ball, covered with nuts and chilled in the refrigerator. Here are three appetizers that collectively took less than 10 minutes to complete.

If you are really into this and well motivated – make your own version of cream cheese out of yogurt strained until thick like cream cheese. Commercial yogurt strainers are available or use a cheese cloth lined colander.

Try making simple and quick funky shaped pizzas – made out of quick fried lavash bread and topped with your favorite sauce and melted cheese. These are particularly easy to make if you own a kitchen torch (one that is commonly used to brown the top of crème brûlée and sold at hardware and kitchen shops).

This little hand held butane torch allows you to melt the cheese in whatever the configuration of your pizza (broiling will not hit all of those areas – just the top closest to the heat source).

Some Other Quick and Easy Ideas: Easy Apps 101

•A big jar of Kalamata olives can be a great treat and perfect for guests – place olives in a good quality olive oil and infuse with dried or fresh herbs (or serve plain).

•Flavor a big batch of popcorn with herbs and grated cheese.

•Instant trail mix – make a bowlful with nuts, cereal, and dried fruits – a great quick snack.

•Keep some roasted garlic in the refrigerator – reheat in the microwave, spread on crackers, biscuits or baguette rounds for quick entertaining.

•Frozen shrimp or crab claws defrost very quickly in cold water. Serve with clarified butter or cocktail sauce.

•Cans of smoked oysters, mussels and anchovies can make for and easy appetizer by wrapping and/or stuffing them. Stuffed olives are an easy and quick treat.

•Deep-fry won-ton strips, tortilla strips or lavash bread in hot oil just until golden brown. Add an easy dipping sauce, salsa or fruit butter (packaged or homemade) to accompany your crisp strips.

• Many hard cheeses wrapped in plastic wrap (air-tight) will keep for months – great to have on hand.

•Pasta tossed with your favorite sauce – add some grilled vegetables or just grated cheese and butter.

Some Easy Apps from Scratch:

PROSCIUTTO-PRAWN APPETIZER

Yield: 4 servings

4 uncooked jumbo prawns, peeled and deveined

1/2 cup dry white wine (table wine will do)

1/3 cup light olive oil

2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced

1 teaspoon whole mustard seeds

1/4 teaspoon dried red pepper flakes (or to taste)

8 thin prosciutto (ham) slices

3 tablespoons fresh flat leaf parsley, trimmed and chopped

Lemon slices (for cooking and garnish)

Combine cleaned prawns, white wine, olive oil, garlic, mustard seeds and pepper flakes in a nonreactive bowl; toss to coat well. Let ingredients marinate at room temperature for one hour.

Preheat broiler or prepare grill. Drain prawns from marinade (reserving marinade for later use). Wrap 2 slices prosciutto around each prawn. Place each wrapped prawn in an oven proof dish or on grill (tucking ends of prosciutto under prawns).

Drizzle 1 tablespoon of reserved marinade over each wrapped prawn top with a slice of lemon.

Broil or grill prawns about 6 inches from heat source until prosciutto begins to crisp and prawns are opaque (careful not to burn), about 5-7 minutes.

Generously sprinkle with chopped parsley. Garnish with additional lemon.

Cook's note: Pomeroy's Seafood in West Bloomfield has gorgeous prawns.

GOLDEN FRIED ARTICHOKES WITH PEPPERED AIOLI

Yield: 4 servings

1 1/3 cups mayonnaise (preferably Hellmann's or homemade)

1 1/2 teaspoons freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 garlic clove, peeled and minced

1 teaspoon cayenne (or to taste), divided

1/2 teaspoon Dijon-style prepared mustard

Ingredients for the Fried Artichokes:

Light olive or peanut oil (for frying)

1/2 cup finely sifted flour (preferably Wondra™)

1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, finely grated

1 large can artichokes, drained and halved

1-2 eggs, lightly beaten

For the Aioli: Whisk mayonnaise, lemon juice, minced garlic, 1/2 teaspoon cayenne and mustard in small bowl; mix until smooth. Refrigerate until needed.

For the Fried Artichokes: Pour oil of choice into a heavy deep pot (oil should be approximately 2 inches deep), heat to 375 degrees F.

Mix together flour, Parmesan and remaining cayenne in medium bowl. Dip artichokes in egg, and then into flour-cheese mixture; toss to coat evenly.

Working in small batches, add coated artichokes to hot oil and fry until golden. Using a slotted spoon, transfer browned artichokes to paper towels to drain.

Serve crispy, golden artichokes with peppered aioli.

FETTUCCINE WITH A ZAP OF FLAVOR AND GRILLED VEGETABLES

Yield: 4 servings

1 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1-inch lengths

1/2 pound assorted mushrooms, cleaned and stemmed

1/2 red pepper, seeded and deveined

Olive oil

1/2-3/4 pound dry fettuccine noodles

4 tablespoons butter or margarine

2 shallots, peeled and finely chopped

1 teaspoon dried tarragon

1 teaspoon dried oregano

1/2 cup chicken broth (homemade or prepared)

1 cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese (or to taste)

Salt and pepper (to taste)

Over a prepared grill or grill pan, cook oiled: asparagus, mushrooms and red pepper (grill to desired doneness). Using a slotted spoon, transfer to a large bowl. Slice mushrooms if necessary.

To a pot of boiling salted water, cook fettuccine until al dente (firm but tender); drain fettuccine.

To the drained pasta pot, add cooked vegetables and drained pasta.

In a large skillet over low heat, melt butter; add shallots and cook until they appear transparent. Add herbs and stir to mix thoroughly; add broth. Let mixture come to a boil and reduce slightly. Stir in 1/2 cup grated cheese. Add butter-sauce to pasta and vegetable mixture; gently toss to coat. Adjust seasonings and serve with remaining grated cheese.

Ruth Mossok Johnston is an author and food columnist who lives in Franklin. To leave her a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1902.

Bring your family back to basics



LISA LUCKOW-HEALY

I vividly recall the pretty blue Cinderella watch with the white leather band I received for Christmas as a 7-year-old. I treasured it for years. It disappeared somewhere, but I still long for that magical watch that made me feel like a princess.

This past holiday season, my husband and I decided to purchase a rather nice piano for Christmas. It took a great deal of research to decide on the piano that would meet our family needs. I am thrilled about our purchase, yet it cannot replace the thrill I experienced when I received my Cinderella watch.

Somewhere around the time I was old enough to make holiday gifts at school for my family, I began to understand that it was more satisfying to give than to receive.

But like many children, I looked at the world around me – what adults were doing and what I saw on television or in the media – and as I grew up, I sometimes lost touch with reality and thought, as many people do, that whether giving or receiving, bigger or more expensive items must mean they are better.

It takes several doses of reality to bring yourself back to basics and understand the simpler, the better. When I try to recall the memories of all the nice toys and gifts I received as a child, I can count them on two hands. The Cinderella watch was one. It was a special gift that still reminds me of the magical feelings that only the holidays can bring.

The examples you set for your children will be the ones that mold their lives. Two Christmas seasons ago, I got more carried away with all the toys purchased for my children that they did. They cannot recall what they received that Christmas. But I can because it was a big mistake to overwhelm them with too much at such young ages.

■ It takes several doses of reality to bring yourself back to basics and understand the simpler, the better. When I try to recall the memories of all the nice toys and gifts I received as a child, I can count them on two hands.

One year later, I made a big correction. The kids genuinely each asked for one rather inexpensive gift from Santa. That is exactly what each of them received. My husband and I toned down our toy purchases. The kids had time to focus on what they received and what they heard – the sounds of Christmas in song, laughter and meaningful conversation.

Today is as good a time as any to begin teaching your children that bigger or more expensive is not always better. Get the new year off to a good start by bringing your family back to basics. Simplify your purchases. Consider the quality of an item over the quantity. Encourage giving over receiving. Teach by example. Focus on the meaning of the items you give your children, not the amount of money you spend or they ask you to spend.

Of all my holiday gifts, my Cinderella watch is one of my most vivid, fond recollections. You, too, can make your daughter feel like a prince, or your daughter, a princess, when you help your family go back to basics.

Lisa Luckow-Healy is a marketing consultant and freelance writer who regularly contributes to several parenting publications. To leave her a message from a touch-tone phone about how you celebrate family, call (734) 953-2047, then her mailbox number, 1903; or e-mail your suggestions to LIHealy@aol.com.

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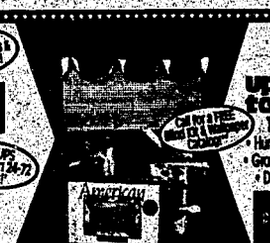
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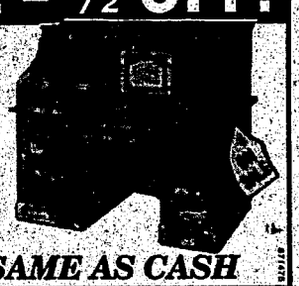
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Entertainment

Observer & Eccentric

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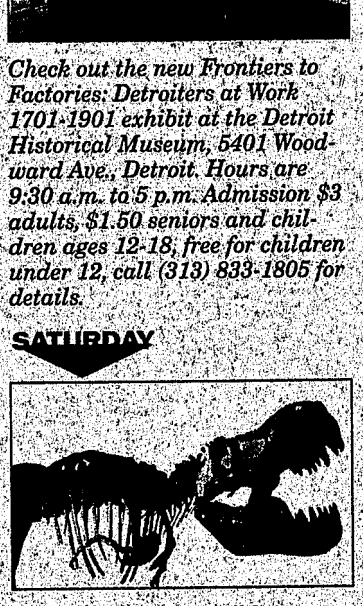
Keely Wygonik, Editor 734 953 2105 | on the web: http://observer-eccentric.com | Thursday, December 31, 1998

FRIDAY



Check out the new Frontiers to Factories: Detroiters at Work 1701-1901 exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission $3 adults, $1.50 seniors and children ages 12-18, free for children under 12, call (313) 833-1805 for details.

