

Merry Christmas to All

Plymouth District Library  
223 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, Mich. 48170



# Plymouth Observer

Your hometown newspaper serving Plymouth and Plymouth Township for 115 years

Sunday, December 24, 2000

hometownnewspapers.net

75c

Volume 115 Number 34

Plymouth, Michigan

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### HOLIDAY HOURS

**In the city:** Except for the treasurer's office, the general city offices will be closed Dec. 25 through Jan. 2. The treasurer's office will be open Dec. 27-28 to handle walk-ins who wish to pay taxes or other city bills. Residents may also use the 24-hour payment drop boxes in the Church Street lobby of City Hall and the Plymouth District Library. All tax payments dropped in the boxes will be processed by Jan. 3 and will be considered received by Dec. 31.



**In the township:** Offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25-26, and Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 1-2. Township offices will be open Dec. 27-28 from 8 to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, Dec. 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Offices will be open Jan. 3-5 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Taxes must be paid or dropped off by Dec. 28 to be considered paid.

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## Season of giving



Helping hands: Plymouth Rotarian Paul Dillon, right, cuts a board as John Folino, left, lends a hand. The Rotarians, along with some help from Horton Plumbing, assembled a handicap ramp in front of the trailer of Steve and Terry Buentello. Kirk Kohn is at rear, watching.

## Plymouth dealer helps make girl's wish come true

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER  
bkadrich@oe.homecomm.net

Robin's eyes light up as she ponders the question. "I've never been!" she says of her upcoming trip to Disney World. "It's gonna be fun!"

The 11-year-old from Inkster, recovering from a heart transplant, will get her chance to meet Mickey, Donald Duck and the gang thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan and Plymouth auto dealer Lou LaRiche Chevrolet.

LaRiche sales employees were among those who helped finance the wish through donations on each new car sold.

Please see WISH, A1

## Rotary rides to the rescue

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER  
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Terry and Steve Buentello lean back in their dual recliners, each burdened by individual pain that now plagues them as a whole.

Steve has long suffered from chronic bouts of rheumatoid arthritis that attack his joints. In recent months, renal failure has chased him into kidney dialysis. A rare form of bone cancer appears to be wrapping itself around Terry's sacrum.

The pain forced Terry first to crutches, then to a wheelchair when she couldn't walk. Getting around their Plymouth Hills home got to be problematic; getting out of it was nearly impossible.

That led the Buentellos to start looking for a handicap ramp on the outside of their home. First estimates came in at about \$4,600, a price too high for a couple forced to use their savings and credit cards to survive. That's where the Plymouth Rotary Club

came in. After getting a tip from the Goodfellows, Rotary Club members came to the Buentellos' rescue, building a ramp outside the house that will now allow easier access.

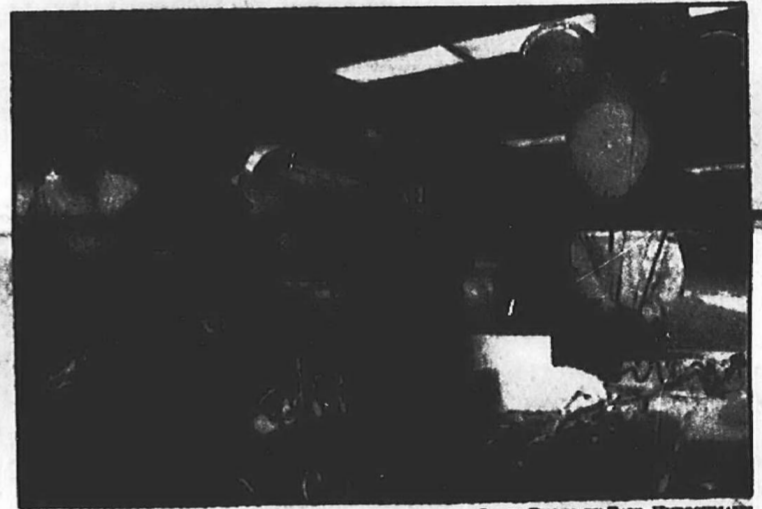
"Rotary was a God-send," Terry Buentello says bluntly. "I didn't even know they did things like that."

The Family Independence Agency was the first place the Buentellos looked for help. Four months passed, with no assistance in sight. Rotary's Carrie Blamer, after getting a call from the Goodfellows, called Terry Buentello and asked if the club could come take a look.

Last week, construction of the ramp began.

"It was amazing, especially how fast they came out," Terry said. "I'd been waiting four months."

Please see RAMP, A3



Robin Carvin of Inkster, 11, unwraps a present from the staff at Lou LaRiche Chevrolet Wednesday. The youngster, who suffers from a rare type of cancer and who underwent a heart transplant in September, will travel to Disney World with her family courtesy of the Plymouth auto dealership in conjunction with the Make A Wish Foundation.

## School district suffers 2nd key departure

BY BRAD KADRICH  
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Errol Goldman has seen friends and colleagues reach the point of retirement, then be unable, for whatever reason, to take advantage of it. He didn't want that for himself.

Goldman, for 10 years the Plymouth-Canton School District's assistant superintendent for personnel and employee relations, announced his retirement this week, effective Jan. 17.

"It just seemed like time," said Goldman, who came to the district out of private law

practice. "I've planned for it. I've always said, 'When I can go, I'm going to go.'"

Goldman joined Plymouth-Canton schools in July 1990, after three years in private practice and 10 years with Ann Arbor Schools. He has frequently been the diving rod for controversy, leading the dis-

trict in contract negotiations.

"I think you've had a real hard job," board member Sue Davis said. "My sense is often times you've been a scapegoat, and it takes a special person to handle a job like that."

It's the second announced departure in recent weeks. Assistant Superintendent for

Instruction Patrick O'Donnell announced last week he is leaving to become superintendent of schools for the Fenton school district.

The departures leave Plymouth-Canton with a couple of big sets of shoes to fill, according to Kathleen Boohar, Ph.D.,

Please see GOLDMAN, A4

## New bank beats finance deadline

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
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tbruscato@oe.homecomm.net

Plymouth's first community bank in nearly 40 years will open its doors early next year.

Plymouth Financial Corporation has raised enough capital to receive approval by state regulators to open New Liberty Bank, which is scheduled to buy the assets and debts of Peoples State Bank in Plymouth for approximately \$1.3 million.

"We made it over our largest hurdle, raising capital of \$8 million without any kind of brokerage," said Michael Weaver, chairman of Plymouth Financial Corporation and president and CEO of New Liberty Bank. "We did it ourselves during one-on-one meetings with investors who invested anywhere from the minimum of \$10,000 up to \$750,000."

Plymouth Financial Corporation, which began selling stock last July, had until 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15 to raise its capital, and did so with only minutes to spare as corporation members met with investors

Please see BANK, A4

## Kendal's coming out party



Happy birthday: Cindy White holds her new born daughter Kendal at St. Mary's Hospital after birth. See the special story about the hours leading to Kendal's birth on Page D4.

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**Happy face:** Robin wipes away a tear as brother Justin opens a gift from the dealership. Mom Sharon Carvin of Inkster is at left.

**Wish** from page A1

But they took the program one step further, chipping in as much as \$100 apiece to help make Robin's wish a reality.

When the idea that, in addition to participating in the foundation's Wish Match 25 Program, the sales staff also get personally involved, there was no shortage of volunteers.

"Without hesitation, hands went up," said Scott LaRiche. "It makes us feel real good. I'll give my dad (Lou LaRiche) a plug; he leads by example. He's very involved in the community and by that example without hesitation our employees get involved."

Robin was diagnosed 16 months ago with a type of cancer that attacks the kidneys. Complications from the disease led her to the University of Michigan Hospital, where she underwent a heart transplant in September.

"It's been tough," said Robin's mother, Sharon Carvin. "I didn't think they'd find a heart, but they did."

Sharon Carvin doesn't have any idea who donated the heart, but she's hoping the family will contact her, because she wants to thank them.

"I'm hoping and praying they contact me," she said. "I'd tell them I'm grateful because it saved Robin's life, but I'm sorry for their loss."

In addition to helping with the

Make-A-Wish program, LaRiche employees are also contributing sponsors in Robin's trip to Florida by virtue of the approximately \$2,400 they raised in personal contributions.

"We're real excited to be involved," Scott LaRiche said. "It's a real feel-good thing for us."

It's all in a day's work for Make-A-Wish, which granted 332 wishes last year and hopes for 375 this year (the Foundation's fiscal year runs from September to September).

"We try to make it an unparalleled experience," said Matt Shinabarger, the foundation's manager of national partnerships. "For us, it's more than granting children's wishes. It's a chance for the family to come together in the child's joy. Our goal is to make them forget about the doctors and the pain for a short time."

For more information on the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan, call toll-free (888) 857-WISH.

**Dodge dealer helps woman with car trouble**

BY BRAD KADRICH  
 STAFF WRITER  
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After more than two years of struggling to keep her car running, Tammie Gramling of Adrian was beginning to wonder if things were ever going to change.

Along came Dick Scott Dodge of Plymouth, heeding a call from television reporter Bill Spencer, to bail Gramling and her family out of a jam.

The Plymouth car dealership Thursday handed Gramling, a first-grade teacher, the keys to a 1994 Ford Taurus, ending the woman's search for reliable transportation.

"We want to help when it's a good reason to help," said Jason Scott, the dealership's general sales manager. "(Spencer, a Channel 7 reporter) contacted us and said he had someone in need, and we said we'd love to help."

Gramling, who has a young daughter and parents who are seriously ill, had been fighting a seemingly unending battle since her last car broke down in October 1998. She bought the car and, after driving it less than 200 miles, began having trouble with it.

Endless squabbles between Gramling, the Adrian repair

shop where she took the car to get it fixed, and the warranty company began, winding up in court over who should pay for the repairs. At one point, the warranty company offered a new engine in exchange for being removed from Gramling's lawsuit, but even that failed to settle the problem.

During all of that, Gramling's mother was diagnosed with bone cancer and her father, R.T., underwent a pair of heart operations. With all of that on her mind, Gramling was about to break.

"My mother's cancer is coming back, and they basically told me there's nothing more they can do for my father," Gramling said.

Finally, Gramling contacted Channel 7's Spencer, who is the station's "watchdog" reporter. Spencer, in turn, got hold of Dick Scott Dodge. Owner Dick Scott arranged for Gramling to get the '94 Taurus.

"It's good transportation, which is what she needs," Jason Scott said. "It's a great car."

Gramling is happy her auto travels are over.

"There aren't words to say how happy I am they're helping," Gramling said. "I'm grateful for what they're doing for me, but also what they're teaching my daughter, that there really are people willing to help."



**Tami Gramling, right, wipes away a tear as she accepts a used car from Dick Scott, right, or Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth Thursday.**

**Ramp** from page A1

The Buentellos' story, and the resultant need, brought out the best helping instincts in the club. "When you hear their story, it's amazing," Blamer said. "We felt like we had to do something to help them."

The story is pretty amazing. Steve Buentello, 45, has suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for 15 years, and Terry has always taken care of him. Last year, he developed a boil which had to be removed. According to Terry, doctors never drew blood work. A week later, he was so weak he couldn't walk.

"His blood pressure was so low," Terry remembered. "They did the blood work and found out his kidneys had about shut down."

In the meantime, Terry was dealing with her pain. Her first doctor diagnosed the lump in her hip as a knotted muscle and ordered no further tests. In December 1998, Terry had had enough of her pain, and convinced her doctor to order an MRI. The test confirmed Terry's fears: A tumor. He sent her to an orthopedic surgeon, who told the frightened Terry it looked as though the tumor were wrapping itself around the bone.

The surgeon then sent Terry to an oncologist at the University of Michigan.

"I knew what that meant when I heard the word oncologist," she said. "Otherwise, I felt good, except for the pain."

Steve had been in the hospital due to complications from his kidney shutdown. Two weeks after he got out, Terry had to deliver the news: She had cancer.

"I couldn't believe it," Steve said. "The things I was going through, and then I find out about (Terry). I couldn't believe it."

Once active,

Terry now can barely walk. Her doctors referred her to other doctors in Massachusetts, where they tried proton radiation. Then came the radical recommendation: remove the sacrum. Her leg would no longer be attached to anything, but she'd still have the left leg. She wouldn't walk normally, but she could use crutches. She agreed.

She got through post-operative physical therapy — though there were some complications — and was actually getting around pretty well. Then the pain started in her other leg. She had more tests and, in February 2000, got a good news/bad news talk with her doctor: the CT scan of her pelvis looked clean, but the cancer had metastasized into her lungs.

Doctors wanted to do chemo, though the success rate, she said, isn't good. They decided to try it for three months and, if there was little improvement, stop the treatments.

"That's what ended up happening," Terry said. The couple endures. Steve is on the kidney transplant list at U-of-M, though the couple hasn't heard anything. Terry's prognosis is less clear. "I could go tomorrow, or I could live a long time," she said. "Who knows?"

Still, the couple remain upbeat yet pragmatic. Although she sometimes blames him for burdening them, Terry attributes the couple's ability to cope to God. She also says the moods sometimes swing wildly.

"Either you're going to cry hysterically or you're going to laugh," she said, a slight smile creasing her lips. "Sometimes, I do a little of both."

Steve's approach is a little more blunt, and it's how the couple are getting through the tough times:

"What are you going to do?" he asks rhetorically. "Jump off a bridge?"

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 MON 3-00, 6-30, 9-25

**MISS CONGENIALITY (PG-13)**  
 SUN 11-50, 2-10, 4-30  
 MON 4-30, 7-15, 9-30

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 MON 4-45, 7-30, 9-15

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 MON 4-15, 8-45, 9-15

**NOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG-13)**  
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 MON 4-40, 7-10, 9-35

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# 'All I want for Christmas'

## Local kids share their holiday wishes with Santa Claus

**Dear Santa,**

For this Christmas, I want a scooter, telescope, and a fish lamp. I have been good at school and at home. I hope you bring what I want. I will not have a fire in the fireplace, so you can leave my gifts under our tree without burning your suit. I will leave some cookies for you and carrots for your reindeers. I hope the grince won't come this year. Merry Christmas.

Love,  
Aaron  
Plymouth

**Hi Santa,**

Looking forward to having you come for milk and cookies at our house.

Love,  
Brittany, Lauren and  
Nicholas  
Plymouth

P.S. We like lots of toys.

**Dear, Santa**

I would like Amazing Ally, a scooter, and a lap top computer, and maybe some nail polish. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,  
Nicole  
Plymouth

**Dear Santa,**

I want silver version for game boy. I also want a pokemon battle stadium. Thank you.

Love,  
Mark  
Plymouth

P.S. You're cool!!

**Dear Santa.**

I hope you have a fun time at Christmas. Thank you for the presents.

Love  
Shannon  
Plymouth

I love you

**Dear Santa,**

I want for Christmas a teacher's pet, 3 billy goats gruff with finger puppets, hit the mole game, and a September birthday bear.

Love,  
Jessica Schroeder  
Plymouth

**Dear Santa,**

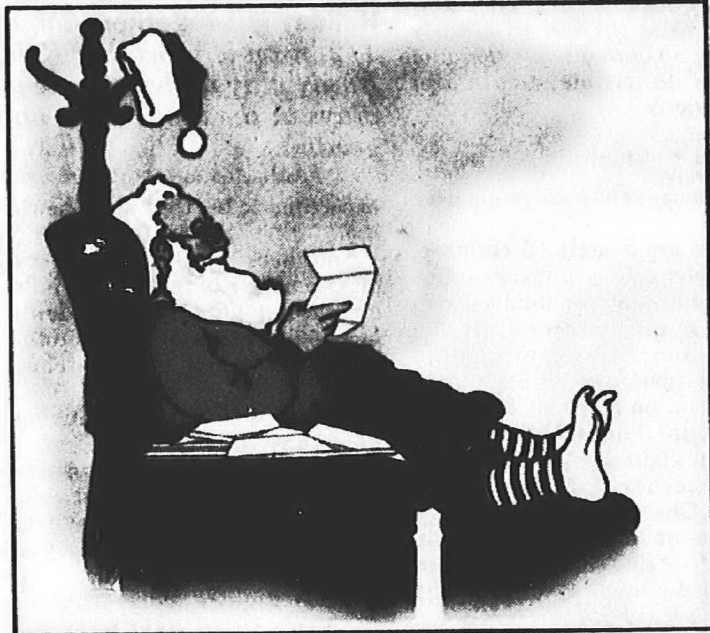
I hope you don't have trouble delivering eveyones presents! I have a few things I want and a poem to share. I hope you have a happy Christmas

Christmas day horray horray

Like a horse going neh neh  
What shall I wear  
Should I curl my hair  
Because I look like a fuzzy bear

The End  
Katie's Wish List  
A keyboard, walkie talky, me and my shadow, jewel girl barbie, neon tetra fish, a huge panda beanio baby, charlies angels movie, charlies angels CD, bring it on move, 88 degree CD and more snow.

From  
Katie  
Plymouth



**Dear Santa Claus,**  
Thank you for the letter you sent me. Please if you can bring kit the new A.G. doll. I've had two snow days out of school. I'll make sure I live some cookies for you and a snak for your reindeer.

Your friend,  
Stephanie  
Canton

P.S. My sister does not have as much as time to write you a letter so please bring her a kit A.G. doll too. Her name is Lindsey Petrusha.

**Dear Santa,**

You've been watching me say what I want for christmas this year. I really want a new razor scooter for christmas. Will you mail me a letter to say if I've been good or not. Make sure you bring me a scooter. Tell the elves I want something good in my shoe on 12/12/00.

Thank you,  
Love Ashley

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Dear Santa Claus,**

I think I've been good. Can you please get me a poo-shy? poo-shy comes with a bone and he sings six different song. would you make him sing christmas songs? will you get me a bear in need of a holiday home! they are tiny.

love,  
Kay  
Plymouth

**Dear Santa,**

I would like to have a red, blue green or hot pink scooter. A girls basketball and soccer ball. A pokemon CD, a new tea set and hope my daddy can come home for Christmas.

Love,  
Gabrielle  
Canton

**Dear Santa,**

I have been good this year. I would like a walker t tool man and a talking choo choo train.

Love,  
Nicholas  
Canton

**Dear Santa,**

I love you with all my heart and I care about you. For

baby doll with peas and a real kitten named Joey.

Love,  
Avery  
Canton

**Dear Santa,**

I love you. I hope you will have fun. You make me feel so happy. You do a lot's of work. and Merry Christmas.

Love,  
Alyson  
Canton

P.S. Please bring me seecer-it jronl.

**Dear Santa,**

What I wan't for Christmas is snow pants, cd's, some boks to read, but most of all I want to be with my family. They have cared for me my whole life, they supported me, helped me when I needed help, and

showed me that they are the most wonderful, loving, and caring people a son could ever have. The reason I would like snow pants is because whenever I go outside and play in the snow my pants get all wet, but with snowpants that won't happen. So in other words I just her to be able to let her have more time to enjoy with her family. The reason I won't some od's is because I like listening to music and I'll have something to do when I get bored. The reason I would like some books is because I enjoy reading and it is also something I can do when I get bored. So I hope I'm on your Christmas list this season. I think I've been pretty good.

Sincerely,  
Tyler  
Canton

**Dear Santa Claus,**



Brittany, Lauren & Nicholas

Hi! This is Amber. I am 8. You can choose something from my list please.

- List
1. CD (portable please) player
  2. Piano
  3. Foo-chi
  4. Karoke set
  5. Chapter books (Nancy Drew, Mary Kate and Ashley, or other writers)
  6. Candy wrappers (for my collection)
- P.S. And a Healthy Merry Christmas  
Ohhh! Oops, I forgot the most important thing!!!!  
A GREAT CHRISTMAS TO ALL PEOPLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
Amber, Canton

give in  
to the magic

Throughout these festive, frantic days, a real magic does remain. Take time to enjoy it with the ones who matter most to you.

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# Goldman from page A1

Plymouth-Canton's superintendent. Marcees Martin, Ph.D., retired superintendent of Fennelle Schools, is filling O'Donnell's position on an interim basis; Booher figures to do the same thing with Goldman's.



Errol Goldman

him, Errol delivered. That was very important in this first year while I got acclimated."

School board members were, as might be expected, generous in their comments at Friday's meeting.

"I'm going to miss your sense of humor," trustee Lis Givens said. "We've had some pretty spirited discussions."

Board president Dar Watts pointed out the district and Goldman had always seemed a good fit.

"The district has served you well, and you've served the district well," Watts said. "It's nice, on that note, to go on to the next phase of life."

**'The district has served you well, and you've served the district well.'**

**Darwin Watts**  
—School board president

Goldman isn't exactly sure what his plans are, except to enjoy his retirement. He and his wife, Candi, will move to the other side of the state and take it from there.

"Then we'll do whatever we feel like doing," Goldman said. "I'll probably do some legal work and just take it easy."

## PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

### Chorus auditions

The 120-member Plymouth Community Chorus presents its annual Spring concert April 28-29, with rehearsals starting Jan. 9.

Open auditions for new members will be held Tuesday, Jan. 2, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Auditions by appointment take place Jan. 9, Jan. 16, Jan. 23 and Jan. 30 beginning at 7 p.m. All auditions take place at the First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial Road, west of Sheldon.

First sopranos, tenors and basses are especially needed, but there are openings for second sopranos and altos.

The Plymouth Community Chorus is in its 28th season. Persons wishing to become a member can call (734) 455-4808 for an audition appointment.

### Symphony concert

Nan Washburn and the Plymouth Symphony principal players ring in the New Year with a chamber concert of miniature masterpieces Saturday, Jan. 27 at 8 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial Road in Plymouth.

Washburn conducts a mini-orchestra of the PSO's 10 principal musicians performing smaller, intimate versions of works by Claude Debussy, Johannes Brahms and Bohuslav Martinu. Guest artist and PSO principal bassist Andrew Lee Wolfgang Anderson adds a bit of theater to the mix with a performance of American composer Tom Johnson's *Falling: A Very Difficult Piece for Solo Bass*.

Ticket holders are invited to attend an informal On-Stage "chat" with Washburn prior to the concert at 7:15 p.m. at the church. Following the performance, audience members are welcome to attend an Afterglow reception hosted by E.G. Nick's at 500 Forest Avenue in downtown Ply-

### mouth.

Anderson's appearance is sponsored by the Plymouth Rotary Foundation. This program is supported by a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Admission is \$14 for adults and \$12 for seniors and college students. School age children (K-12) are admitted free. Groups of 10 or more receive a 10-percent discount. For tickets, season subscriptions or more information, contact the symphony office, 451-2112, email plymouthsymphony@aol.com or visit the symphony's website at www.plymouthsymphony.org.

### Water heater check

Owners of water heaters manufactured between 1993 and 1996 might have a defective part and not know about it until it is too late, according to Rick Bowling, owner of AmeriSpec Inspection Service of Plymouth.

Most water heaters manufactured during that time frame had a defective dip tube manufactured by Perfection Corporation. Rheem, AO Smith, Bradford White, Lochinvar, State and American are among the brands affected.

The dip tube is a plastic part that directs cold water to the bottom of the tank, where it can be most effectively heated. The Perfection dip tubes were made with a defective resin that crumbles over time, causing a lack of hot water and poor water flow at faucets, Bowling said.

"One of the sad things is that some consumers have replaced perfectly good appliances that only needed a proper cleaning or replacement of the dip tube," Bowling said.

Most water heater manufacturers are participating in a repair-and-replacement program, but that program ends at the end of the month, Bowling said. Customers can call 1-800-329-0561 or visit www.diptubeshellment.com to determine if the defective dip tube affects their heater.

# Three's company

## Triplet group a hit with families

When last we visited with Carole and Jim Kody of Canton and their group of triplet families late in the summer of 1998, the trios of children ranged in age from then 4-month-old Kyle, Abigail and Emily Lindbloom to the eldest, Elizabeth, Philip and John Kody, then 15 months.

The Lindblooms are now 2½ years old and the Kody's now 3½. The original group of seven families has grown to 17 and given themselves a moniker, "Aftershock X 3," (pronounced "aftershock times three").

We caught up with the Canton-based triplet family group again for a holiday party at the Kody's. Labor pains and pregnancy concerns have turned to simply keeping up with a triple threat of toddler tantrums, trials and tribulations.

BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN  
STAFF WRITER  
phurschmann@oe.homecomm.net

There are exactly 25 children, 18 adults and a photographer running around the family room, kitchen and basement of the Kody home in a comfortable neighborhood west of Beck Road in Canton on a recent Saturday afternoon. That's eight sets of triplets, eight sets of parents, a grandmother, a family friend and an Observer photographer.

It is — as hostess Carole Kody warned — "rather loud." But not nearly as loud as one might expect considering the number of young children. Sure, there is the occasional wail of crying from one, or more of the siblings.

Natalie Gannon of Livonia, 3, begins screaming. Soon her sister Madeline follows. Brother Gregory investigates. He, too, begins the familiar yowl.

"I'm right here," assures Susan Gannon, returning to Natalie's view. "They're still at that stage. If I'm not where they

**'They're up and running constantly. They're tugging at you and you don't know what they're saying.'**

**Rick Lindbloom**  
—Father of triplets



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

**Holiday get-together: Abigail Lindbloom of Canton, 2 1/2, from left, brother Kyle, mom Lisa and sister Emily play with a puzzle while the original "Grinch," plays in the tape player on television in the background.**

expect me to be, they start howling."

And there is the occasional cry of pain as one of the triplets falls off a teeter-totter, or rolls down a couple of steps onto his brother's head before mom catches them.

"I think it's more challenging now that they're older," said Rick Lindbloom of Canton. "They're up and running constantly. They're tugging at you and you don't know what they're saying."

"They require more physical attention," adds his wife, Lisa Lindbloom. "It's more tiring."

The group started with the original seven moms who had met and become friends through their

experiences with a triple dose of babies at Oakwood Hospital. Aftershock X 3 grew as other families with triplets were referred through friends and family members.

"I was shopping at JC Penny in the Westland Mall in late summer," said Pam Ealem of

Canton, mother of Megan, Shelby and Haley, 2 — as well as older brother Travis, 4. "My mother was with me and we were buying dresses and a woman overheard me say how hard it was to shop for three of the same of everything."

"Well, she knew Carole (Kody) and she put her in touch with me. And, then I met Jeanne (Page, of Canton) out on a walk."

The women get together once a month. Without kids. "We go to a different restaurant every month," said Kody. And it's great. We're with a group of others who really understand what you're going through."

The dads usually handle the kids for the days when the moms meet. The men usually only get together only once a year — twice, if they're lucky — without moms and toddlers.

The families also get together whenever they can. This year it was St. Patrick's Day, Fourth of July and Halloween, in addition to the holiday gathering at the Kody's.

The group decided it was growing too large and now sends new triplet parents to another group of metro area parents of multiples. To contact that group call Livonia resident Barb Elandt, (734) 522-3506.