SATURDAY



Cranbrook Institute of Science and Art Museum, 1221 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, are offering a variety of activities including Magic School Bus Science Bingo. The Institute of Science is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Art Museum, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 1-(877)-GO-CRANBrook for more information, or visit the Web site www.cranbrook.edu

SUNDAY



Neeme Jarvi conducts the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in a concert featuring guest violinist Alexander Markov, 3 p.m. at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets $13 to $48, call (313) 576-5111.



Spend New Year's Eve in downtown Birmingham, at First Night '99, a celebration of the arts for the whole family. Admission buttons are $7, ages 5 and under free, call (248) 258-9075, or www.technomasters.com/firstnight on the web. The Actors' Company, a professional children's theatre troupe, will be performing "Cinderella," a magical musical, 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the Village Players Theatre, 752 Chestnut St. (south of Maple, east of Hunter) as part of the First Night activities. "Cinderella" will also be presented 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at the theater. Saturday performance tickets are $8, admission to the New Year's Eve performance is included with the $7 First Night button. Call (248) 644-2075 for more information about "Cinderella."



PHOTOS BY JERRY MENDOZA

Top-notch talent: *Mudpuppy lead singer/bassist Paul Randolph's smoky vocals and funky bass lay the foundation for the tight package of sultry grooves. Members of the band include, from left, percussionist/vocalist Lorenzo "Spoons" Brown, guitar/mandolin player Mark Pasman, and singer/bassist Paul Randolph.*

BAND OF THE YEAR

Soulful Mudpuppy offers tight package of blues, pop



Spoonman: *Lorenzo "Spoons" Brown is the centerpiece of the live show alternating between percussion and spoons.*

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

A cool wind breezes through the crowds of people near the blues and jazz stage at the Michigan TasteFest. Off to the left, an elderly man, dressed to the nines in a burgundy dress shirt and black pants, leans forward and intensely taps his foot to the beat of Detroit blues stars Mudpuppy.

A young couple, poster children for fraternities and sororities everywhere, clasp hands and dance to the right. The makeshift dance floor in front of the stage fills with couples of all races, toddlers, and mothers with their children, all dancing together.

■ Mudpuppy, the 1998 Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' Band of the Year, is truly music for the masses.

Mudpuppy, the 1998 Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' Band of the Year, is truly music for the masses. Lead singer/bassist Paul Randolph's smoky vocals and funky bass lay the foundation for the tight package of sultry grooves. The lyrics of its sophomore effort, "White Bread and Hot Sauce" (Venture Records), take on the universal subjects of love gone wrong, gone well and just not there at all.

While performers like Kid Rock, the Atomic Fireballs, The Verve Pipe, and Control Freq. ink major-label deals, Mudpuppy hammers it out deep in the waters of packed blues clubs. Last January, however, Mudpuppy got its due opening for Buddy Guy at his Legends nightclub in Chicago after winning the best band prize at the 1997 International Blues Festival in Windsor and Novi.

The Philadelphia-born Randolph spread his musical wings as a junior high school student living in Brazil.

"It was a major influence on my playing. It seemed like in Brazil everybody played an instrument. All my friends, everybody I knew who was a native, all played music," Randolph told The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers earlier this year.

"That was great for me because my earliest memories were of music. Both of my parents are musically inclined."

Three years later, Randolph and his family moved to Southfield, where he graduated from Southfield High School in 1981. He formed Mudpuppy after honing his skills performing with Urban Voodoo Juice and Josh White Jr. For the pro-

Please see MUDPUPPY, E2

BOOKS

'MusicHounds' track down favorite rock acts

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER
hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

Gary Graff isn't one to peg a definition on rock music.

"I don't subscribe to one," he said. "Rock is like pornography, you know it when you hear it. It's more about an attitude."

That "attitude" is celebrated in the new second edition of "The MusicHound Rock: The Essential Album Guide," edited by Graff and Daniel Durchholz (Visible Ink Press, $26.95). The book is a back-breaking 1,500 page catalogue of rock acts from the early days of the Clovers and Bill Haley to Jewel and the Dave Matthews Band with commentary by 132 contributors, ratings and discographies. It is an explosive update and enlargement of the 1996 first edition from Visible Ink, the Farmington Hills publishing division of the Gale Group.

■ The book is a back-breaking 1,500 page catalogue of rock acts from the early days of the Clovers and Bill Haley to Jewel and the Dave Matthews Band with commentary by 132 contributors, ratings and discographies.

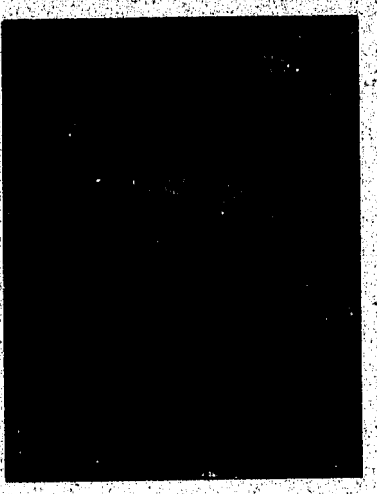
The rock guide has also given birth to similar MusicHound guides for jazz, country, blues, folk, classical and lounge music. Graff, a former rock writer for the Detroit Free Press and a commentator on WRIF and Backstage Pass, is supervising editor for the series.

"It started in January 1996 with a meeting with the folks at Visible Ink, shortly after the newspaper strike began," Graff said. "I had done some work for Gale Research, Springsteen had just been at the Fox and we were all Springsteen fans. I suggested a music guide and they grabbed ahold of the idea. It's a record guide that *guides* you."

The guide is wide and broad, reflective of the universe of music encompassed within the word "rock," from gentle folk troubadours like Tim Hardin and Jewel to rhythm and blues titans like James Brown and Aretha Franklin to crunching heavy metal bands like Black Sabbath and Metallica (personal favorites of Graff).

Each act is evaluated by one of the contributors, which includes Observer & Eccentric popular music and feature writer Christina Fuoco. The contributors give brief career summaries and evaluations, though unlike the seminal Rock Encyclopedia by the late Lillian Roxon, the major figures (Elvis, Chuck Berry, The Beatles, Stones, Otis Redding, Bob Dylan, Springsteen etc.) do not get much more ink than marginal

Please see MUSICHOUNDS, E2



Book cover: *"The MusicHound Rock: The Essential Album Guide"*

'Dancing at Lughnasa' better on stage than film

BY VICTORIA DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

Adapted by Frank McGuinness from Brian Friel's Tony Award-winning play, "Dancing at Lughnasa" celebrates the human spirit with generous amounts of warmth and grace, and a touch of heart-wrenching Irish mist. It not only recognizes the evanescence of our dreams, but also pays homage to the precious, ethereal nature of our earth-bound, daily lives as well – those lives that, with time, become as intangible as Paradise itself.

More than that, it features some memorable performances and enough poetic scenes and images to warm your heart for a long time.

And yet, something about it disappoints me. Maybe if I had never seen and fell in love with Friel's play I could have enjoyed the movie more.

Taking a cue from Friel's format, the film looks back at another time, via the memory/narration of one Michael Mundy. Now an adult, Michael recalls the summer of 1936 when he was an 8-year-old boy living with his never-married mother, her four unmarried sisters and their broken-down priest brother on a hardscrabble farm near the village of Ballybeg in County Donegal. Lughnasa, a pagan Irish festival of music and dance, held each year at harvest time, is approaching.

"That lovely summer I thought would never end," Michael tells us. "I was king of the castle surrounded by all who loved me."

Shielded by love and blinded by innocence, the boy (Darrell Johnston) could not have known what he clearly can see today: the "lovely summer" would not only come to an end, it would mark an unsettling beginning that changed his life permanently.

We might ask ourselves several questions as the story begin to unfold: What is wrong with Uncle Jack? Why has he been sent home from his post in Africa? Where is Michael's father? Why have none of the sisters ever married?

Heading the family is the deeply divided Kate, played by Meryl Streep with her usual astonishing talents. The only sister with a higher education, Kate is a teacher at the village school, a woman who values reputation and dignity above (almost) anything else, and a woman whose heart may just be on the verge of turning stony as a way of preserving itself.

British actress Kathy Burke is the jolly, apple-cheeked Maggie, the sister perhaps most devoted to making the unconventional Mundy household a home. Brid Brennan reprises her Tony Award-winning stage role as Aggie, the sister who, in the end, may be the most courageous.

Michael Gambon as the politely addled, doddering Jack, and Sophie Thompson as the high-spirited, dim-witted sister, Rose, are nothing less than magnificent in their roles and give this film much of its unforgettable glow. It is impossible to imagine that director Pat O'Connor could have urged a more equisitely nuanced performance from either, or from anybody, for that matter. Down to posture, mannerisms, voice quality, speech inflection, the lift of an eyebrow, the nod of a head, physical appearance – they are these disturbing, but always beloved, characters. Not once do we catch them acting.

On the other hand, Catherine McCormack's Christina, young Michael's mother, appears relatively pale and bloodless throughout. She smiles a lot and certainly looks attractive enough, but it is difficult to believe her character is the sister who risked so much, who tainted not just her own reputation but her family's by giving in to the temptations of the flesh. The man she loves, played by Rhys Ifans, comes up a little hesitant and short on charm, too.