## Bank from page A1

until the last minute. Plymouth Financial Corporation has 161 shareholders, most of whom are members of the Plymouth community, according to Weaver.

"We expect to have a smooth transition, and not a lot will change," added Weaver. "It will be the same building, same people servicing accounts, the same loans. Everything that's here will just have the New Liberty Bank name on it. We'll keep customers informed of the changes."

Plymouth's last true community bank was Plymouth United Savings Bank, which was sold in 1952 to National Bank of Detroit. Weaver said along with having local owners, the community bank has its own philosophy.

"The deposits are gathered

**'We expect to have a smooth transition, and not a lot will change.'**

**Michael Weaver**  
—New Liberty Bank

from the community and loaned back to the community," he said. "More than 75 percent of the loans in this office (Peoples State Bank) have been made to people in Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Community banking is more relationship and service driven."

New Liberty Bank will remain in the current offices in Charlestown Square on Main Street. However, when the Mayflower Centre is completed sometime this summer, it will

become one of the new tenants, leasing 6,000-square-foot of space.

"We're excited about being in the new main office," said Weaver. "We'll be able to have a drive-thru teller, drive-thru ATM and safety deposit boxes."

Bill Graham, a former vice president with Peoples State Bank, is the Chief Financial Officer of New Liberty Bank. Both he and Weaver, a former regional bank president with Peoples State Bank, left their positions in January when they signed an agreement to purchase the bank's Plymouth branch.

Weaver said if all goes well, he'd eventually like to open New Liberty Bank branches in Canton and Novi.

**Got an interesting story to tell? Tell it to YOUR hometown newspaper by calling (734) 459-2700, or by email at bkadrich@oe.homecomm.net**

- ▶ **Steak and Lobster**  
Filet mignon with a steamed Maine lobster tail. Served with redskin potatoes, asparagus and béarnaise sauce. \$29
- ▶ **Seafood Pot-Au-Feu**  
Crab legs, mussels, clams, shrimp, redskin potatoes and corn on the cob, steamed together in a garlic white wine broth. \$22
- ▶ **Stuffed veal chops**  
Filled with spinach, fontina cheese, pine nuts and sun-dried tomatoes. Served with saffron and roasted onion risotto, asparagus and roasted red pepper coulis. \$27
- ▶ **Herb & Pepper Roasted Capon**  
Roasted breast, leg and thigh, served with baby field greens, wild mushroom and garlic salad, grilled baby ramps and a chardonnay jus. \$18
- ▶ **Strawberry Champagne Mousse**  
Served in a marbled chocolate cup with berry compote and orange vanilla sauce. \$6

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### Gather 'Round the Bonfire New Year's Eve!




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**Livonia location**  
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**Plymouth/Northville location**  
corner of Five Mile & Sheldon

**Our NEW Farmington Hills location** • corner of Grand River & Draks

To enable our Associates to enjoy the Holiday with their families, we will be closing at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th. We will remain closed Christmas Day and will re-open at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 26th. We will also be closing at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 31st and will re-open at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, January 1st.

after christmas sale starts 7:00 a.m.  
tuesday, december 26

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plus, use your coupons for even more savings

<p><b>extra 20% off</b></p> <p><b>any single sale or clearance item</b></p> <p>valid tuesday, december 26, 2000 *or extra 10% off any single sale or clearance item in maternity, shoes, leather apparel, men's suits and sport coats, cookware, and small electrics.</p> <p><small>*EXCLUDES FRAGRANCES, COSMETICS, GREAT BUYS AND WATCHES IN FINE JEWELRY AND SPECIAL ORDERS. MUST PRESENT COUPON FOR SAVINGS. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER COUPON. NOT VALID ON PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED ITEMS.</small></p> <p>PARISIAN</p>	<p><b>extra 20% off</b></p> <p><b>any single sale or clearance item</b></p> <p>valid tuesday, december 26, 2000 *or extra 10% off any single sale or clearance item in maternity, shoes, leather apparel, men's suits and sport coats, cookware, and small electrics.</p> <p><small>*EXCLUDES FRAGRANCES, COSMETICS, GREAT BUYS AND WATCHES IN FINE JEWELRY AND SPECIAL ORDERS. MUST PRESENT COUPON FOR SAVINGS. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER COUPON. NOT VALID ON PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED ITEMS.</small></p> <p>PARISIAN</p>	<p><b>extra 20% off</b></p> <p><b>any single sale or clearance item</b></p> <p>valid tuesday, december 26, 2000 *or extra 10% off any single sale or clearance item in maternity, shoes, leather apparel, men's suits and sport coats, cookware, and small electrics.</p> <p><small>*EXCLUDES FRAGRANCES, COSMETICS, GREAT BUYS AND WATCHES IN FINE JEWELRY AND SPECIAL ORDERS. MUST PRESENT COUPON FOR SAVINGS. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER COUPON. NOT VALID ON PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED ITEMS.</small></p> <p>PARISIAN</p>	<p><b>extra 20% off</b></p> <p><b>any single sale or clearance item</b></p> <p>valid tuesday, december 26, 2000 *or extra 10% off any single sale or clearance item in maternity, shoes, leather apparel, men's suits and sport coats, cookware, and small electrics.</p> <p><small>*EXCLUDES FRAGRANCES, COSMETICS, GREAT BUYS AND WATCHES IN FINE JEWELRY AND SPECIAL ORDERS. MUST PRESENT COUPON FOR SAVINGS. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER COUPON. NOT VALID ON PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED ITEMS.</small></p> <p>PARISIAN</p>
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# P·A·R·I·S·I·A·N

**OBITUARIES**

**SOPHIE T. ZBOCH**

Services for Sophie T. Zboch, 87, of Canton were held Dec. 19 at St. Thomas a' Becket Catholic Church with the Rev. C. Richard Kelly officiating. Burial was at Rural Hill Cemetery.

Mrs. Zboch was born April 28, 1913 in Detroit and died Dec. 15 in Livonia. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Aloysius Zboch. Survivors include four daughters, Patricia Kozlowski, Geraldine Klemk, Gloria Bisdorf and Paulette Klimczak; a brother, Stanley Siewierski; three sisters, Jean Stanton, Rose Henry and Virginia Siewierski; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Arrangements were made by McCabe Funeral Home Canton Chapel.

**MICHAEL F. PORTELOS**

Services for Michael F. Portellos, 52, of Plymouth, were held Dec. 20 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Southgate with the Rev. Philemon Karanamos officiating. Burial was at Michigan Memorial Park.

Mr. Portellos was born Sept. 14, 1948 in Ikaria, Greece, and died Dec. 16 in Detroit. He was a painter.

Survivors include his wife,

Marie Portellos of Plymouth; son, Phillip Portellos; daughter, Emily Portellos; parents Phillip and Emily Portellos; brothers, Nick Portellos and Costa Portellos; sister, Kiki Chapley; and in-laws Peter and Lemonia Gelematis.

Arrangements were made by McCabe Funeral Home Canton Chapel.

**SARAH CHRISTINE SMITH**

Services for Sarah Christine Smith, 73, of Plymouth were held at Trinity Presbyterian Church with the Rev. William C. Moore officiating. Burial was at Oak Grove Cemetery in Dixboro.

Mrs. Smith was born August 6, 1927 in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. and died Dec. 17 in Superior Township. She was a homemaker and Registered Nurse.

She was preceded in death by brothers, Astor Clayton, Howard Clayton, James Clayton and Dolphus Clayton; and granddaughter, Brianna Edoff. Survivors include husband, Robert A. Smith of Plymouth; son, Robert A. (Olga) Smith; daughters, Cynthia D. (Charles) Cole of Canton, Susan E. (Brian) Smith-Edoff of Redford; sister, Peggie (Christopher) Kelly of Plymouth; brother, Eugene (Faye) Clayton of Uniontown, Ohio; grandsons, Robert Smith, Aaron Smith, Jason Smith, Charles Cole, Matthew Cole and Nicholas Cole; granddaughters

Savannah Sarah Christine Edoff and Sarina Edoff; many nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kidney Foundation of Michigan, 2350 S. Huron Parkway, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

**JANE C. HAMILTON**

Services for Jane C. Hamilton, 81, of Farmington were held Dec. 22 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home with the Rev. Leonard Partanek officiating. Burial was at Evergreen Cemetery in Grand Blanc.

Mrs. Hamilton was born Dec. 30, 1918 in Omaha, Neb., and died Dec. 19 in Farmington. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George W. Hamilton.

Survivors include son, Lawrence (Donna) Hamilton of Wixom; daughters, Carole (Jerry) Bourlier of Canton and Barbara (Ira) Rosenberg of Wisconsin; sisters, Kathryn Nawrocki of Hartland and Jacqueline (Leo) Majewski of Redford; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Arrangements were made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.

**GERTRUDE F. VANDERWORP**

Services for Gertrude F. Vanderworp, 81, of Plymouth were held in Knoxville, Tenn.

She was born June 25, 1919 in Detroit and died Dec. 15 in Livonia. She was a bookkeeper.

Survivors include husband, Theodore VanDerworp of Plymouth; son, Dennis VanDerworp

of Knoxville, Tenn.; grandsons, David VanDerworp of Plymouth and Theodore VanDerworp of Westland.

Arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

**ROY C. BENNETT**

Services for Roy C. Bennett, 72, of Big Cedar Lake, Ind. were held Dec. 23 at Smith and Sons Funeral Home in Columbia City, Ind. Burial was at South Park Annex Cemetery in Columbia City. The American Legion Post No. 98 presented military honors at the cemetery.

Mr. Bennett was born July 2, 1928 in Dearborn and died Dec. 19 at Columbia City, Ind.

He graduated from Plymouth High School and continued his education at Plymouth Community School. He was veteran of World War II, serving in the United States Army. He was employed at Stroh Brewery Wholesaler from 1954 to 1966, owned the Western Auto in Ewart, Mich. for six years and retired in 1986 from Stroh Brewery Co. as manager of sales planning and administration.

He was a life member of Ewart F. & A.M. No. 320, Columbia City V.F.W. No. 6212, Columbia City American Legion Post No. 98, and a member of the Mizpah Shrine and Scottish Rite.

He was preceded in death by a son, Roy Charles Bennett, Jr.; a brother, George Bennett; and two sisters, Jean Bassett and Doris Fulton.

Survivors include his wife, Berniece; three sons, Thomas D. (Karen) Bennett of Huntington,

Charles W. (Jean) Bennett of Columbia City and Paul J. Bennett of Columbia City; a daughter, Katherine J. Winters of Columbia City; 12 grandchildren; three great grandchildren; a sister, Marilyn McLachlin of Fort Myers, Fla.; and a sister-in-law, Florine Bennett of Colorado.

Memorials may be made to Shriners Children's Hospital.

Arrangements were made by Smith and Sons Funeral Home.

**ERNEST EUGENE SAYRE**

Services for Ernest Eugene Sayre, 47, of Canton Township were held Dec. 21 at L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Canton, with E. Wayne Byrum, Chaplain of the Canton Police Department, officiating.

Mr. Sayre was born July 8, 1953 in Garden City and died Dec. 17 in Superior Township. He was a Canton Township Police Sergeant and a police officer for over 20 years.

Survivors include his wife, Joan Sayre; daughter Leigh Sayre; and four brothers and one sister.

Arrangements were made by L.J. Griffin Funeral Home-Westland Chapel.

**PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY'S POPULAR PICKS**

Every week the Plymouth District Library staff chooses the Observer with their list of "Best Sellers" based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons. The books are available by placing a request with the library 453-0750.

- ADULTS**
- 1) The Mark, Tim Lalleys
  - 2) Bones are Red, James Patterson
  - 3) Deck the Halls, Mary Higgins Clark
  - 4) The Prometheus Deception, Robert Ludlum
  - 5) Winter's Heart, Robert Jordan
- TEENAGERS**
- 1) The O'Reilly Factor, Bill O'Reilly
  - 2) Beatles Anthology, The Beatles
  - 3) Paris to the Moon, Adam Gopnik
  - 4) Mantra, Bob Woodward
  - 5) Joe DiMaggio, Richard Craver

**PARENTS' CHOICE CHILDREN'S NEW EASY READER BOOKS**

- 1) Escape to the Forest, Ruth Radin
- 2) Goodbye, Amanda the Good, Susan Shreve
- 3) The Vampire in My Bathtub, Brenda Seabrook
- 4) A Straw for Two, Eric Sanvoisin
- 5) The Pictish Child, Jane Yolen

**SHURGARD OF CANTON 2101 HAGGERTY RD. CANTON, MI 48187**

Notice is hereby given that the following unit(s) will be sold to the highest bidder by open auction on January 23, 2001 at approximately 9:30 a.m. at Shurgard Storage located at 2101 Haggerty Rd., Canton, MI 48187, (313) 981-0300.

#3044 Schaefer: Dryer, Washer, Bed Frame, dresser, luggage, dining room set, misc. boxes.

Publish: December 17 & 24, 2000

**SHURGARD OF PLYMOUTH**

Notice is hereby given that the entire contents of the following storage units will be sold to the highest bidder by way of an open bid on JANUARY 23, 2001 at approximately 9:00 a.m. at Shurgard Storage Centers located at 41889 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187.

- Unit #107 KEN LAPORTE: TV, dressers, beds, chairs
- Unit #361 GLEN WHITAKER: Press
- Unit #9114 JAHUE 'JAY' WHITLOW: Tires, boxes, mattress, household items.
- Unit # 9123 MISTY FINKBEINER: Dresser, chair, bed
- Unit # 9253 ROGER COLE: Dressers

Publish: December 17 and 24, 2000



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to State Law 257.252, the following vehicle (s) will be sold at public sale at B&B Towing Co., 934 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, Michigan, on the date and time listed below:

Tuesday, January 2, 2001 9:00 a.m.