I think, ultimately, what's most disappointing to me about the film is that in "opening it up" for cinematic presentation, O'Connor has made it harder for us to see several of its characters as easily as when we watch the drama played out against the more confining backdrops of the stage. Against the mythic, put-your-eye-out grandeur of the Emerald Isle itself, director of photography is Kenneth MacMillan, some of the characters seem to almost disappear at times, or at least to blur along with the misty landscape. We feel distanced from them somehow. In a story about the human heart and spirit, this can prove to be a wee bit troublesome.

MusicHounds from page E1

and less than marginal figures. Also Roxon's book was one person's particular view of the acts up to the mid 1970s, while this is a compendium of contributors with different interests and enthusiasms.

Graff said there is a balance made between a unified overview and the individual contributors. The contributors rate the records with "bones," from five for outstanding to a "woof" for miserable.

"We share a philosophy and discuss what is a five bone or four bone record. But each has an ability to interpret an artist. After all it's often comparing apples and oranges. But we do foreward a set of criteria," Graff said.

Graff said he doesn't let his personal tastes (which range from Bruce Springsteen to Deep Purple) prejudice his view of a contributor's ratings.

Though the book is exhaustive in its coverage, 1,999 rock artists, it is also selective. For instance, country legend Buck Owens and his Bakersfield disciple Dwight Yoakum are included, but "outlaws" Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson are not.

"A little of it is just to stir things up. A lot of it comes down to who's making music that has influenced the rock community," Graff said. "I would argue that Buck Owens has had an influence on the rock community. Waylon and Willie have a rock attitude but didn't influence rock music. We had similar discussions about rhythm and blues."

The discographies alone are informative and each contributor gives the reader a recommendation on what to buy first and next and what to avoid. There is also an interesting note of who influenced the artist and who they influenced in turn. The back of the book features indexes on artist web sites, books and magazines, radio stations, record labels, compilation albums, and much more.

Graff developed his own interest in rock from an early age.

"I had a brother 11 years older than me and he was a child of the counter culture, so I was hearing all that great music," Graff said. "Other kids my age were listening to the latest Disney song and I was listening to 'Born to Be Wild.' Then I started reading *Rolling Stone* and *Circus* as a teenager."

Graff said one thing that the MusicHound books attempt to do is create a positive enthusiasm for the music.

"I like music and want to share good things about the music. I'm not going in with the idea of hacking things down," he said.

Mudpuppy from page E1

ject, he recruited fellow veteran bluesmen guitar/mandolin player Mark Pasman, vocalist/percussionist Lorenzo "Spoons" Brown, vocalist/drummer Darryl Pierce, and vocalist/keyboardist Mark Thibodeau.

Working with a pallette of blues, soul, jazz, Cajun and pop, Mudpuppy created one of the best local albums of 1998, "White Bread and Hot Sauce." For the album, Randolph returned to writing songs on guitar.

"Pain in My Back" takes a cue from Wynonnie Harris. The stand-out track, "Beads," written by Randolph, features the author's smooth vocals wrapped around the twinkling of an xylophone and an acoustic guitar. It tells the story of a visit to a voodoo house.

"Went down to the voodoo house ... stood there for awhile and she wasn't there. So I went next door to her sister's house ... she said stand there by the corner baby and wait for a spell and shout out, 'Hey there mister, throw some beads over here,'" Randolph sings.

Mudpuppy has begun work on its follow-up CD to "White Bread and Hot Sauce" and expects it to be released in mid-1999. Modest, yet confident, Randolph would be the last to say that this is something to watch for in the new year.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

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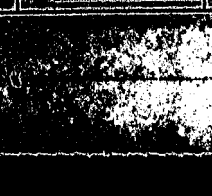
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LETTERS

Bluesman Volin makes a living doing what he loves



CHRISTINA FUOCO

Bluesman Randy Volin is all about rock 'n' roll.

He loves the United States of America. "Where else can you do what you love and sometimes make a living?"

Mount Chalet in Royal Oak can be downright devastating. "The women in there are intoxicating."

Despite playing since 1972, Volin still has a child-like passion about music.

"I'm a young cat at heart."

This weekend, Volin will be playing with some of the coolest cats at the "Anti-Freeze Blues Festival" at the Magic Bag in Ferndale.

"I like playing Jeremy's place," he said of owner Jeremy Haberman. "It's a concert hall. As much as I like playing the clubs, I love playing there. I punch the sky as hard as I can. I shoot for the heavens trying to hit Albert King. If I miss, I still try. It's a great place."

Volin grew up in Oak Park but "got all my worldly experience in Farmington." After his parents divorced, he bounced around from city to city attending Harrison High School in Farmington Hills and graduating from Seaholm High School in Birmingham.

Volin began his career filling in for a sick member of a friend's rock band during a gig at O.E. Dunckel Middle School, then junior high, in Farmington Hills in 1972. Soon thereafter, he joined the band.

"I was always a blues guy. I used to go to Ethel's Lounge in Detroit. When I was 12 I went to see Albert King, and I was the only white cat there. When I was 16, I had 25-year-old girlfriends so I looked older. When I was 12 I probably looked like I was 18," Volin explained.

"I had a good time."

The Grande Ballroom was another of Volin's loves. He watched legends in the making Jeff Beck, Jimi Hendrix and Fleetwood Mac back when Peter Green was still a part of the band.

"I was really determined," Volin said about having a career in music. "Unfortunately, my mom wasn't happy about it. I was kind of a 'you can't tell me what to do' kind of a kid. I love my mom dearly. I probably helped a couple gray hairs on her head I'm sure, but I never got in trouble."

There was one problem with achieving his dream, however.

"I didn't know how to go about it." So he relentlessly played bars and clubs.

"When I got in my first band at 15 everybody else was 24. They were schlepping me in bars, playing until 2:30 in the morning and sleeping through first, second and third hours in school. It wasn't the smartest thing to do."

In 1977, he formed The Look with Dave Edwards as one of the main songwriters.

"I've done some pretty cool things with The Look. We were on MTV. We had lots of airplay. But I bolted out, and I mean bolted in 1986." After working in retail for six months at Radio Shack, Volin decided to return to what he loved the most – music.

"I was playing in cover bands – top 40 radio bands. I hated that as much as I hated playing in Radio Shack. I was playing for the suits who were putting their index fingers up in the air dancing those stupid dances," Volin explained.

"I really hated it. I hated it so much that it started making me take it out on the music. If I didn't do something, I was in trouble. I bailed out of that."

To curb his cravings, he worked for a couple music stores, while selling and buying old guitars on the side. "I decided, I'm going to do something I like so I went back to what I knew."

Volin opened Rockin' Daddy's guitar shop at 12 S. Broadway in Lake Orion, and gathered some friends together and formed the Sonic Blues. He released his debut "Used Guitars" in 1995 and this year put out his second effort "Waking Up With Wood."

"I went in there with 20 songs and knocked them all out in two nights," he said of the recording of "Waking Up With Wood." He returned to the studio three to four months later to wrap up the vocals.

"I finally was able to put it out. I was really in debt. But I found out a long time ago that when somebody else foots the bill, you get no control, period. I know how I can best suit myself, I think," he said.

"I'm 40 something years old, I've been playing professionally more than half my life. I may not know best in how to deal with relationships because I don't but I'm always trying. When it comes to music, that's what I know."

The Anti-Freeze Blues Festival features Larry McCray, Johnnie Bassett and Blues Insurgents, Thornetta Davis and Black Beauty, Big Dave and the Ultrasonics, and Robert Jones at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 1, and Johnnie Johnson, Jim McCarty and Willie D. Warren with Mystery Train, the Butler Twins with Jeff Grand, the Reefermen, and Randy Volin and Sonic Blues at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at the Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Tickets are $15 per day, or $25 for a two-day pass. The shows are open to those 18 and older. For more information, call (248) 544-3030 or visit http://www.themagicbag.com.

Laser spectacular

The Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular is coming to the State Theatre for two shows, 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15. Tickets, which go on sale at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, are $17 in advance, $19 day of show, or $22 for reserved seating. But the first 101 people who buy their tickets from 10-11 a.m. Jan. 2, can purchase a second ticket for $1.01. For more information, call (313) 961-5451 or (248) 645-6666.

Christina Fuoco is the pop music reporter for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. If you have a question or comment for her, you can leave her a message at (734) 953-2047, mailbox No. 2130, or write to her at The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net.

MOVIES

Unexpected meeting: *Joe Fox (Tom Hanks, left to right), Frank Navasky (Greg Kinnear) and Kathleen Kelly (Meg Ryan) meet at a party in "You've Got Mail."*



BRIAN HAMILL/WARNER BROS.

'You've Got Mail' is funny

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

Love is blind so they say, and if you need proof, go see "You've Got Mail," starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

Boy meets girl in a chatroom via the Internet. Girl and boy begin to fall in love, and begin finding fault with their current lovers, without ever knowing each other's true identity.

Kathleen Kennedy, also known as Shopgirl, (Meg Ryan) owns The Shop Around the Corner, a children's bookstore started by her mother.

Joe Fox, NY152, (Tom Hanks) is opening Fox Books, a super bookstore, a few blocks near Kennedy's store. The superstore, with it's low prices and extra amenities such as a coffee bar, is a threat to Kennedy's small bookstore.

When Kennedy and Fox do meet, without knowing their true internet identities, sparks fly and a war begins.

Based on the Ernst Lubitsch comedy, "The Shop Around the Corner," "You've Got Mail," is a believable love story for our Internet Age.

Directed by Nora Ephron, "You've Got Mail" also stars Parker Posey, Jean Stapleton, Dave Chappelle, Steve Zahn and Greg Kinnear.

It's a pretty film, shot in the Upper West Side of New York, a neighborhood of small shops where owners know their customers by name. Kennedy and Fox frequently bump into each other. They both buy groceries at Zabars and pick up their coffee at the same Starbucks.