**VEHICLE(S):**

YEAR/MAKE/STYLE/VEHICLE	ID NUMBER	CASE NUMBER
1984 Pontiac 4D Rabbit	1VWEG017XEV095946	00-59942
1993 Ford 4D Lumina	2G1WN54TP9240851	00-61383
1984 Chevy PU Truck	JN6ND01YXEW000099	00-49314

Inquiries regarding these vehicles should be directed to officer Al Cox, City of Plymouth Police Department, at 453-8600.

LINDA J. LANGMESSER City Clerk

Publish: December 24, 2000

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Engineering Services Dept., 2nd Floor up to 5:00 p.m. January 10, 2001 for the following:

**CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES TO COMPLETE GENERAL STORM WATER PERMIT AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SERVICES ACTIVITIES**

Specifications are available in the Engineering Services Dept. 2nd Floor. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: December 24, 2000



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to State Law 257.252, the following vehicle (s) will be sold at public sale at Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather Rd., Plymouth, Michigan, on the date and time listed below:

Tuesday, January 2, 2001 10:00 a.m.

**VEHICLE(S):**

YEAR/MAKE/STYLE/VEHICLE	ID NUMBER	CASE NUMBER
1979 Pontiac 2D Trans Am	2W87K9L202774	00-60321
1982 Ford VAN Econoline	1FMEE11G1CHA21062	00-60791
1999 Chevy 4D Malibu	1G1ND52M0X6128200	00-62477
1988 Buick 4D Park ave	1G4CW51C5J1640939	00-63942
1991 Chevy 4D Cavalier	1G1JC54G4M7153518	00-64430

Inquiries regarding these vehicles should be directed to officer Al Cox, City of Plymouth Police Department, at 453-8600.

LINDA J. LANGMESSER City Clerk

Publish: December 24, 2000

CLOSED DEC 24TH & 25TH


# Year End Bonus Sale

*and floor sample clearance*

## SAVINGS IN EVERY DEPARTMENT!

Choose Your BONUS OPTION on any purchase!

Sale starts Monday, December 18th



# 1/2 OFF

## ALL THOMASVILLE BEDS AND BEDDING\*

PLUS CHOOSE YOUR BONUS OPTION

We pay your 6% sales tax.

We pay 1/2 your sales tax and you have 6 months to pay.  
(No down payment required on in stock merchandise.)

No Payments, No Interest for 1 year.  
(With deposit and approved credit. No down payment required on in stock merchandise.)

	twin	full	queen	king
<i>Body Bracer</i>	\$599	\$699	\$749	\$1099
<i>Renaissance</i>	\$749	\$849	\$899	\$1299
<i>River Roads</i>	\$899	\$999	\$1099	\$1499
<i>Hemingway</i>	\$1099	\$1199	\$1399	\$1799

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For Thomasville and other fine collections, McLaughlin's HOME FURNISHING DESIGN 734.285.5454 • 14405 Dto, Southgate (2 blocks North of Grand River)

# Ameritech says it's making progress on service calls

BY RICHARD PEARL  
STAFF WRITER  
rpearl@ec.econline.com

Is Ameritech making good on its mid-September promise to reduce its backlog of calls and improve its response time?

The company claims it has and cites figures to prove it, but opinion among customers is split.

Ameritech said it finally dipped below its Michigan target of 19,125 pending orders for installation and repairs on Dec. 10, hitting 18,232 for the first time since Sept. 19.

That was 42,147 fewer orders than on Sept. 19, when the company had a backlog of 60,379.

That was the day after Ameritech and its parent company, SBC Communications Inc. of Texas, began bringing to Michigan 140 SBC technicians from other states to try to trim the backlog.

The company also announced then a campaign to hire and train more technicians for Michigan. It since has hired over 700, a spokeswoman said, and has

**■ 'The efforts (Ameritech) made in bringing in manpower has had an impact, but they're nowhere they need to be in terms of delivering service to our people.'**

*Dana Whinnery*

*Farmington Hills Assistant City Manager*

sent the out-of-state techs home for the holidays - possibly for good.

Ameritech's claim tended to draw agreement from officials in Livonia and Farmington, who based their opinions on a full-off in phoned-in complaints.

Both Gail Skarczynski, an administrator in Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey's office, and Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff said calls have diminished, with Lauhoff saying his office went from more than a dozen calls to zero.

But a Farmington Hills colleague of theirs and a Livonia resident begged to differ.

Dana Whinnery, Hills assistant city manager, said Ameritech's level of service "still is not acceptable" while Barbara Hastings of Livonia claimed the company is flat-out ignoring her.

Hastings, who says she has been calling and writing Ameritech since last spring to get it to bury a cable it installed along a walk on the side of her house, said neither Ameritech nor the Michigan Public Service Commission is responding to her letters now.

In September, she told the Observer she'd like the line buried "before it snows." She said she was given several target

dates, but no work was ever done.

On Monday she said, "I guess I'll have to wait until spring and not use the sidewalk. It's too difficult" to navigate now.

Whinnery said complaints about Ameritech's service "have dropped off," but added, "We are still receiving an unusually high number" - considering, he added, that his office never got any calls in previous years.

"The efforts (Ameritech) made in bringing in manpower has had an impact, but they're nowhere they need to be in terms of delivering service to our people," Whinnery stated.

When Ameritech dipped below the target figure, it stated it would now "dedicate its efforts to maintaining its target levels on an ongoing basis."

Although service orders for telephone installations and repairs crept back up last week,

reducing the total change since Sept. 19 to 36,000, the company says it fully expects to bring the numbers back down again.

"It's weather-related," said Denise Koenig, an Ameritech spokeswoman in the company's headquarters in Chicago.

She said snowfalls have caused technicians to spend more time getting to and from job sites and also spend more time at the sites clearing snow.

According to Ameritech's most recent report, issued Tuesday, as of Dec. 18 the company's response time for new installations was four days for Redford

Township, down from 35 on Sept. 19; four days for Southfield and Farmington-Farmington Hills, down from 17 days; and five days in Livonia, Garden City, Westland, Canton and Plymouth and Plymouth Township, compared to 27 days in September.

On out-of-service calls, its response times for the six western Wayne County suburbs was listed as three days, down from 20 days on Sept. 19; and two days for Farmington-Farmington Hills and Southfield, down from 23 days.

# Ameritech plans to hire 800 technicians in state for 2001

BY RICHARD PEARL  
STAFF WRITER  
rpearl@ec.econline.com

Ameritech plans to hire 700-800 new telephone technicians and call-receivers in Michigan for 2001, adding to the 700 it hired this year, company officials said this week.

The new hires will continue to beef-up the company's response to orders for new telephone installations and repairs - something which had suffered after Ameritech lost many workers to either retirement or competitors.

Ameritech, which serves Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, planned to hire only 1,000 non-management network services personnel region-wide this year, said Denise Koenig, a spokeswoman at division headquarters in Chicago.

But needs boosted that figure to 3,300 region-wide next year,

**■ Ameritech has a 24-hour job hotline at 1-800-904-WORK**

she said.

Cindie Bucks, Detroit general manager for customer provisions and maintenance, said, "We need all the good candidates we can get."

Ameritech's aggressive recruitment policy for both technical and support personnel includes a one-day hiring process, increased participation in job fairs and a toll-free, 24-hour job hotline: 1-888-904-WORK.

Among this year's new hires is Dave Clark of Westland, who just completed most of his training as a communications techni-

cian at the Ameritech training facility

Clark, 52, was trained in pole-climbing, first-aid and defensive-driving and has completed both installations schools. He also goes on calls with Ameritech veterans.

The training marks a happy turnabout for Clark, 52, who learned communications in the military and had experience as an installer, but was initially told he qualified only for a customer service desk job.

Clark, who'd read in the Observer that Ameritech wanted experienced personnel, told the Observer what happened. A check by the newspaper straightened things out and Clark was hired and bumped up the pay scale, based on his background.

"It's going to be a good job," he said. "The benefits are great with them."

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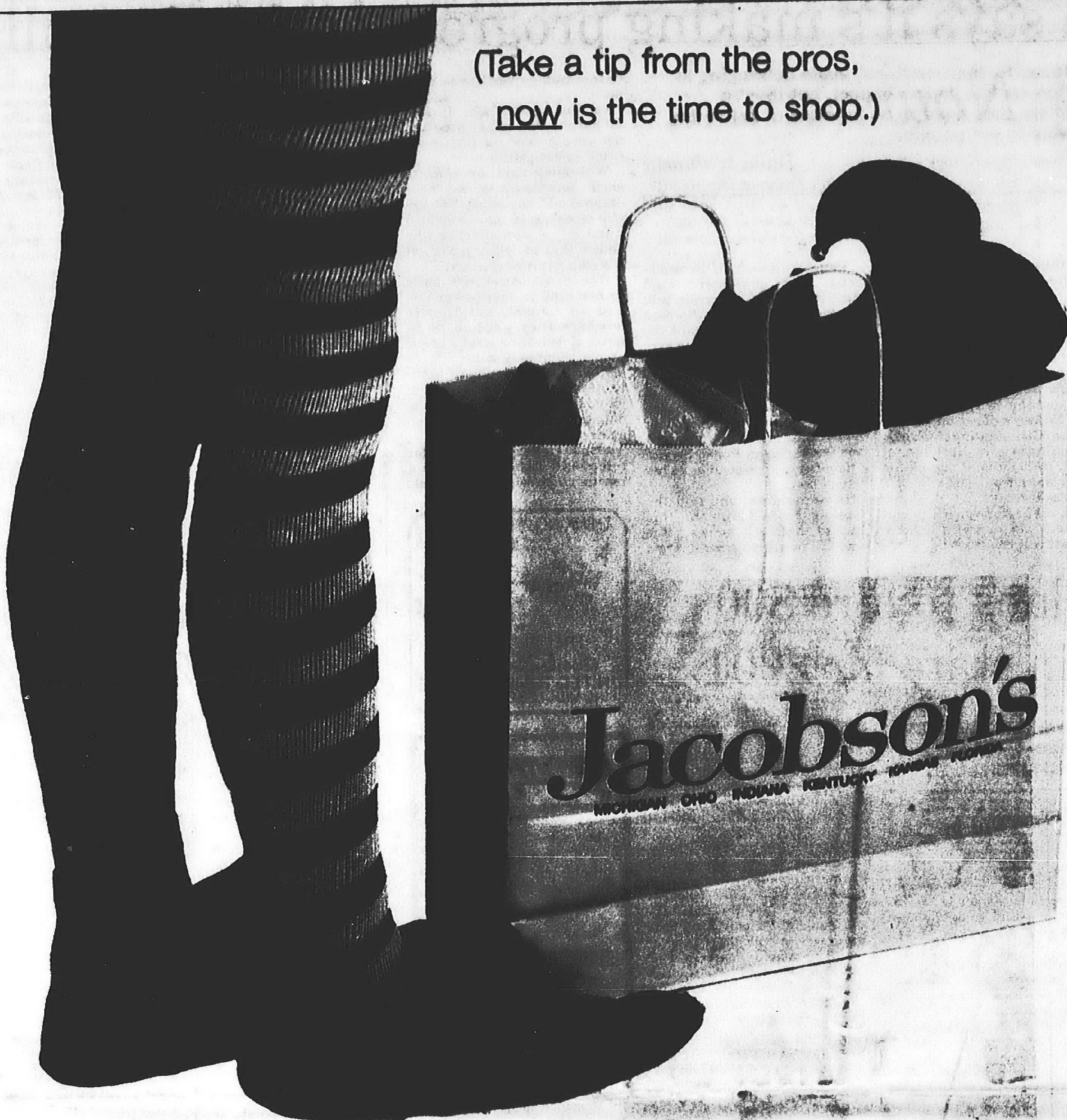
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# Now Santa, here's what I want . . .

## OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

### Good Sports winners

Several area school received district and regional "Good Sports are Winners" awards for their participation in Michigan High School Athletic Association tourney play during the fall season.

In boys soccer, Livonia Churchill, Farmington, Farmington Harrison, North Farmington, Redford Union and Redford Thurston took district awards.

In football, Redford Catholic Central won a district and regional award, while Redford St. Agatha won a district honor.

In girls basketball, Livonia Franklin, Westland John Glenn, Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Ladywood and Farmington Hills Mercy all won district awards, while Livonia Ladywood and Plymouth Canton won regional honors.

The awards were made by tournament managers at various sites, to schools meeting a set of sportsmanship standards set down by the MHSAA.

### Academic athletes

The Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has named its all-academic teams for the fall semester, and several Observerland athletes now attending Wayne State have been honored.

**Men's cross country:** Joseph Verellen (from Livonia Stevenson), senior, 3.66 grade-point average, majoring in science; Raj Singh (Canton/Dearborn Robichaud), senior, 3.07 gpa, science major.

**Men's golf:** Greg Bores (Plymouth/Dearborn Divine Child), senior, 3.32 gpa, business major.

**Women's volleyball:** Katie Brogan (Livonia Ladywood), junior, 3.59 gpa, science major.

### Basketball tryouts

Team Michigan will hold tryouts for its select boys basketball tournament teams in the 10-and-under, 12-and-under and 14-and-under age divisions in January.

For information, call (734) 324-7605.

### Baseball camps

Avery's All-Star Baseball Camps, for ages 11-18, will run five consecutive weeks starting Jan. 13 or Jan. 14 at Oakland University. Cost is \$215 for each five-session camp.