Fox lives with a brilliant, Type A personality book editor, Patricia Eden (Parker Posey). Kennedy dates newspaper columnist Frank Navasky (Greg Kinnear) a nerdy, wordy kind of guy who prefers his old typewriter to a computer. Kennedy secretly logs on to the internet after he leaves her apartment.

"You've Got Mail" is funny and romantic. "I love New York in the fall," writes Fox to Kennedy. "It makes me want to buy school supplies – make a bouquet of sharpened pencils."

Stapleton (Birdie) works in Kennedy's shop and is like a mother to her. Kennedy's mother died. Birdie's kind of an Edith Bunker character, except more worldly than the role she played on the popular 1970s TV show, "All in the Family."

"I tried to have cybersex once," she says. "But all I got was a busy signal."

When Kennedy and Fox aren't bumping into each other and fighting the battle of bookstores – "she's beautiful," says Fox, "but she's a pill," they can be quite philosophical. "I lead a small life," writes Kennedy to NY152, "I'm not brave."

Plugged into their modems, and safe in the anonymity of e-mail, Kennedy and Fox share their thoughts and weaknesses, learning about, and bringing out the best in each other.

Love triumphs in the end, and identities are revealed. There's a happy ending, but not what you might expect.

'Ned Devine' is delightful bit of Irish comic blarney

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER
hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

"Waking Ned Devine" is an amusing bit of blarney that puts wonderful character actors at center stage with often hilarious results.

Poor Ned Devine is one us poor sots who each week puts down some money in hopes of hitting the lottery jackpot, in his case the National Irish Lottery. Finally, all the balls fall into place and his numbers come in. The excitement is too much for Ned and he dies a happy man with a smile on his face.

Meanwhile, two old schemers in the small town of Tully More (pop. 53) have discovered that someone in town purchased a winning lottery ticket. Jackie O'Shea (Ian Bannen) tries to discover who in town is acting like a lottery winner so he can ingratiate himself. His friend Michael O'Sullivan (David Kelly) has his own ideas who the winner might be.

When Ned doesn't show up for a chicken dinner hosted by Jackie and his long-suffering wife Annie (Fionnula Flanagan), Jackie goes calling. He finds Ned and the ticket, which unfortunately Ned has signed.

The antics that Jackie and Michael use to convince a lottery official that Michael is Ned are just part of this comic portrait of a small Irish village in the throes of lottery fever. There is also the story of smelly pig farmer Finn (James Nesbitt), who would easily win the hand of sexy Maggie (Susan Lynch) except for his pronounced odor. Maggie is mother to the wise-beyond-his years Maurice, who gives counsel to a young novice parish priest. There is also the singing postmistress, the jovial pub keeper and the miserable Lizzy Quinn, a female Irish version of Mr. Potter and Ebenezer Scrooge.

American Kirk Jones, an award-winning commercial director, has created a loving portrait of small town life that moves quickly and nicely balances some outlandish slapstick visual comedy with touching wit and charm.

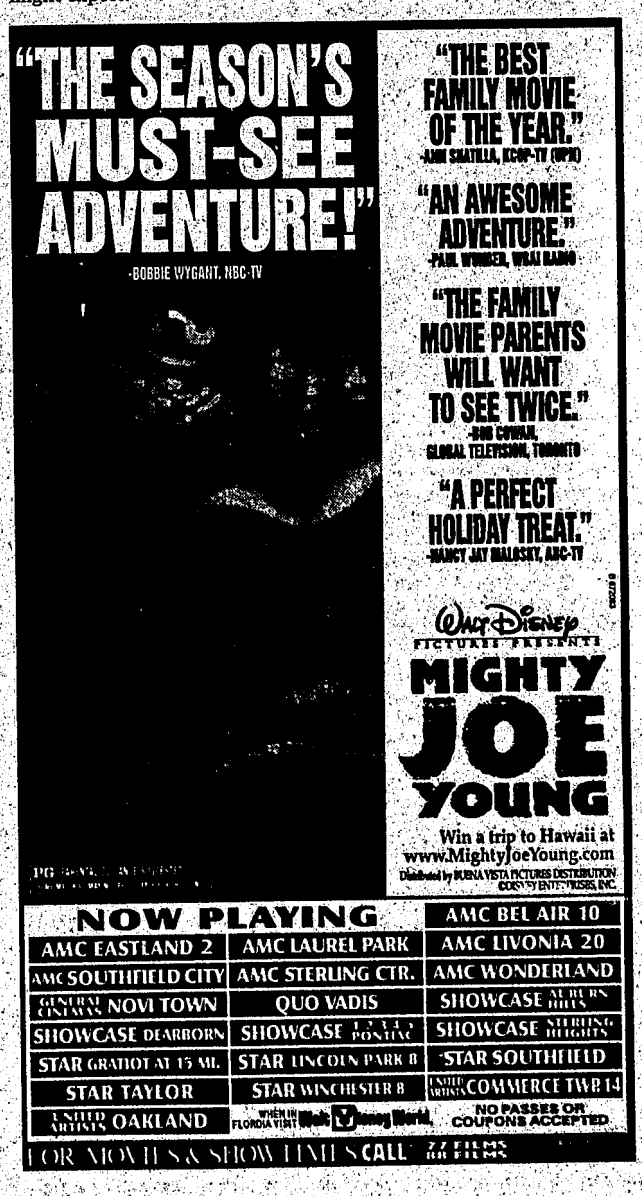
Ian Bannen's scamming Jackie is the biggest charmer of all. Bannen gives Jackie a glinting eye, a gift of gab and a real heart behind all the conniving. The well-known character actor finally gets to take the lead and he's more than up to the task. A funeral scene is particularly winning.

The emaciated David Kelly, with his long, hawklike red nose and rheumy eyes, is a howl just to look at, especially when he's racing nude on a motorcycle. He is Jackie's more gentle and considerably more nervous partner is near crime. It is Kelly that draws the belly laughs. Together these two make a wonderful Gleason-Carney match.

Holding things together is Flanagan's Annie, who gives Jackie her support only up to a point. Flanagan is a wonderful actress who gives the film a certain moral balance.

Though you probably wouldn't want to live in Tully More, writer-director Jones and photographer Henry Braham (who actually shot on the Isle of Man), have created a wonderful place to visit – an idyll of thatched roofs, winding roads, majestic cliffs, pub snugs and warm, good-hearted people.







8 days a week

A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

THEATER

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE
"Ad Altare Dei (Unto the Altar of God)," John Shea's play about faith, beauty and a priest who uses a hockey stick to straighten out sinners, through Dec. 31, at the theater, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit, 8:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. $15. (313) 868-1347 or DetRepTh@aol.com

GEM THEATRE
"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," through Jan. 3, at the theater's new location, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays ($27.50), 8 p.m. Thursdays ($27.50), 8 p.m. Fridays ($32.50), 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturdays ($32.50), 2 p.m. Sundays ($27.50) and 6 p.m. Sundays ($19.50). (313) 963-9800

JET
"Resident Alien," an intergalactic comedy of love and acceptance by Stuart Spencer, through Sunday, Jan. 3, at the theater, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. (248) 788-2900 or http://comnet.org/jet

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE
"Having Our Say," opens Jan. 6 and continues through Jan. 31 at the theater on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester. Call (248) 377-3300 for ticket information.

COLLEGE

WSU HILBERRY THEATRE
"Scapin," in rotating repertory to Feb. 3; Charles Dickens' classic "A Tale of Two Cities," runs in rotating repertory to March 4, at the theater, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. $10-$17. (313) 577-2972

COMMUNITY

THE ACTORS' COMPANY
"Agnes of God," John Pielmeier's gripping adult drama, Jan. 8-10, 15-16, and 22-23, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sunday, at the Trinity House Theatre, 38840 West Six Mile, between I-275 and Haggerty, Livonia. (248) 988-7032

BIRMINGHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS
"Deathtrap," a mystery thriller, Jan. 8-10, 15-17 and 22-23, 8 p.m. evenings, 2 p.m. Sunday matinees, at the theater 752 Chestnut, Birmingham. $12, $10 children age 18 and under. (248) 644-2075

RIDGEDALE PLAYERS
"The View from Here," a comedy a woman trapped in her house by agoraphobia, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Jan. 8-9, 15-16 and 22-23, and 3 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 17 and 24. $11, $10 seniors/students at Sunday performances. (248) 988-7049

DINNER THEATER

BACI ABBRACCI ITALIAN CHOPHOUSE
"Tony n' Tina's Wedding," an interactive theatre show with patrons having an Italian dinner, and dancing to a live band performing traditional Italian wedding songs, has an open-ended run, at the restaurant, 40 W. Pike St., Pontiac. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays. $50 Thursdays and Sundays, $55 Fridays and Saturdays, in advance at 8 W. Lawrence St., Pontiac. (248) 745-8668/(248) 645-6666

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

MARQUIS THEATRE
"Cinderella," 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, at the theater, 135 E. Main St., Northville. $6.50. (248) 349-8110

VILLAGE PLAYERS
"Cinderella," 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at the theater, 752 Chestnut, south of Maple, east of Hunter, Birmingham. $8 Wednesday and Saturday, free Thursday to anyone with a $7 First Night Birmingham button. (248) 644-2075

WILD SWAN THEATER
"The Cricket in Times Square," through Saturday, Jan. 2, Anderson Theatre at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. (734) 763-TKTS/(734) 995-0530/(248) 645-6666

SPECIAL EVENTS

DETROIT SOCIETY FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
Presents a special program consisting of a tour through the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at the museum, Milton Avenue and Frederick Douglass Avenue, Detroit. Limited to 100 people, reservation is required. (734) 722-6008

MATINEE MUSIC
Features demonstration and sales of machinery, power and hand tools and supplies, seminars, free workshops and more, noon to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 and until 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10, at the Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Drive, Novi. $7, children age 12 and under free. (800) 826-8257.

PLYMOUTH INTERNATIONAL ICE SPECTACULAR
The oldest and largest ice carving event in North America features professional and amateur competitions awarding over $10,000 in prize money, a free family winter festival Wednesday-Monday, Jan. 13-18 in downtown Plymouth. (734) 459-3157, or visit the Internet site at http://cesonline.com/plymouthice/

BENEFITS

CONCEPT: CURE FASHION JAM
Featuring cars designed by fashion designers such as a Chevrolet Cavalier Convertible by BCBG's Max Azria, an Oldsmobile Alero by Vivienne Tam, a Chevy Venture by Nicholas Graham for Joe Boxer, a GMC Sierra by Joseph Abboud, and a Pontiac Grand Am by Dana Buchman, music performances and visual displays to showcase the unveiling of five one-of-a-kind vehicles from GM, Sunday, Jan. 4, Detroit Opera House, Detroit. Benefits the Alexander J. Walt Comprehensive Breast Center at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. $125; a limited number of 12-seat boxes are $1,500. (248) 443-5800 before Dec. 29, or (313) 961-3500 afterward.

FAMILY EVENTS

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
Holiday Art Programs consisting of puppet shows, animal sculpture and puppet workshops, and a tour of the "Beastly Delights for Children: Animals in Ancient Art" exhibit are a sure to delight the whole family 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Thursday, Dec. 26-31 at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Avenue. Programs are free with noncommercial museum admission of $4, $1 children. Founders Society Members free. (313) 833-4249 or (313) 883-7900

DOUG COTLER
[illegible] Comedy Cabaret



On stage: *The Village Players of Birmingham present The Actors' Company, a professional children's theatre troupe, performing "Cinderella," a magical musical for the whole family, 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31 during First Night '99 at the Village Players Theatre, 752 Chestnut St. (south of Maple, east of Hunter), and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2. Tickets for the Thursday performance included with $7 First Night button admission. Saturday performance tickets $8. Call (248) 644-2075 for information.*

Greet 1999 at First Night in downtown Birmingham

Welcome the new year at First Night '99, a celebration of the arts for the whole family in downtown Birmingham. Buttons are $7 per person, children five and under are free. The button provides general admission to all indoor performances at First Night venues. Countdown to 1999 in Shain Park 11:45 p.m. with Steve King and the Dittilies for a Midnight Celebration. Steve King and the Dittilies will also be playing in a tent in Shain Park 8:30-9:30 p.m. and 10-11:30 p.m. Visit the Nickelodeon Game Lab in the tent at Shain Park 4:15-6:15 p.m.

For complete program listing, visit the First Night headquarters, 725 S. Adams Suite II-17, Birmingham, or call (248) 258-9076. Program guides will be available at all First Night venues. You can also get information from the website: www.technomasters.com/firstnight.

Free parking will be available Dec. 31 in city-owned parking garages 3:30 pm to 12:30 a.m.

Here's a sampling of First Night '99 events:

■ **Baldwin Library**
5- 6:30 p.m. – Pandora's Puppets
7- 9:30 p.m. – Robert Jones, blues

■ **Birmingham City Hall**
5:30-7:30 p.m. – Main Detroit Sound Company, Barbershop Quartet

■ **The Community House**
Ballroom
5-6:45 p.m. – Children's Theater of Michigan
7:15-9:45 p.m. – Shawn Jacobsz-Amazing Egghead, comedy
10:45-11:45 p.m. – Sheila Landis Trio, Music, jazz vocal
Club Room
5:30-7:15 p.m. – Classical Bells
7:45-10 p.m. – Chris Linn, magic

■ **First Baptist Church of Birmingham**
Fellowship Room
6:00-7:45 p.m. – Brad Lowe Puppets
8:15 - 11:30 p.m. – David Laabs, music
Sanctuary
5:15 - 7:30 p.m. – Brainstormers, theater - kids
8- 11:30 p.m. – Kathy Kosins, music - R&B

■ **First Church of Christ Scientist**
Auditorium
6:30-8:30 p.m. – The Celtic Pipes and Drums
9:30 -11:30 p.m. – Ginka Gerova-Ortega, flutist
Downstairs
8 p.m. – Make a New Year's Banner, hands-on activity for kids

■ **St. James Episcopalian Church**
Chapel
6:15 - 7:45 p.m. – Robert Dempster, violin, guitar, vocal
8:15 - 10:45 p.m. – Paul Vondiziano, classical guitar
Sanctuary
5 - 7:30 and 9-9:30 p.m. – David Syme, pianist
8 - 8:30 p.m. and 10-11:30 p.m. – W. John Clement, organist

ST. NICHOLAS LIGHT DISPLAY
The Domino's Farms show includes new scenes featuring an animated nativity, animated St. Nicholas set, miniature tunnel of lights leading to indoor activities, and the 1930s Coca Cola Santa Claus 6-10 p.m. nightly through Thursday, Dec. 31, along with the more than one million lights, visitors can see live reindeer, a collection of more than 20 custom decorated Christmas trees, the 13,000 square feet Winter Wonderland, a Christmas Around the World creche exhibit, an electric train big enough to give rides to children, and a children's hands-on art area, at 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive, (off Earhart Road north of Plymouth Road), Ann Arbor. Minimum donation $5 Thursday. Proceeds benefit metro Detroit children and charities this holiday season. (734) 930-4430

CLASSICAL

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
"The Bell and the Swan," selections by Haydn, Paganin, Saint-Saens, and Brahms, featuring violinist Alexander Markov, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, Ford ConcerTalks begin one hour prior to p.m. performances, this week's host is Charles Greenwell, former WQRS music director, at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. $13 to $63. (313) 576-5111

ORGAN

MOTOR CITY THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
Winter Movie Series begins with Sean Connery and Robert Shaw in "From Russia With Love," 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 (organ overture by Ron Reseigh at 7:30 p.m.), and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 (organ overtures start 30 minutes earlier), at the Historic Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser Road at Grand River, Detroit. $2.50. (313) 531-4407.

AUDITIONS

AVON PLAYERS
Open auditions for five women, nine girls and one male for Lillian Hellman's adult drama "The Children's Hour," 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10 and 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, at the playhouse, 1185 Tienken Road, east of Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. For performances March 5-7, 12-14 and 18-20. (248) 280-0206

BLOOMFIELD PLAYERS
Auditions for "Wizard of Oz," 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, for children, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, for adults, Andover High School theater, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 433-0885

PAPER BAG PRODUCTIONS
Auditions for two casts for the musical "Jack and the Beanstalk," be prepared to sing and read from script, no appointment necessary, auditioners will be taken as they arrive, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, January 10, at the Historic Players Club, 3321 East Jefferson, between Mt. Elliott and McDougall, Detroit. For performances Saturdays-Sundays from Feb. 27 to May 24 at the Historic Players Club. (810) 662-8118

PLYMOUTH ORATORIO SOCIETY
Rehearsals begin 7:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. "Mass in G" by Schubert, and "Chichester Psalms" by Bernstein will be performed. Scores may be purchased for $7 and $9, respectively. No auditions required. (734) 455-8353

ZAMIR CHORALE OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT
The independent Jewish choir holds auditions for all voice parts during open rehearsals, 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 5 and 12, at the Agency for Jewish Education, 21550 W. 12 Mile, Southfield. (313) 861-8990/(248) 851-8560

JAZZ

SANDRA BOMAR TRIO
8 p.m. to midnight Thursday, Jan. 7, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (vocal/piano/bass)

TERRY CALLIER
With Straight Ahead, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, in the main auditorium at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave. $25, $20, $15. (313) 833-4005

HEIDI HEPLER/MICHELE RAMO/TODD CURTIS
7:30-9:30 p.m. Sundays in January at the Coffee Studio, 600 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. (734) 416-9288/$3 cover, 7-10 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays at Encore in the Quality Inn, 1801 S. Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 335-3790/11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, at Via's Market, 42875 Grand River Ave., Novi. (248) 305-7333 (vocal/piano/bass)

JAZZHEAD
As part of the Detroit Rockers game, 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. Admission charge. All ages. (248) 645-6666

BETTY JOPLIN
9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 8-9, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. $5. 21 and older. (734) 662-8310

JUBILIATION RUN
The New Windsor/Detroit Jazz Club in cooperation with Steak 'N Ale presents New Orleans Jazz 3-6 p.m. beginning Saturday, Jan. 9, in the lounge at 14 Mile and I-75. $4 cover. (248) 588-4450/(248) 476-2674

MATT MICHAELS TRIO
With Cary Kocher, vibes, 8-11:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, with Marcus Belgrave, trumpet, 8-11:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills. (248) 474-4800

WALLACE RONEY QUINTET
8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 1-2, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. $15 in advance. 21 and older. (734) 662-8310

HARVEY THOMPSON TRIO
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (vocal/piano/bass)

PAUL VORNHAGEN TRIO
8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (sax and vocals/piano/bass)

URSULA WALKER AND BUDDY BUDSON
With Dan Kolton, 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursdays at Forte, 201 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 594-7300

WORLD MUSIC

IMMIGRANT SUNS
With The Hentchmen and Fez, 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Cover charge. 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com (Eastern European/rock)

FOLK/BLUEGRASS

JAN KRIST
8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Smitty's, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 652-1600. 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 8-9, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Free. 21 and older. (313) 886-8101

DANCE

CONTRA DANCE
The Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance presents a benefit dance, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2 ($8, please bring an item or service to donate for a silent auction), open jam for musicians of all levels 4-6 p.m. (free), at the Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor Saline Road, south of I-94. (734) 665-7704/(734) 332-9024

TRINITY IRISH DANCE COMPANY
8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 7-8, Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. $14, $20, $26 and $30. (734) 764-2538 or http://www.ums.org

COMEDY

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB
Hector Rezzano, Frank Turner, Alyce Faye and Joey Bielaska, Thursday, Dec. 31; Kevin McPeek, Alyce Faye and Rich Higginbottom, Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 7-9 ($12), at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Third Level Improv and new talent nights, 8 p.m. Sundays ($5). (734) 261-0555

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PAISANO'S
Norm Stulz, 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2 ($10, $22.95 dinner show package), and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3 ($6); Maryellen Hooper, 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 8-9 ($12, $24.95 dinner show package), and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10 ($10, $22.95 dinner show package), at the club, 5070 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. (313) 584-8885

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE
Dan Wilson and Kevin McPeek, Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 31-Jan. 3, at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays ($5), 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays ($6), 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays ($12), and 7:30 p.m. Sundays ($6). Prices subject to change. (248) 542-9900 or http://www.comedycastle.com

SECOND CITY
"Dalmiers are a Girl's Best Friend."