Camper may choose to attend the Saturday or Sunday camp. There will be a hitting camp (75 minutes in length), a catching camp (100 minutes in length) and a pitching camp (90 minutes in length).

Staff includes OU head coach Mark Avery, assistant coaches Andy Fairman and Chuck Van Robays, and Erick Swanson, Aaron Shrewsbury and Mario Borrocci.

For further information, call (810) 362-3583.

### Girls hoops Thursday

Been wondering when the All-Observer Girls Basketball team is going to appear?

Fear not, we haven't forgotten about it. You'll be able to read all about the best girls basketball players in the area in Thursday's edition of the Observer.

### GC playing alumni

Garden City's basketball teams will face the program's alumni in three scrimmages on Thursday, Dec. 28 beginning at 5 p.m. at the high school gym.

The current freshmen squad will play alumni from the 1960s and 70s at 5 p.m., the current JV players will play alumni from the 80s at 6 p.m. and the current varsity and alumni from the 90s will play at 7 p.m.

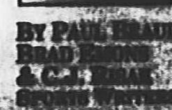
Admission is free.

### Hockey double-header

The Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem hockey boosters have something special planned for the first Friday of the new year: a Student Night, with all Plymouth-Canton school district elementary and middle school students admitted for free when accompanied by a paying adult.

The games, scheduled for Jan. 5 at the Plymouth Cultural Center, feature Salem against Livonia Stevenson at 6 p.m. and Canton vs. Walled Lake Central at 8 p.m. Also, the first 100 students will receive a free hockey puck.

It's that time of year, filled with joy and happiness and thankfulness — and a lot of lists of what people want. Well, the Observer sports staff gives a hoot (that's one of us pictured at left), and we asked. Here are the answers.



BY PAUL BEAUDRY  
STAFF WRITER  
pbeaudry@oc.hometown.com

They wanted cars and CD's and gas money and dogs.  
They wanted championships and titles and hat tricks and uniforms.  
They wanted no more snow days (the coaches), more snow days (the stu-

dents), a new school building and a new job.

When we asked area athletes and coaches what they wanted for Christmas, it was as far ranging as the sports they play.

But they were fun to ask and some of them may come true.

Which ones? You'll have to ask them.

**Gary Hulse, Garden City football/track:** A leather jacket and gas money, because I am poor. I've got an '89 Trans-Am with a 350 engine. It's a gas guzzler and I want someone else to pay for the gas.

**Allen McKeon, Livonia Churchill gun-pops:** Clothes... I have a car, but a CD player for it would be nice, a book of poetry by e.e. cummings because I love reading it. And I want a nice boyfriend.

**Cody Bartlett, Redford Union hockey/golf:** I think I'd like to finish first in the league again (for hockey) and give the regionals a good run. Or maybe, just another hat trick.

**Bill Hayes, Gethsemane Central golf coach:** Health, peace of mind and happiness and togetherness throughout the world. And a new

school building.

**Carlo Biggs, Schenck men's hoop coach:** To reach all our goals, good health and land in Hutchinson (Kan.).

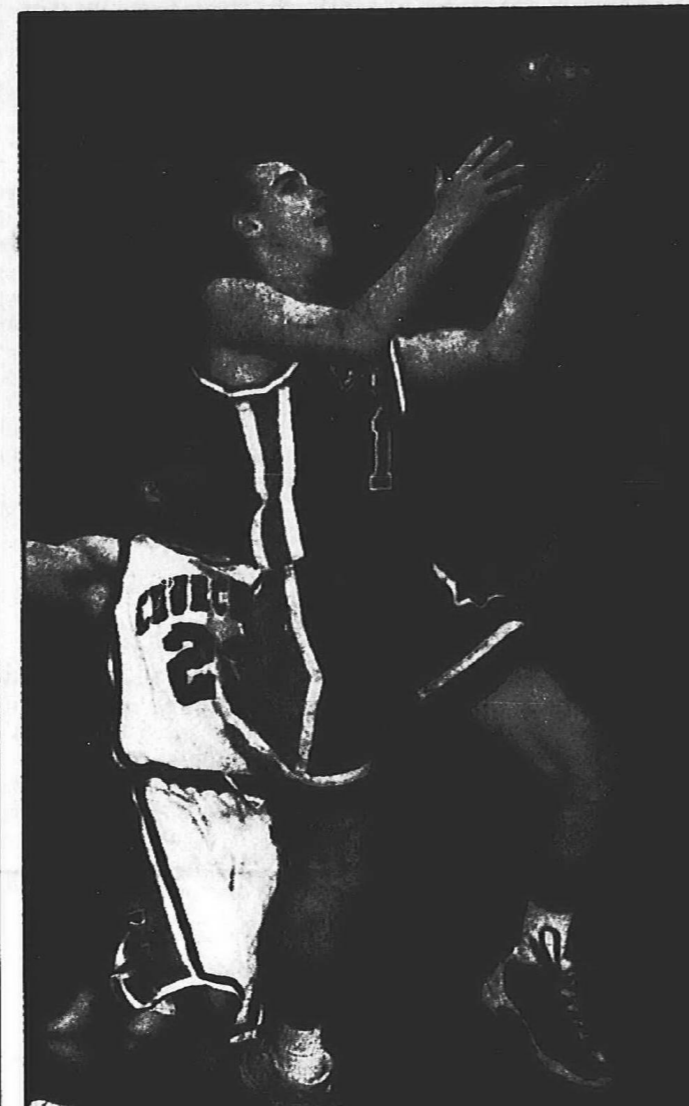
**Steve Douglas, Redford Union athletic department secretary:** I'd love to have a job. I'm getting laid off in January, I've been in the district for seven years and here for the last three and I love this job. I don't want to go.

**Antoine Moore, Redford Thurston football:** I want to build more shelters for the homeless. Seriously, it's what I want to do. I'd like to help. If someone asked me, I'd do it.

**Chuck Gordon, Westland John Glenn football coach:** Just health and happiness for my family.

Please see HOLIDAY WISHES, B3

## One way or another Cougars find a way to beat Churchill



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

In for two: Garden City's Rick Warnock (with ball) glides in for a layup, just ahead of Churchill's pursuing Dave Semizian.

BY PAUL BEAUDRY  
STAFF WRITER  
pbeaudry@oc.hometown.com

For all those who think extra work doesn't pay off, we present Garden City junior guard Brandon Audette.

"For hours and hours, he'll stay in the gym shooting by himself," said Cougars coach Greg Williamson. "He carried us in the first half."

Audette knocked down all of his game-high 24 points in the first two quarters to lead the Cougars to an 80-62 win over host Livonia Churchill on Thursday night.

"A lot of people think we're just Justin (Ockerman)," said Williamson as his team improved to 4-0. "They don't realize that we're a whole lot more and more people can contribute."

The Cougars scored their first points in the second quarter when Audette scored 12 points. The 10 senior spent most of the game saddled with foul trouble and never got into the flow — helped in part by the play of 6-7 junior Shaun Foster.

"We told him he had to be in the game and had to challenge Ockerman," said Churchill coach Rick Austin. "But the problem was that with a glitch in our defensive rotation, we didn't adjust to Audette." Not until the second half,

anyway, when the Chargers (1-4) held Audette scoreless.

But the first half was Audette. He scored 10 points in the first quarter, helping his team to a 22-18 lead. And after Churchill had tied the score at 22-all, Audette greased the Chargers' skids with a pair of 3-pointers 25 seconds apart for a 28-22 lead that bulged to 43-27 as Garden City ended the quarter on a 13-0 run, behind Audette, Mike Sparks and Colin Sizemore.

The Chargers adjusted their rotation in the second half to shut down Audette and did a good job, whittling away at the lead to pull within 50-38 with 4:47 left in the third quarter. Churchill stayed within 13 (43-45) with 3:36 left with a pair of free throws by their point guard, Will Frazier, who wound up with 12 points.

But the Cougars went on an 11-0 run, led by six of Matt Neimezewski's 10 points and the Chargers were never close again.

"After we closed the gap, fatigue set in," said Austin. "We started having defensive lapses and gave up layups. But even though we lost, I think we found our identity tonight. We played well and came together a bit. We made progress."

Please see COLLEGE, B5

## Ypsi hands Wayne 1st loss

BY BRAD EMONS  
SPORTS WRITER  
bemons@oc.hometown.com

Wayne Memorial couldn't get over the hump Thursday. The Zebras stayed close throughout, but visiting Ypsilanti pulled out a 50-45 Mega Conference Red Division boys basketball win.

Both teams are 4-1 overall and 1-1 in the Mega Red. "Ypsilanti is very disciplined, they've got their system down," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "They're hard to beat the way they play, but you'll always be game, too, because of their style."

"We played hard and competed, but we just didn't make the most of our opportunities."

Wayne was down 20-18 at halftime and 33-30 after three quarters.

Michael Rashad converted a steal into a layup with 7:11 to go in the game, tying the score at 34-all.

But Ypsi, patiently running its half-court offense, pulled out the victory.

Cousins Cedrick and Jason Bird led the victorious Braves with 21 and 12 points, respectively. Guard Marcus Walker added 11.

Bird's three-pointer proved to be a pivotal play with 5:38 remaining, giving Ypsi a 42-36 cushion.

Senior guard Gary Johnson, coming off a 39-point performance Tuesday against Plymouth Salem, led Wayne with 17. He had only one free throw in the final period as Ypsi outscored the Zebras 17-15.

Shannon Jefferies, a 6-4 senior, added 10 points for Wayne while 6-4 senior Jeff Logwood added eight.

Wayne hit just five of 16 shots in the final period, while Ypsi made the most of its chances, nailing four of five.

Ypsi also connected on 17 of 24 free throws (70.8 percent), while Wayne was 12 of 17 (70.5 percent).

**WILLOW RUN 50, JOHN GLENN 40:** Marqus Anthony scored 12 of his 21 points in a 21-3 second-quarter outburst Thursday to lead host Willow Run (3-0) past Westland John Glenn (0-4).

Demarius Billups added 14 for the Flyers, who led 33-10 at halftime.

Michael Franks scored 18 points — all on three-pointers — to pace the Rockets. Michael Goree added 10 points.



Big basket: Michael Rashad (4) turned a steal in a basket that allowed Wayne to tie Ypsilanti in the fourth quarter Thursday.

"We had chances to win," said GC assistant John Mackay. "It was definitely a valuable game."

GC (5-1) led into the half with 1:4 seconds to play, but

### TOP WRAP

## Chiefs D' leads to 1st victory; Warriors run record to 4-0

Play defense like that and you're bound to win.

Plymouth Canton held Brighton without a basket for the entire first half of their game Thursday night. Brighton's base offense — and that ultimately resulted in the Chiefs first basketball win of the year, 31-40.

It was also the first win of new coach Jimmy Shestak's varsity career. Both teams were 1-2.

What made their first-half accomplishment more amazing was that Canton's top defender, Jerry Gainer, played only the last few minutes before retiring to the bench with a sore knee.

"I let out my own defense, but I think that (Brighton) is

what we played for the rest of the half.

Not allowing them a field goal (in the first half) is just outstanding."

Canton led 13-1 after one quarter and 22-5 at the half. Brighton never got closer than seven in the second half.

The only thing that kept the game close was free throws. The Bulldogs had just nine baskets, with one three-pointer, but they converted 21-of-26 free throws. Canton was 18-of-26 at that line.

Leading the Chiefs was Jay Sofen with 14 points, including four three-pointers. Nick Cabestan netted 10 points and Brendan Murphy had eight.

Charlie Christian finished with 11 points for Brighton. Charlie Gaiman had 10.

**LUTHERAN WESTLAND 60, S.S. HURON 45:** On Thursday, host Lutheran High Westland outscored New Boston Huron 35-22 in the second half to post its fourth straight victory without a loss.

Junior guard Nick Dehart led the victorious Warriors with 17 points. Junior forward Brent Smith added 12.

New Boston Huron is winless in five games.

**WYANDOTTE ST. REDFORD THURSTON 51:** Thirty-one points in the third quarter couldn't offset the 30 points scored in the other three periods for the Eagles (2-4).

"We played poorly in the first half," said ST coach Brian Bane. "We didn't move, we didn't shoot. It was as though we were in a fog. But we came out in the second half and wound up with a strong lead. We proved that we can't be broken. We got that other lead afterward."

"We got out to such an early lead in the third quarter that we couldn't hold it in the fourth. They just pounded the ball inside and they were bigger than us."

But it's only Thurston that is undefeated in the district. The Eagles had Thurston with 20 points. The Warriors had 17.

Westland had Thurston with 20 points. The Warriors had 17.

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Westland had Thurston with 20 points. The Warriors had 17.

# PCA girls cage coach resigns

BY C.J. RIBAK  
SPORTS EDITOR  
cjrisk@ee.homescomm.net

After eight solid seasons as girls' basketball coach at Plymouth Christian Academy, Rod Windle is leaving.

Of course, Windle's heritage with PCA dates back much further. He graduated from the school in 1986, then started coaching the boys junior varsity team there — a job he kept until 1993, when he became the varsity girls coach.

So it wasn't an easy decision for Windle to make. But realizing that Dave Balog, the Livonia Churchill girls basketball coach, was going to resign prompted Windle's move.

"I do have an interest in that position," he admitted. "I haven't officially applied, but I have sent a letter of intent."

The reason is that Windle teaches at Livonia Churchill. He also coaches the boys JV

team there. "It makes it better to coach at the school you teach at," he said. "I can get closer to the kids I teach."

In his eight seasons at PCA, Windle's teams posted a 92-80 record and won two Class D district titles — including this season, which ended with a loss to Lenawee Christian in the regional semifinals.

In his nearly two decades at PCA, Windle naturally built an attachment to the school, adding to the difficulty of his decision. "It really was," he said. "It was my alma mater and I'm certainly proud of the basketball family. They have high hopes of carrying on the tradition there."

Whoever gets the Churchill job won't be stepping into a great situation. The Chargers

have struggled the last few seasons; they were 5-15 this year and, during Balog's eight seasons, never had a winning record. His career mark at Churchill was 40-126.

Still, the possibility of coaching the kids he teaches was overpowering. "I really enjoy being involved with the people I teach outside the classroom," Windle said.

And despite his record of success at PCA, it wasn't a particular accomplishment on the court that Windle chose as the fondest memory in his tenure there.

"It would be the spaghetti dinners at kid's homes, and the bus rides on our way to games," he said. "The camaraderie of the team, the relationships I built."

"The basketball family is what I really enjoyed about PCA."

The Eagles' athletic director, Doug Taylor, was certainly sorry to lose Windle. "If he ever wants to return, the door is always open," he said.

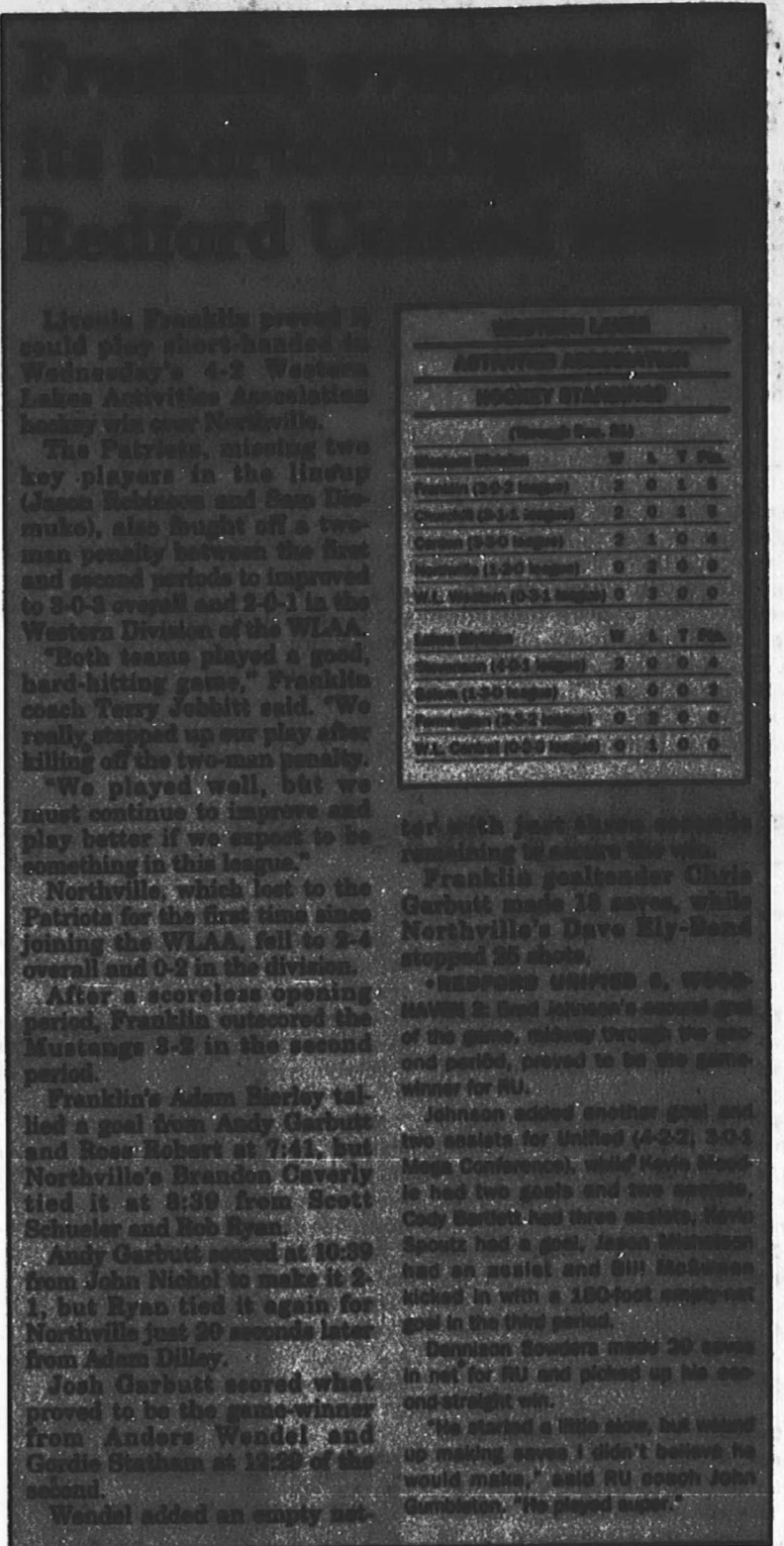
<b>REDFORD UNION 41</b> <b>WILLOW RUN 39</b> Dec. 20 at RU	(WR) d. Jake Bongero, 6-4; MVY: Ollie Muscarella (RU) p. Mike Schmitt, 1:13. Records: RU 2-0 overall, 2-0 Mega Blue; WR 0-2 Mega Blue.	Ames (WO) won by void; 180: Mike Colombo (RT) won by void; 173: Brandon Antosh (WO) won by void; 189: Josh Harrington (RT) p. B.J. Williams, 1:45; 218: Chris Captain (RT) p. Mike Ash, 1:12; MVY: Carl Lalonde (RT) p. John Slowski, 4:19.	Perry, 4-3; 188: Enrique Garcia (WJG) dec. Ian Eichel, 3-0; 140: Tony Kennard (PS) p. Daron Kruckshank, 3:39; 148: Adam Scheafer (PS) p. Brad Gregory, 2:40; 182: Chris Wolfgang (WJG) p. Ryan Butts, 0:37; 180: James March (PS) dec. Nick Wroblewski, 7-5; 171: Craig Blair (WJG) dec. Jake Fairchild, 11-8; 189: Jack Sere (WJG) p. Quintin Amdt, 3:25; 218: Zack Jensen (PS) p. Steve Perry, 5:50; heavy-weight: Ricardo Smith (PS) p. Blake Colbert, 3:45.
<b>FLAT ROCK-WOODHAVEN 54</b> <b>REDFORD THURSTON 24</b> Dec. 20 at Woodhaven	103: Double void; 112: Kurtis Kind (WO) won by void; 119: Adam DuHame (wo) won by void; 128: Dave Paytee (WO) won by void; 130: Rob Abbott (WO) pinned Chris Usher, 1:14; 138: Jay Midlifer (WO) won by void; 140: Chris Case (WO) won by void; 148: Steve Brannon (WO) won by void; 182: Ken	<b>PLYMOUTH SALEM 37</b> <b>WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 27</b> Dec. 19 at Salem	103 pounds: Nick Naber (WJG) pinned Mike Dendinos, 3:57; 112: Chris Smith (WJG) dec. Pate Bobee, 8-4; 119: Mike Goethe (PS) dec. Kefenste Mandisa, 12-2; 128: Shawn Parker (WJG) dec. Nate Dillard, 10-6; 130: Brandon Sammutt (PS) dec. Phil

## Cougars - B1

Colin Sizemore chipped in with 13 points for the Cougars, who shot 31-for-59 from the floor, while Sparks had 11. Kevin Zielinski had eight of his 14 points in the second quarter for Churchill, which shot 22 of 53 from the floor, while Brandon Dzikiński and Foster had eight each.

## Basketball from page B1

Mark Willoughby's layup rattled out and Ryan Clark's putback also fell away as the horn expired. "It was a rough day in terms of layups," said Mulroy. "We missed a boatload of layups. We got in foul trouble too. We had a lot of guys in at the end who were playing their first combative minutes." The Shamrocks — who trailed at half, 30-25, but took a 51-50 lead after three quarters —



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# Lynn a double-qualifier for Rocks

Led by two state-qualifying swimmers by Eric Lynn, Plymouth Salem splashed past Dearborn 135-51 in a non-league dual meet Thursday at Salem.

It was the Rocks first meet of the season. Lynn bettered the state cut in winning the 100-yard butterfly (54.01) and in the 50 freestyle (22.54), when he led off the 200 free relay. That team, which also consisted of Dave Carson, Hugo Alvarez and Jim Ross, was first in 1:37.64.

Lynn was also a winner in the 200 free (1:50.21). Salem was first in every event in the meet.

Other individual-event winners for the Rocks were Ben Dzialo in the 200 individual medley (2:07.46); Aaron Shelton in the 50 free (22.92); Greg Kubitaki in diving (200.40 points); Mike Johnson in the 100 free

(51.71); Brian Mertens in the 500 free (6:11.06); Kevin Schopieray in the 100 backstroke (1:05.97); and Matt Showalter in the 100 breaststroke (1:10.74).

Shelton, Showalter, Dzialo and Johnson combined to win the 200 medley relay (1:46.47), and Johnson, Shelton, Dzialo and Lynn teamed for a first in the 400 free relay (3:24.86).

Salem is now idle until its Jan. 4 non-league dual meet at Novi.

## Hockey clinic

StickMaster Hockey is staging its clinics at the Garden City Ice Arena March 19-21 and July 17-19.

The March sessions are split from 5:40-7:20 p.m. and 7:20-9 p.m. at a cost of \$150 while the July camp costs \$140 for sessions at similar times.

The clinics will also be held at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena

twice in 2001.

The Farmington clinics, featuring the StickMaster stick-handling training device developed by John Murphy, will take place April 10-12 and July 30-Aug. 3.

The April camps run from 6:50-8:30 p.m. and cost \$150 while the July-Aug. camp goes from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and costs \$395.

The clinics will also take place in East Lansing, Brighton and Ann Arbor's Ice Cube.

More details can be obtained by calling toll-free 877-442-9006 or visiting the website [www.stickmasterhockey.com](http://www.stickmasterhockey.com).

## Skating lessons

Redford Township Ice Arena will be the site of a basic skating

skills and figure skating class beginning Jan. 9, 2001. The classes are 30 minutes long and will be held once a week for seven weeks.

Lessons, for ages three and older, cost \$45 and skate rental is available. Registration begins today and runs through Jan. 9, daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call (313) 387-2660.

[www.motorcitybowl.com](http://www.motorcitybowl.com)



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<p><b>PREP BOYS BASKETBALL</b>                  Wednesday, Dec. 27                  Canton vs. Det. Rogers at U-D Jesuit, 7:15 p.m.                  (Grosse Ile Tournament)                  Salem vs. Gib. Carlson, 5:30 p.m.                  Grosse Ile vs. Allen Park, 7:30 p.m.                  (Riv. Gabriel Richard Tourney)                  Farmington vs. E. Catholic, 6 p.m.                  Tay. Kennedy vs. Riv. Richard, 8 p.m.                  (Grand Rapids Press Tourney)                  G.R. Central vs. Walkerville, 6 p.m.                  N. Farmington vs. Mackenzie, 8 p.m.                  Thursday, Dec. 28                  Grosse Ile Tourney, 5:30 &amp; 7:30 p.m.                  G.R. Press Tourney, 6 &amp; 8 p.m.                  (Adrian-Madison Tournament)                  Lenawee Christ. vs. Summerfield, 5 p.m.                  Madison vs. Pky. Christian, 7 p.m.                  (Roundball Classic at U-D Jesuit)                  Ferndale vs. Pershing, noon.                  Borgess vs. Kettering, 1:45 p.m.                  Cooley vs. Pooock (Ont.) Catholic, 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Redford CC vs. Country Day, 5:30 p.m.                  Henry Ford vs. Marquette (Wis.), 7:15 p.m.                  King vs. Cincinnati Westrow, 9 p.m.                  Friday, Dec. 29                  Adrian Madison Tourney, 5 &amp; 7 p.m.                  Riv. Richard Tourney, 6 &amp; 8 p.m.                  G.R. Press Tourney, 6 &amp; 8 p.m.                  (Roundball Classic at U-D Jesuit)                  Losers bracket, noon &amp; 1:45 p.m.                  Winners bracket, 3:30 &amp; 5:30 p.m.                  A.A. Pioneer vs. Henry Ford, 7:15 p.m.                  Flint Northern vs. Central, 9 p.m.                  Saturday, Dec. 30                  (Roundball Classic at U-D Jesuit)                  Losers bracket, noon &amp; 1:45 p.m.                  Consolation final, 3:30 p.m.                  Championship game, 5:30 p.m.  <b>GIRLS VOLLEYBALL</b>                  Wednesday, Dec. 27                  UM-Dearborn Invitational, 9 a.m.                  Thursday, Dec. 28                  W. Bloomfield Invitational, 8 a.m.                  Saturday, Dec. 30</p>	<p>U-M Dearborn Tournament, 8 a.m.                  Portage No. Tourney, 8:30 a.m.  <b>PREP WRESTLING</b>                  Thursday, Dec. 28                  Trenton Dual Meet Tourney, 9 a.m.                  Clarendonville at Oxford, 9:30 a.m.                  Saturday, Dec. 30                  Salem Invitational, 9 a.m.  <b>MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL</b>                  Friday, Dec. 29                  (Alma-St. Louis Rotary Classic)                  Taylor vs. Thomas More, 6 p.m.                  Alma vs. Madonna, 8 p.m.                  Saturday, Dec. 30                  Alma College Tourney, 6 &amp; 8 p.m.  <b>WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL</b>                  Thursday, Dec. 28                  (Madonna Hoops Tournament)                  Madonna vs. Marion (Ind.), 6 p.m.                  Cedarville vs. IU-South Bend, 8 p.m.                  Friday, Dec. 29                  MU Hoops Tourney, 1 &amp; 3 p.m.                  Schoolcraft vs. Columbia State</p>	<p>at Panama City Beach (Fla.), 4 p.m.                  Saturday, Dec. 30                  Schoolcraft vs. Gulf Coast (Fla.) at Panama City Beach (Fla.), 4 p.m.  <b>PREP HOCKEY</b>                  Wednesday, Dec. 27                  (Novi Invitational)                  Northville vs. Woodhaven, 6 p.m.                  Red. Unified vs. Novi, 8 p.m.                  Thursday, Dec. 28                  Novi Invitational, 6 &amp; 8 p.m.  <b>ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE</b>                  Wednesday, Dec. 27                  Whalers vs. Owen Sound at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m.                  Friday, Dec. 29                  Whalers vs. Windsor Spitfires at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.  <b>NATIONAL PRO SOCCER LEAGUE</b>                  Friday, Dec. 29                  Rockers at Kansas City, 8:35 p.m.                  Saturday, Dec. 30                  Rockers at Wichita, 8:35 p.m.</p>
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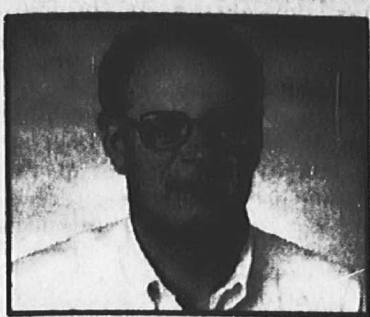
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### NATURE NOTES