Please see next page

8 days a week

Making contact: Please submit popular music items for publication to Christina Fuoco; all others to Linda Chomin, two weeks in advance to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150 or by fax (734) 591-7279

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a fifth anniversary celebration show retrospective, 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays with additional shows at 10:30 p.m. on Fridays-Saturdays through Feb. 7, at the club, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $10 Wednesdays, Thursdays, Sundays, $17.50 on Fridays, and $19.50 on Saturdays. (313) 965-2222.

MUSEUMS AND TOURS

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Model and toy train enthusiasts gather at the museum 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2 for the third annual Glancy Trains Show featuring collector and local dealers selling model trains, accessories, structures, switches, and track, appraisals and repair estimates $2 each, noon auction of surplus items in the museum's collection in the Louise, C. Booth Auditorium, proceeds go to support the museum's Glancy Trains exhibit; "The Fantasy World of Doll Houses," through Jan. 31, at the museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby), Detroit. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Free admission Wednesdays; $3 for adults, $1.50 seniors and children aged 12-18, free for children ages 11 and younger Thursdays-Sundays. (313) 833-1805 or http://www.detroithistorical.org

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER
IMAX movies include "Tropical Rainforest" at 10 a.m. Mondays-Fridays, "Special Effects" at 1:10 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and "Everest" multiple showings seven days a week at the center, 5020 John R (at Warren), Detroit. Admission to Exhibit Hall is $3 for adults, $2 for children ages 3-15 and adults ages 60 and older, free for children ages 2 and younger. IMAX films are additional $4. (313) 577-8400

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM
The newest exhibit "Racing on the Wind: Sailing on the Great Lakes," with hands-on activities, continues 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, in the museum on Detroit's Belle Isle. $2, $1 seniors/children ages 12-18. (313) 852-4051.

CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM
"The Buffalo Soldier," a historical documentary on the African-American soldier in the U.S. Army during the years 1866-1912, through Jan. 3, , 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. $5, $3 children ages 17 and younger, free for members and children younger than 5. (313) 494-5800

POPULAR MUSIC

AHADA
9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

"ANTI-FREEZE BLUES FESTIVAL"
With Larry McCray, Johnnie Bassett and the Blues Insurgents, Thornetta Davis and Black Beauty, Big Dave and the Ultrasonics and Robert Jones, 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 1, and Johnnie Johnson, Jim McCarty and Willie D. Warren with Mystery Train, The Butler Twins with Jeff Grand, The Reefermen and Randy Volin and the Sonic Blues, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. $15 each night, $25 for two-day pass. Benefits Detroit Blues Society. 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com (blues)

ATOMIC NUMBERS
With Catherine and Papa Vegas, 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. $5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or http://www.alvins.xtcom.com (pop)

"BLIND PIG SHOWCASE"
With Age Old Profession, The Blips, The Starlings and The Moth Balls, 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Free. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (variety)

BONNE TEMPS ROULLE
8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 8-9, Smitty's, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 652-1600 (R&B)

FRANK BUSCEMI
Formerly of Frank Buscemi and the Serfs, celebrates release of CD with party and performance, 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, JD's Macomb Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Cover charge. 18 and older. (810) 913-1921 (rock)

CONNIPTION
9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 1, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (alternative rock)

TIM DIAZ BAND
10:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5080 (rock)

ELIZA
10:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, Bo's Bistro, 51 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Free. 21 and older. (248) 332-6800 (pop)

PETE "BIG DOG" FETTERS
9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Free. 21 and older. (313) 886-8101; 9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

THE GO!
With Ruiners, Pirahnas and The Lanternjack, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. $5. 18 and older. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com (rock)

G.R.R.
9 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, and Thursday, Jan. 7, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (248) 543-4300; 5-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, Rio Bravo, 240 Tower Center Dr., Dearborn. Free. All ages. (313) 271-2900; 10:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5080 (acoustic rock)

HARM'S WAY
With Conniption and The Almighty Groove, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 1, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)

JARIMELO
With Park and Gretchen Busam Ensemble, 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. $5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or http://www.alvins.xtcom.com (rock)

KNEE DEEP SHAG
With Merge, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (funk)

RICK MARTIN TRIO
10:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Bo's Bistro, 51 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Free. 21 and older. (248) 332-6800 (rock)

SCOTT MORGAN
With Slide Off Saturn and Sublimination, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)

NEPTUNES
With Sunken Road, 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or http://www.golddollar.com (jangly guitar pop)

OPIE'S DREAM
8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, JD's Macomb Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Cover charge. 18 and older. (810) 913-1921 (rock)

PEACE AMBASSADORS OF THE EARTH
10:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 1, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5080; 10:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, Bo's Bistro, 51 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Free. 21 and older. (248) 332-6800 (jam rock)

ROBERT PENN
9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

QUASAR WUT-WUT
With Face and Bullseye Virus, 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)

R.J.'S BLUES CREW
9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

KRISTIN SAYER BAND
10 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, The Lodge, 2442 Orchard Lake Road, Sylvan Lake. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 683-5458 (rock)

SHRINKING VIOLET
Celebrates release of CD with party and performance, with special guest Two-Faced Moon, 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, JD's Macomb Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Cover charge. 18 and older. (810) 913-1921 (rock)

STEVE SOMERS BAND
With Valerie Barrymore, 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty St., Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (734) 451-1213 (blues)

SUN 209
10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, Shark Club, 6650 Highland Road, Waterford. Free. 21 and older. (248) 666-4161 (rock)

2XL
9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5080 (rock)

TANGERINE TROUSERS
6-8 p.m. Thursdays in January, The Good Food Co. East, 75 W. Maple Road, Troy. Free. All ages. (248) 362-0886 (acoustic pop)

VAL VENTRO
9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, C.K. Diggs, 2010 Auburn Road, Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 853-6600 (acoustic R&B)

WILD WOODY'S
9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (248) 543-4300; 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, Shark Club, 6650 Highland Road, Waterford. Free. 21 and older. (248) 666-4161 (rockabilly)

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERTS

SAM BARNETT AND HIS ORCHESTRA
1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Jimmy Prentis Morris Building, Jewish Community Center, 15110 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. Free tickets at JPM reception desk. (248) 967-4030

BENNY AND THE JETS
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road (at Coolidge Highway), Berkley. Special menu ranging from $16.95-$36.95. Party favors and complimentary champagne toast at midnight. 21 and older. (313) 730-1627/(248) 399-6750 (rock)

BLUE ROSE
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Red Dog Saloon, 250 W. Summit, Milford. Free. 21 and older. (248) 685-2171 (blues)

"BLUE YEAR'S EVE PARTY"
With Bugs Beddow Band, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Kingsley Inn, 1475 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. $199 per couple includes appetizers, cocktails, dinner and dancing, 12 drink tickets, party favors, toast at midnight and breakfast; $289 per couple includes same plus overnight guest room. (248) 644-1400 or http://www.bugsbeddow.com (blues)

THE BLUESBURNERS
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, McCarthy's, 1600 W. Fort St., at 10th Street, Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 496-0626 (rock/blues)

RON BROOKS TRIO
With Stephanie from the Flint band Oasis, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. $50, $90 couples. (734) 662-8310 (jazz)

JUDIE COCHILL QUARTET
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Duet at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., at Mack Avenue, Detroit. (313) 831-3838 (jazz)

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
"New Year's Eve Gala," with conductor Neeme Jarvi, violinist Alexander Markov, and the Keith Saxton Orchestra, and hosted by Fox 2 television's Lucy Noland and Jackie Paige, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dinner catered by Matt Prentice and dancing on the stage with music by the Keith Saxton Orchestra follow the concert. $50-$75, $100 box seats. (313) 576-5111 or http://www.detroitsymphony.com

JIMMY DILLON
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Amer's First Street Grill, 102 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $50 for dinner and show, $20 show only, benefits Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz Festival. 21 and older. (734) 213-6000

RACHELLE FERRELL
With Storming Norman Brown, 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. $26, $36, and $50. Party favors and champagne for 11 p.m. (313) 730-3490/(248) 645-6666 (jazz)

HEIDI HEPLER/MICHELE RAMO/TODD CURTIS
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at Il Posto Ristorante, 29110 Franklin Road, Southfield. (248) 827-8070

HOWLING DIABLOS
With 60 Second Crush and Face, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. $25 includes show, hors d'oeuvres and party favors. 21 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com (R&B/rock)