TIM NOWICKI

## Animals fight to survive in heavy snow

After several years of minimal snow, compared to 25 years ago, we are experiencing a snow cover that we haven't seen in a long time. It gives us an opportunity to discover how it affects wildlife, both good and bad.

I walked the trail at Independence Oaks County Park the other day and came upon a hermit thrush perched in the open on a branch. It was squatting low on the branch so its feet were covered in fluffed breast feathers. In addition, its head was pushed down onto its "shoulders."

This species of bird normally migrates to the southern states or Central America. No one knows what makes individuals stay this far north. Maybe it was injured and could not fly. Maybe it is sick and disoriented. It's difficult to know for sure.

During warmer winters that we experienced the past several years, a hermit thrush may have been able to find adequate shelter and food.

Snow covering fallen logs, tangles of brush, vine clusters and other ground shelters reduces the number of places for survival.

Exposure on the end of a branch isn't good for a weak individual. I was able to approach within five feet of this bird and it didn't fly away. This bird will be an easy target for a Cooper's or sharp-shinned hawk.

However, the Detroit Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count held on Dec. 17 suggests that even the hawks have left the area. Last year at the same time, counters recorded 77 red-tailed hawks in a 15 mile diameter area in northwest Oakland County. This year, fewer than 20 red-tails were observed.

The deep snow makes it hard for birds of prey to capture their prey. Small rodents like mice and voles stay beneath the snow and tunnel to find seeds on the ground. Seldom do they need to rise to the surface and expose themselves to danger. Hawks like the red-tail will move south if they cannot find food.

Not only does the snow allow small rodents to hide from danger, the deep snow also serves as an insulation from the cold temperatures. One of the big challenges to an animal's survival is staying warm in cold temperatures. The hermit thrush was fluffing its feathers to trap warm air next to its body. Deep snow insulates mice from cold air and wind. Under 20 inches of snow the temperature does not fluctuate at all. Mice do not have to expend much energy to keep warm like animals above the snow.

Wild turkey have to work hard to find nuts on the ground when snow is as deep as it is this month. Though they are big birds, it takes a lot of energy to scratch through 20 inches of snow. Even after all that scratching, they do not know if they will find food. After a hard day of searching for food, the 10 wild turkey I saw in the trees at 3 p.m. were resting and reducing their threats of danger by getting off the ground.

This is indeed the kind of weather when birds will benefit from full bird feeders. Keep seed, suet and water available whenever you can. Deep snow and cold temperatures over long periods of time make it very hard for wildlife to survive.

Livonia resident Tim Nowicki is a naturalist with Independence Oaks Park north of Clarkston in Oakland County. He can be reached at (248) 682-6172.

# There's snow tomorrow for these flag footballers

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Green Bay's "frozen tundra" must have seemed like Daytona Beach compared to conditions that greeted nine men who converged on Canton Township's Flodin Park the morning of Dec. 16 for a game of flag football.

Gusting winds blew a sleet and freezing rain across an orange cone-marked field that had been blanketed by 2 feet of heavy, wet snow.

But the game went on — just like it had since the group of Canton-area residents started gathering at Flodin Park every autumn and early-winter Saturday morning in 1995.

"The more adverse the weather conditions, the more enjoyable the game is," insisted Jeff Marcero, who wore a Detroit Lions No. 10 jersey over three layers of sweat shirts and thermals.

"When we first start playing in September every year, it's usually 70 degrees and sunny. The last few weeks it's usually cold and snowy like this — but it doesn't cut down on the number of guys who come out and play. If anything, we get more players when the weather is bad."

What is it that attracts these mostly 30-something flag football junkies to arctic-like Flodin Park on a frigid Saturday morning in December when they could be playing pick-up basketball or racquetball in a toasty recreation center gym? It's a passion for a game that offers spirited competition, camaraderie and cardiovascular exercise, while taking them back to their childhood days of touch football in the back yard.

"There are fewer opportunities to go out and play flag football and other team sports as you get older," said 38-year-old Canton resident Mike McDonald, a flag-football regular for three years. "A lot of recreational athletes like myself gravitate to golf and tennis when they get into their 30s, but flag football is a fun sport that offers great exercise. You do a lot of sprinting, as most people are going deep on just about every play. After a week of work, it's a great way to unwind and have some fun at the same time."

Canton resident Rod Dunlap agreed. "I like it because of the camaraderie that develops between the different players," the 38-year-old lawyer said. "When you show up to play, you may only know one or two guys, but by the time the morning is over, you feel you've been friends with everyone there for years."

The turnout at Flodin Park each week varies from eight to 16 players, depending on several variables, including whether the U-M football team has a home game, the little league schedules of the participants' sons and daughters, and the weather. More than 20 different players have shown up at one time or another this year, but never more than 14 on any given Saturday.

"Our goal every week is to get 16 players so that we can have two games of four-on-four going on at the same time, then have the winners of the two games meet in a mini-tournament," Marcero said. "Last year, we actually had 16 players show up one week. Unfortunately, about 10 minutes after we set up the fields and started playing, one player broke his collarbone and two or three others had to quit because they pulled their hamstrings. We ended up playing one big game of five-on-five anyway."

Because it is flag football and not tackle, serious injuries have been few. One player broke his wrist this year, only to show up the following week ready to play — armed with a



PHOTO BY BILL THOMPSON

Snow Bowl players: Back row, from left, Mike McDonald, Steve Marcero, Bill Smith, Jim Marcero and Jeff Marcero. Front row, from left, Pete Lorelli, Ed Wright, Paul Ellinger and Andrew Lorelli.

soft cast that stretched from the palm of his right hand to his elbow.

"He played with the cast for two or three weeks," Marcero said, "but, unfortunately, he blew out his knee the following week and had to quit for the season. There are always pulled muscles and sprained fingers, but other than that, it's pretty safe."

There's usually more pain for players the Monday following the games than on game days — especially for first-time players, Marcero said.

"Early in the season, you're using muscles you usually don't use because you're sprinting, cutting and making a lot of sharp starting and stopping moves," he said. "I usually don't feel it until Monday morning when I get up for work and I can barely walk. It's at that moment that you realize what a good workout flag football can be."

"It's fun because, unlike regular football, you're either quarterback, or you're going out for a pass," Marcero said. "No one has to stay back and block. Plus, there are usually only four players on a team, so the odds are you're going to touch the ball at least one every four plays."

The ages, skill levels and sizes of regular participants are as varied as their 40-yard-dash times. Some players are in their mid-20s, but most are in their mid- to late-30s. Some played college sports, while others never earned a varsity letter in high school.

A few can run a 40 in less than five seconds, but the majority are happy to be able to run 40 yards without pulling something.

The games are much like the annual Army-Navy game — the skill level may not always be first class, but the games are generally close and hard fought.

"It's nice because we always divide it up so that both teams have at least one really fast guy, two medium-speed guys and a slower guy," Dunlap said. "Blowouts are rare."

If you're interested in playing flag football (the group plays every weekend from the weekend after Labor Day through Super Bowl weekend), show up at Flodin Park on Saturday mornings. For more details, e-mail your name and phone number to lwright237@aol.com.

"We would eventually like to start up an informal league beginning next year," Marcero said. "If you want to play, show up on Saturdays at Flodin Park."

Rain or shine.

## Sill offers window of opportunity

TIM PEN  
ALLEY



AL HARRISON

Merry Christmas! FBI stands for Professional Bowling Instruction, sponsored by Bowlers Aid Pro Shop, opening soon at Westland Bowl.

One way to improve your game is to get quality instruction. Aleta Sill has joined with

fellow PWBA champion Michelle Mullin for a two-day clinic at Westland Bowl (on Wayne Road between Ford and Warren). Michelle is a gold level coach with Team USA, and Aleta is the first female bowler to earn \$1 million in bowling. They will feature video analysis and an on-lane coaching clinic Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 20-21.

It will be limited to the first 16 bowlers to register. The cost is \$229 per person, or \$199 each for two at once. The FBI will also teach how to adjust to various lane conditions and to make better equipment choices.

There are also step-up deals in which the entrant receives a new Ebonite ball, drilled and fitted Trimeter or TPS III for \$279 including FBI clinic. Vortex for \$399 with FBI, or Fusion ball at \$399 with FBI. Registration deadline is Jan. 19.

Now in season

The leader board for the Hamtramck Senior Citizens at Hamtramck Park Bowling Center is as follows: 1. Bob Taylor — 200, 2. Bob Taylor — 190, 3. Bob Taylor — 180, 4. Bob Taylor — 170, 5. Bob Taylor — 160, 6. Bob Taylor — 150, 7. Bob Taylor — 140, 8. Bob Taylor — 130, 9. Bob Taylor — 120, 10. Bob Taylor — 110.

game blocks of 992 and 944, a total of 1,936 pins and that is only behind the 1,964 by Cleveland Bassett of Chicago.

Joe Kassab of Garden City maintains the lead in handicap singles at 1,038. William Cleaves of Southfield is in third place in the Sponsors High Series category.

There is still plenty of time to get in on this event, which pays out lots of money to amateur bowlers in several categories. The Handicap Singles category pays \$25,000 for first place, \$12,500 for second and \$5,000 for third. Competitors placing fourth through 20th get \$2,000. Bowlers placing 21st through 50th get \$1,000.

Other categories include Eight Game Singles, Scratch Singles, Ladies Singles, Senior Singles (55 and up), Sponsor's High Series and doubles. Prize money in these categories depends on the number of bowlers who enter.

For more information, call Joann Taylor or Cindy Loersch at (248) 546-0070 or (248) 543-7303. Their Web site is www.hamtram.com.

The Great Lakes Senior Bowling Association's third annual championship tournament took place Dec. 9 at Sunnybrook Lanes. Scotty Laughland of Windsor came here by the tunnel and went home by the Ambassador Bridge \$2,500 richer by taking first place. Scotty defeated Bob Arnold 443-441. Arnold led all qualifiers with 1,454, and Ken O'Brien of Troy had 1,385 in the preliminary rounds. Dan Mytty of Livonia was high game qualifier with 280 followed by Arnold with 279 and Livonia's Ed Malinowski with 278.

Upcoming GLSBA tournaments take place Jan. 13 at Vision Lanes in Westland and Feb. 10 at Shorecrest Lanes in St. Clair Shores. For more information on the GLSBA, call (734) 522-9315, or e-mail GLSBA@aol.com.

## Honor scores

Bob Taylor	200
Bob Taylor	190
Bob Taylor	180
Bob Taylor	170
Bob Taylor	160
Bob Taylor	150
Bob Taylor	140
Bob Taylor	130
Bob Taylor	120
Bob Taylor	110

### RECREATION

**SUNDAY HEALTH CLAS**  
Schoolcraft College's Sunday Health Club lets members can work out 1-5 p.m. Sundays Jan. 7 through April 1. Membership fees are \$34 for individuals and \$72 for families. Members have access to two gyms for basketball and volleyball; six handball, paddleball and racketball courts; wallyball courts; weightlifting machines, treadmills, exercise bikes and other aerobic equipment in the fitness room; the swimming pool with 1-meter and 3-meter diving boards; and saunas in the locker rooms. Members must furnish their locks and towels. Members up to age 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Call (734) 462-4418.

**SQUARE DANCING**  
The Maplewood Squares, a square dance group, meets at 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, in Garden City. Call (734) 595-8857.

### ACTIVITIES

**METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS**  
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Lipareto at (248) 476-5027.

**MICHIGAN FLY FISHING**  
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School, located on Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Call (248) 478-1494.

**FOUR SEASONS**  
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0943 for information.

**HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS**  
The Huron Valley Steelheaders meet the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Road, Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843.

**BASS ASSOCIATION**  
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863.

### SOLAR

The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation, a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658.