IMPERIAL SWING ORCHESTRA
9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $12 in advance, only at the Blind Pig. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (swing)

JIMMIE JACKSON AND THE BLUES CONNECTION
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800

KISS
"The Psycho Circus 3D Tour," with special guest Caroline's Spine, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. $100, $75 and $45 reserved. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or http://www.palacenet.com (rock)

P.W. LONG'S REELFOOT
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Magic Stick in the Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $12. 18 and older. (313) 833-POOL (rock)

STEVE NARDELLA
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Duggan's Irish Pub, 6722 Dixie Highway, Clarkston. Free. 21 and older. (248) 625-3900 (rockabilly)

NASHVILLE PUSSY
With The Wild Bunch, Five Horse Johnson, Soul Clique, and Thee Lucky Stiffs, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. $15 in advance, $20 at the door. 18 and older. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com (rock)

"NEW YEAR JUBILEE"
With performances by Josh White Jr., O.J. Anderson, Madcat Ruth and Kane, Paul Vornhagen, Wild Swan Theatre, Al Hill and the Love Butlers, and Boychoir of Ann Arbor, 6 p.m. to midnight Thursday, Dec. 31, throughout Ypsilanti. $12.50 adults, $5 children ages 6-12, and free for children ages 5 and younger, in advance; $15 adults and $5 children at the door. (734) 483-4444/(734) 995-7281 or http://www.ypsilanti.org (variety)

SHAHIDA NURULLAH TRIO
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (jazz vocals/piano/bass)

B.B. QUEEN ROADSHOW
10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Cover charge includes champagne toast, party favors. 21 and older. (248) 543-4300 (blues)

DAVID SANBORN
With Marilyn Scott, 7:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $25, $35 and $50. 18 and older. Party favors and champagne provided for 11:30 show. (313) 961-5451 (jazz)

KIM SIMMONDS AND SAVOY BROWN
With Mudpuppy, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $20 in advance. 18 and older. (313) 833-9700 or http://www.99music.com (blues)

STUN GUN
With Queenbee, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. $5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or http://www.alvins.xtcom.com (rock)

SWING SYNDICATE
Performs as part of "Al Capone's New Year's Eve Party," 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 24 Karat Club, 28949 Joy Road, Westland. $10-$15, includes buffet and champagne toast. 21 and older. (734) 513-5030

TWISTIN' TARANTULAS
With Wailin' Inc., and the Reefermen, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. $40, $70 couples, includes champagne toast, buffet dinner and party favors. 21 and older. (248) 542-9922 (rockabilly/blues)

WITCH DOCTORS
10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Karl's Cabin, 9779 Gotfredson Road, Plymouth. $10, includes party favors, champagne toast. Cover waived with dinner. Holiday menu includes lobster tail, prime rib, 1 1/2-pound t-bone, vegetarian dishes, and fish. 21 and older. Reservations preferred. (734) 455-8450 (blues)

ALEXANDER ZONJIC
9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Bacl, 40 W. Pike St., Pontiac. $15 cover. 21 and older. (248) 253-1300 (jazz)

NEW YEAR'S EVENTS

ASCENSION U.K.
"1860s Victorian Gothic Ball," 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the club, Grand River Avenue between Griswold Road and Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Tickets at Ticketmaster. (248) 645-6666/(313) 961-5333 or http://www.ticketmaster.com

ARBOR BREWING COMPANY
New Year's Eve Titanic-themed party, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the restaurant/bar, 114 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. Costumes are encouraged; prizes for best costume. $45, includes four-course dinner, live music with Ghettobillies and Original Brothers and Sisters of Love, four-course beer sampler, and champagne toast at midnight. 21 and older. (734) 213-1393 or http://www.arborbrewing.com.

CITY CLUB
Goth club hosts New Year's Eve party with local DJs, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the club in the Ramada Hotel, 400 Bagley St. (at Cass Avenue), Detroit. (313) 962-2300

CLUTCH CARGO'S
"Swing in the New Year" with performances from The Articles and Big Barn Combo, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the club, 65 E. Huron St., Pontiac. $15 in advance. 21 and older. (248) 333-2362

"FIRST NIGHT"
Featuring performances by Steve King and the Dittillies, David Syme, Nickelodeon, Village Players Theater, Sheila Landis Trio, The Amazing Egghead, Children's Theatre of Michigan, Kathy Kosins, Ginka Gerova Ortega, Thursday, Dec. 31, throughout downtown Birmingham. $7 buttons available at Kroger stores, The Community House, Video Max, 33855 Woodward Ave., Birmingham, and the First Night headquarters, 725 S. Adams, L-17, free for children ages 5 and younger. (248) 258-9075 or http://www.technomasters.com/firstnight

INDUSTRY
New Year's ball, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the club, 15 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. $50, includes admission, drinks, buffet, party favors, balloon drop and champagne toast. 21 and older. (313) 961-MELT

JD'S MACOMB THEATRE
Swing, jazz and rock 'n' roll party with live music from an eight-piece swing orchestra, a jazz act, and rockers Tommy C. and the Burnouts, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the club, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. $15, or $25 per couple. 21 and older. (810) 913-1921

JEWISH ENSEMBLE THEATRE
"Resident Alien," by Stuart Spencer, 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. $35 includes champagne, hors d'oeuvres and "gizmos" for 6:30 p.m. show; $50 includes the same plus breakfast for 10 p.m. show. (248) 788-2900

LA BOOM
New Year's Eve party, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the club, 1172 Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. $10. (248) 926-1000

MOTOR LOUNGE
With DJs Bone and Eddie Fowlkes, 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the club, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. $20. 21 and older. (313) 369-0080 or http://www.motordetroit.com

ROYAL OAK MUSIC THEATRE
Fourth Street New Year's Eve party, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the club, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. $45 in advance, $55 at the door, and includes buffet dinner, champagne toast, hats and party favors, and continental breakfast. 21 and older. (248) 645-6666/(248) 546-6410

SINGLE SPIRIT
Single Spirit of Ward Presbyterian Church will have a 1940s Swing Party, 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, Merriman Road north of Warren Road, Westland. $40. (248) 374-5920.

VELVET LOUNGE
"Speakeasy New Year's Eve," a celebration of the repeal of prohibition, featuring complimentary champagne toast, and a performance by Superdot, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 334-7411

WESTSIDE SINGLES
New Year's Eve dance, 7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. $25, includes hot and cold appetizers, fruit and dessert table, pizza after midnight, continental breakfast, balloon drop at midnight, party hats and noise makers. 21 and older. Dressy attire (no jeans). (734) 427-9110/(734) 981-0909

WOLVERINE SILVERSPUR DANCERS
7:30 p.m. to midnight Thursday, Dec. 31, Italian American Cultural Center, 28111 Imperial St., Warren. $7, $6 WSD members. (810) 573-4993

CHARLES H. WRIGHT PARTY
"Millennium Bound" features dancing with the Maestros of Music, Mike Brown and Joe Davison and Associates, performances by the Buster Williams Quintet (jazz), Johnny Walker Quartet (jazz), Robert Penn Blues Band, Universal Xpression (reggae), and Jazzhead (acid jazz), complimentary champagne toast at midnight and party favors, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, 315 E. Warren St., Detroit. Black tie optional. $70, $125 per couple; $150, $250 per couple for VIP tickets, which include access to a private lounge with complimentary champagne and "high-end" hors d'oeuvres. (313) 494-5800

CLUB NIGHTS

ALVIN'S
"1999: All Prince, All Night," 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2. $5. 18 and older; The Sugar Shack, ladies only dance night, 10 p.m. Sundays; The Hush Party with resident DJs Melvin Hill and DJ Cent, 10 p.m. Mondays; and Club Color, featuring funk and disco, 8 p.m. Wednesdays (free before 10 p.m.), at the club, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. $5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355

ASCENSION U.K.
"Lykiska's Rapture" dream pop dance night, 9 p.m. Thursdays; "Colin's Ethereal Infusion" trip grooves, 9 p.m. Fridays; "Apocalypse," Toni's industrial/goth mic, 9 p.m. Saturdays; "Vampire: The Masquerade" with Bruce Brandenberg, 9 p.m. Sundays; "French Cuisine and Other Foreign Pop Delicacies," 9 p.m. Wednesdays; and "Healing Paths" with Mark J., 9 p.m. Wednesdays, at the club, Grand River Avenue between Griswold Road and Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Cover charge. All ages. (313) 961-5333.

BLIND PIG
"Swing-a-billy" night with dance lessons from 7-9 p.m. Sundays with DJ Del Villarreal, at the club, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $5, $3 after 9 p.m.; "Solar" night, "Too Much Booty in Yo Pants" with DJs Funk, Assault and Snake, 10 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, at the club. $10. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555

CLUTCH CARGO'S/MILL STREET
"Flashback" night with "The Planet" WPLT on level two (Clutch Cargo's), old school funk on level three, and techno and house on level four, 8:30 p.m. Saturdays, at the club, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Free before 9 p.m. 21 and older; Alternative dance night, 8 p.m. Wednesdays in Clutch Cargo's. 18 and older. (248) 333-2362 or http://www.961melt.com

THE GROOVE ROOM
Funk, hip-hop and top 40 with DJ Mac D, Thursdays. Women admitted free; "Love Factory" alternative dance night Fridays; Alternative dance with DJ Matt Saturdays; Alternative dance Tuesdays; gothic, industrial and retro with DJ Paul, Wednesdays. Free, at the club, 1815 N. Main St. (at 12 Mile Road), Royal Oak. Free before 10 p.m. nightly. 21 and older. (248) 589-3344

MAJESTIC THEATRE CENTER
"Good Sounds," with music by The Tonehead Collective and images by Thomas Video, 9 p.m. Fridays at Magic Stick. 18 and older. Free; "Work Release," Rock 'n' Bowl happy hour with bowling, music and complimentary food from the Majestic Cafe, 5-8 p.m. Fridays at Garden Bowl. $6. 18 and older; "Rock 'n' Bowl" with DJ Del Villareal, 9 p.m. Fridays and DJ Gutterball, 9 p.m. Saturdays at Garden Bowl. Free. 18 and older; "The Bird's Nest," punk rock night with live performances, 9 p.m. Mondays at Magic Stick. Free. 18 and older; "Soul Shakedown" with DJ Big Andy, 9 p.m. Tuesdays at Magic Stick. Free. 21 and older. (313) 833-9700

MOTOR LOUNGE
"Back Room Mondays," service industries employee appreciation night, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Mondays. Free. 21 and older; "Community Presents" with resident DJs, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesdays. $3. 18 and older; "Maximum Overload," 9 p.m. Fridays. $6. 18 and older; "Divine" with DJs Mike Clark, Mark Flash and Brian Gillespie, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturdays. $6. 21 and older, all at the club, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. (313) 396-0080 or

ONE X
"Men 4 Men" New York-style dance party with DJ St. Andy spinning high-energy, progressive house, 10 p.m. Fridays; "Family Funktion Internal Groove" DJ Alton Miller, 10 p.m. Saturdays, at the club, 2575 Michigan Ave., Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 964-7040

ST. ANDREW'S/THE SHELTER
"Three Floors of Fun," 9 p.m. Fridays. $3 before 11 p.m., $5 afterward. 18 and older; X2K dance night, 10 p.m. Saturdays; "Incinerator," 9 p.m. Wednesdays in The Shelter. $6. 21 and older. St. Andrew's and The Shelter are at 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com

24 KARAT CLUB
"Latin Dance Night" 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., Thursdays. $3; Live music Fridays and Saturdays (see popular music calendar); Swing lessons for advanced dancers, 8 p.m. Tuesdays ($3 for 21 and older, $5 for 18 and older), and for beginners, 8 p.m. Wednesdays ($3 for 21 and older, $5 for 18 and older), 28949 Joy Road, Westland, (734) 513-5030

Please your palate from Van Gogh's palette

BY ELEANOR HEALD
SPECIAL WRITER

Michigan's third busiest corner, 12 Mile Road and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills, is home to the new Van Gogh's Improv Grill. The name screams for explanation.

First, "Improv" is not short for improvisational, as in theater, but rather a "make it up as you go" food theme.

Is it fair to consider Van Gogh's works improvisational art? Perhaps. Did Van Gogh use a palette? Most certainly and so will you if you eat there. It's fair to say that Van Gogh colored outside the lines. So does this eatery.

To really understand the whole Van Gogh bit, you have to go there.

In Van Gogh's visually stimulating environment, the bar plays on Starry Night and the wall mural (still a work in progress) is Paris Cafe. There are sunflowers, lilacs and painter's palette wall sconces.

As a diner, after some briefing by a waitperson, you walk through a buffet-like setting where you first pick up your palette and place on it a bowl for your primary colors: meat, seafood or vegetables from nearly endless choices. Complementary colors: sauces, oils and spices go in the smaller bowl.

Transport your full palette to the grill area (think of it as a huge wok) and have it cooked in about three minutes by one of Van Gogh's grill masters.

When you arrive back at your table, your server will have brought steamed rice and tortillas to enhance your self portrait or grilled masterpiece.

Van Gogh's Improv Grill

Where: 27909 Orchard Lake Road (at 12 Mile Road in Orchard-12 Mall), Farmington Hills (248)324-0400.
Hours: Monday-Wednesday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday until 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday from noon to 10 p.m.
Menu: creative interactive dining theme where you can choose everything you want to eat and watch it being cooked at an open grill.
Cost: Moderate with lunch $5-10 and dinner one price $13 that includes a trip to the salad bar.
Reservations: Accepted Sunday-Wednesday only.
Credit cards: All majors accepted.

Among food choices for your bowl, you could have gone Oriental all the way, taken a Mexican twist or created a unique American BBQ. If your mind is a blank canvas, then you can get inspired by reading Your Sketch Book (a.k.a menu) for recipe suggestions such as a new twist on Surf and Turf.

To create it, you're instructed to add beef, shrimp, pea pods, mushrooms, red onions, red and green peppers to the big bowl. The little bowl gets Worcestershire, soy sauce, garlic oil, chili powder, black pepper and garlic. A grill master does the rest for you!

Feel like going South of the Border? Chicken, tomatoes, scallions, onions, green peppers and mushrooms get together in the big bowl for the El Sombrero. Salsa, chili powder, crushed red pepper, cumin powder and salt are the medley in the small bowl. Do a chacha in the grill line and shout Olé!

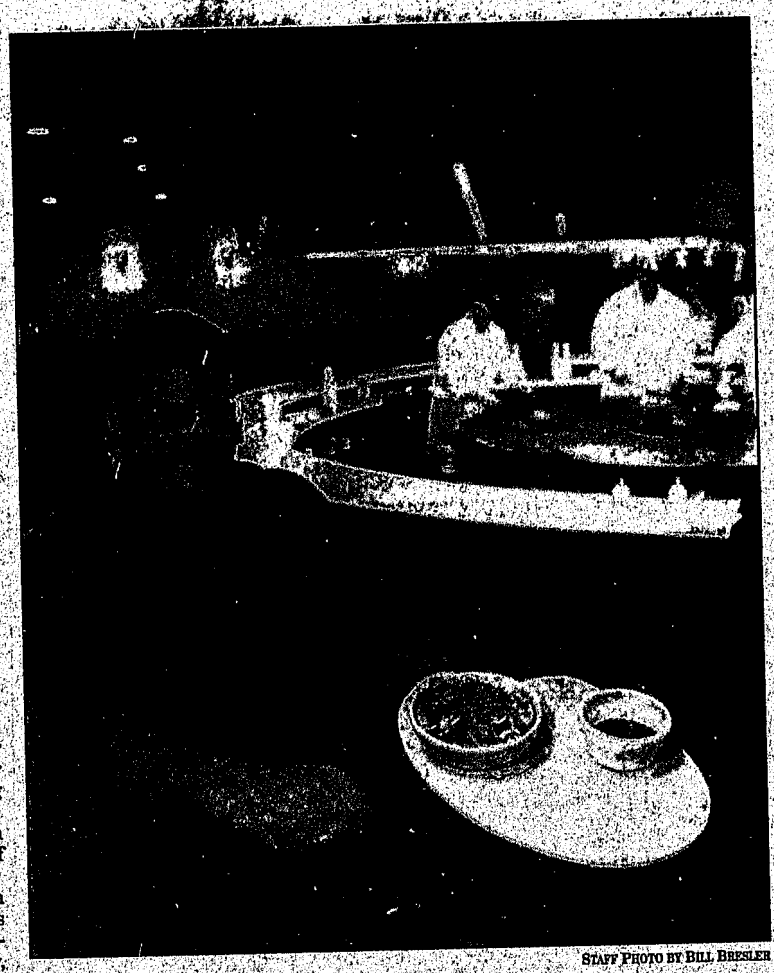
If you don't like sitting through a whole dining experience, Van Gogh's lets you move around and even go back a second time. It's Unlimited (a.k.a. all you can eat). There are no boundaries, no limits. Your second Unlimited need not duplicate your first. You're in control here. Go for the gusto and express your culinary artistry.

The Van Gogh idea is the inspiration of owners William Gitre, and brothers Duane and Tom Gmerek. They also own Roosevelt's Billiards Bar & Grill at the east end of the Orchard-12 Mall, a stone's throw from Van Gogh's. These three owners are not only into art, but history, as in Teddy Roosevelt, the major theme played out in this popular tavern that has been going strong for over five years.

As a bigger than life Van Gogh greets you at the entrance of "his" place, Teddy does in "his".

Faithful execution of the Van Gogh's palette play on words is done by general manager Stewart Sloan, who when it's busy, grabs a spatula and starts grilling.

The full service bar area is a cool place to hang out with friends, even on a cloudy night (no stars, get it?). Seven beers are on tap; 17 more by the bottle. If you like wine, there are 14, all served by the glass ($4.50-6) or bottle ($21-26).



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

At your service: *General manager Stewart Sloan at the new Van Gogh's Improv Grill where you can create your own culinary masterpiece.*

In a place like Van Gogh's, you won't need a kid's menu if you come as a family. Everybody's sort of a kid here. Van Gogh's is fun, especially if you like playing with your food!

WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in What's Cooking to Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, fax (248) 591-7279, or e-mail kwgyonik@oe.homecomm.net

■ **A Southwest Feast** – 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27 at Morels (248) 642-1094 and Thursday, Jan. 28 at No. VI Chophouse & Lobster Bar, (248) 305-5210. Cost, $34.95 per person, not including tax and gratuity. Call for reservations/information.

■ **Pick-A-Bone Rib House & Saloon** – 30325 Six Mile Road, Livonia, (734) 762-RIBS or (734) 762-2063, celebrates its one-year anniversary on Jan. 28. Restaurant hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, closed Sunday.

■ **LaShish Restaurant** – Is planning a mid-January opening at the corner of Canton Center and Ford Road in Canton. It will be the seventh LaShish Restaurant in the metro-Detroit area. Keep reading the dining page for details.

■ **Bailey's Pub & Grille** – Just opened, 1777 Canton Center Road, Canton, (734) 844-1137. Menu includes salads, soups, sandwiches, gourmet burgers, baby back rips, pasta dishes, fish & chips, hickory grilled chicken, shrimp on a skewer, broiled or Cajun salmon. Open 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily.

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