### CLASSES/CLINICS

**YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN**  
Henry Ford Community College offers a class in Soo Kung Fu 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, Jan. 13 through April 7. Class meets at the Dearborn Heights Center on Ann Arbor between Warren and Outer. The cost is \$89. Call (313) 317-1500.

**LEARN TO SKATE**  
Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills will hold Learn to Skate classes on Tuesdays from Jan. 16 through March 13. Snowplow Sam classes 1, 2 and 3 for skaters 6 and younger, as well as adult beginner classes will also be available. Call (248) 888-1400.

**YMOA CLASSES**  
The Farmington Family YMCA offers a variety of classes such as Rollerblade hockey, lacrosse, flag football and swimming lessons. Call (248) 563-4020.

### PARKS

**METROPARK REQUIREMENTS**  
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, (800) 477-7756; Indian Springs, (800) 477-3192; Kensington, (800) 477-3178; Hudson Mills, (800) 477-3191.

**OAKLAND COUNTY REQUIREMENTS**  
Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

**WAYNE COUNTY REQUIREMENTS**  
Wayne County Parks offers nature interpretive programs throughout the year. Registration is requested. Call (734) 261-1990.

Send information to *Outdoors*, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; fax information to (248) 644-1314.



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### ARTS EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHROMIN

## 2001 calendar celebrates Detroit's history

Annette McConnell felt the memories rushing back as she looked through the boxes of photographs Tony Spina left to Wayne State University. The task seemed almost overwhelming as McConnell, a Livonia resident, searched through more than 23,000 prints and negatives to find a dozen of Spina's images for the 2001 Days of Detroit Calendar.

The Detroit Historical Society project is something close to her heart and that of her husband Jim. Both have volunteered hundreds of hours over the last few years to develop a 5,000 item database for the calendar, which lists a historical fact about Detroit for every day of the year.

The decision to use Spina's photographs to accent the cover and individual months was a natural. The longtime Bloomfield Hills resident spent more than 40 years photographing people and events for the Detroit Free Press before retiring in 1989 as chief photographer. He remained chief photographer emeritus until his death in 1995.

"Having grown up in this area I really enjoyed looking at the different prints," said McConnell. "Tony Spina was a photojournalist. These are stories that would stand out in your mind."

Once McConnell sifted through all of the prints and negatives Spina donated to the Walter T. Reuther Library, she realized Douglas Haller needed all the help he could get to catalog the mountain of images. Haller is coordinator of audio visual collections at the Walter T. Reuther Library at Wayne State University.

"We divided the photographs into categories," said McConnell who volunteered three days a week from April to November to sort through the photographs. "I was especially impressed with Tony's images of the Papacy. He photographed all of the popes from the '40s on. His presidential collection includes all of the presidents from Truman on as well as letters from the presidents. There's also a Detroit section along with pho-



Days of Detroit: Tony Spina used multiple exposures to capture the fireworks above the Isamu Noguchi fountain in Hart Plaza during the 1985 International Freedom Festival.

tographs of Jimmy Durante, Lauren Bacall and Elvis. The collection has all of these special portraits."

Jim McConnell's favorite image is the one chosen for the cover because it celebrates the 300th birthday of Detroit in 2001 with a bang. Spina used multiple exposures to capture the colorful fireworks above the Isamu Noguchi fountain in Hart Plaza during the 1985 International Freedom Festival. December's Ambassador Bridge shot is a favorite as well.

"It's really difficult to choose just one," said Jim McConnell. "September is special because it shows John F. Kennedy standing in front of a crowd on Labor Day in 1960 and Robert Kennedy who visited Detroit in 1968, a month before he was assassinated. Tony combined the images. He knew he could use the two separate negatives and blend them into one shot."

### Lifetime of memories

It's still difficult for Frances Spina to look at the calendar but she thinks her late husband's favorite would have been November.

"He loved the Thanksgiving Day parade," said Frances Spina who was

Please see the calendar, C1



## The arts roar into the 21st century

BY LINDA ANN CHROMIN AND STEPHANIE ANGELEN CAPOLA  
STAFF WRITERS

It's that time of year again. The Observer arts and entertainment staff has chosen the best our area offers in music, dance, theater and the visual arts. The doom and gloom prognostications the Y2K bug brought at the first of the year were soon behind them as arts organizations roared into the 21st century. Over the last 10 years we've watched the arts go from a glimmer of light to a dazzling burst of fireworks.

The list below barely hints at the hundreds of arts events that grace the stages and gallery-like spaces in our communities.

**Best museum exhibit:** The Detroit Institute of Arts' Van Gogh: Face to Face was not only the exhibit of the year but the decade.

**Best public art with a heart:** Mark Chatterley's bronze sculpture in memory of his mother, Doris, a longtime Plymouth Community Arts Council volunteer who died in 1990. The Release of the Turtle Woman stands in front of the arts council on Sheldon Road.

**Best fine arts competitions:** Canton Project Arts and Fine Arts in the Village in Livonia.

**Best fine arts festival:** Farmington's Festival of the Arts which showcased the visual arts, music, theater, dance and poetry.

**Best "Very Special" festival:** VEA Arts Festival hosted by the Southeastern Michigan VEA Arts Michigan (Michigan) at Woodbridge annual event in May.

**Best photography exhibit:** Westland museum James Aho's images of the Midwest Detroit Jazz Festival (now the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival) at Focus: HOPE.

**Best adaptations:** Farmington Players for their move to a temporary theater at Barnes & Noble Bookellers in West Bloomfield. The Players are in



Inspiring performances: The Martha Graham Dance Company visited North Farmington High School as part of a two-week residency which preceded performances at Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts in Detroit.



From the heart: Mark Chatterley created this bronze sculpture in honor of his mother, Doris, a long-time volunteer for the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

the process of building a new barn theater for their productions.

**Best multi-media presentations:** Peter Starling Dance Company's The Art of War which blended sculpture, dance, poetry and multi-media.

**Best jazz festival:** Michigan Jazz Festival, a free event that spotlights the best musicians in the tri-county area.

**Best family activity:** Detroit Zoo's new \$6 million National Amphibian Conservation Center, home to more than 600 frogs, salamanders, newts and caecilians.

**Best Wednesday night jazz:** Matt Michaels Trio with guest artists at Ron's Fireside Inn in Garden City.

**Best new opera company:** Great Lakes Lyric Opera brought the art to the masses with two light-hearted productions in English.

**Best/most active youth theater:** Tinderbox Productions run by Redford educator Nancy Florkowski.

**Best high school theater program:** Creative and Performing Arts Program directed by Gill Mack at Churchill in Livonia not only trains future actors but invites them back as professionals to share their knowledge with students.

**Best dance experience for youth:** Martha Graham Dance Company's visit to North Farmington High School.

**Best classical music youth program:** Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Civic, Sinfonia and Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Canton conductor



Face to Face: This 1867 self-portrait by Vincent van Gogh was one of nearly 70 works in the exhibit the Detroit Institute of Arts opened in March.



All-time jazz: Matt Michaels brings his trio and guest artists to Ron's Fireside Inn in Garden City every Wednesday night.

**New music:** Jack Pierson revived the Schoolcraft College Jazz Band in Livonia.



Charles Durkin

**Best partnerships in the arts:** Livonia Symphony and Plymouth Symphony orchestras uniting with Our Lady of Good Counsel and other area churches to present concerts.

**Best music performing arts festival:** University Musical Society series in Ann Arbor which spotlighted the Royal Shakespeare Company, Gate Theatre of Dublin, Itzhak Perlman, Herbie Hancock, and Manahem Pressler among others too numerous to mention.

**Best glass exhibit:** Internationally recognized artist Richard Ritter's retrospective at the Alfred Berkowitz Gallery at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

**Best/most adventuresome theater:** Trinity House Theatre for bringing audiences plays such as Elie Wiesel's *The Trial of God*.

**Best new jazz ensemble:** Schoolcraft College Jazz Band under the direction of Jack Pierson.

**Best art fairs:** Ann Arbor Art Fairs and Plymouth's Art in the Park.

**Best art created on-site:** The 18th annual Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular which never fails to dazzle visitors year after year. The family-style event returns Jan. 17-23.

**Best overall local band:** The Waxwings, at the helm of the rising pop rock scene with a stellar Bohol records release, *Low to the Ground*.

**Best area rapper to count on for a good scandal:** Eminem.

Please see C1, C1

### MUSEUM

## New Detroit Science Center exterior nears completion

BY ALICE REHN  
STAFF WRITER  
arhn@oe.homes.com

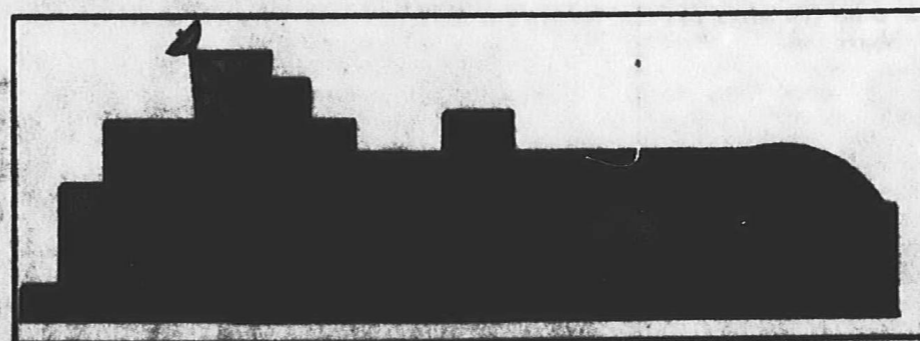
With less than a week of holiday shopping left, are you still looking for the perfect "money-no-option" gift for that person who has everything?

How about buying something that can spin, swing, vibrate, undulate, reverberate, motivate and capture a child's imagination like nothing else?

The New Detroit Science Center, scheduled to reopen this summer after an extensive expansion and renovation, is looking for a few good corporate and individual sponsors.

Perhaps you'd like to name a star on the "Starway of the Stars" or name a seat in the new 100-seat Science Stage Theater. Or maybe there's interest in sponsoring one of the five exhibit areas that focus on the science of motion, matter and energy, waves and a special preschool children's laboratory. Even the IMAX Dome Theatre and the new Digital Dome Theatre and Planetarium are still awaiting sponsorship.

Save those star's gifts that come cheap — we're talking thousands to



The plan: The generous use of glass and multi-levels will give the New Detroit Science Center an open, airy appeal. A view from the west elevation shows the IMAX on the left and the new Digital Dome Theatre on the right.

millions of dollars here — but then, what a lasting legacy it will provide for the children of Southeastern Michigan. Of course, a family membership makes a wonderful gift, too, and the \$25 to \$150 membership fee won't pinch the wallet too hard.

**Shopping tip**  
With the final steel beam placed last month, the roof scheduled for comple-

tion this week, and concrete exterior walls going up by the end of January, the New Detroit Science Center is shaping up quite nicely outside.

But few will dispute that it's really what's inside that counts.

Hal Drumm, president of the Detroit Science Center, said when the plans were being drawn for the \$60 million, 65,000 square-foot expansion project, the first initiative was to keep the con-

on the content. "The idea was to respect the original architecture, which is the silver box and the red brick IMAX, because it is an icon in Detroit, and then add a new building to surround it," said Drumm, a Bloomfield Hills resident.

Designing a very transparent, multi-level building with lots of natural light and exposed steel, helped keep the construction cost to \$16 million, so that \$9 million could be spent on exhibit space that will be 10 times that of the original 45,000 square-foot building built in 1976.

"Would you want it any other way?" asks Francois Castaing, chairman of the board of trustees for the Detroit Science Center and a retired vice president of engineering for Daimler-Chrysler.

With his European charm and warm smile, Castaing has been the steady force behind the Science Center project. In 1998, the Bloomfield Hills resident launched the capital campaign to renovate, enhance and expand what had become an ailing building on the corner

Please see C1, C1

# Best from page C1

**Best musical event of the year:** The first-ever, 3-day-long Detroit Electronic Music Festival, held Memorial Day weekend in Hart Plaza, Detroit.

**Best Hip Hop artist on the rise:** Livonia's Paradime, aka Freddie Beauregard  
**Most promising local songwriter:** Christopher Plum, The Mood Elevator

**Best theatrical experience in Detroit:** Cabaret at the Fisher Theatre

**Best cross-over talent:** Joshua Funk for his comedic contributions at Second City, Planet Ant Productions for his film *Garage: A Rock Saga* and his music with Park: A Rock Band.

**Best event to promote local women in rock:** Go Girls Music Fest, which sold out Ferndale's Magic Bag in December and featured Blush, deathgirl.com, Broadzilla and Mod Ev.

**Best overall rock show involving giant bears and hundreds of pounds of confetti:** The Flaming Lips at the Majestic Theatre.

**Most energetic local rock show:** The Atomic Numbers

**Best local punk pop act of the year:** Rev

**Best surprise performance featuring Kid Rock:** Onstage with Run DMC at Detroit's State Theatre, our own Bob Ritchie chimed in on *Walk This Way*.

**Best local band that defies categorization:** The Brothers Groove, mixing blues, jazz and rock into a funky stew on their recent release *Clamp It Down*.

**Best break into radio for a local band:** 19 Wheel's cover of *You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet* on 89X.

**Best performers at the**

**Surprise: Kid Rock joined Run DMC at the State Theatre.**



**Palace's Opening Act Contest:** Three-way winners Rooster, Knee Deep Shag and Domestic Problems.

**Best find at Toronto's North By Northeast Music Festival (international):** Starling

**Best find at Toronto's North By Northeast Music Festival (local):** American Mars

**Best summer spot to catch local music:** The Whitney Garden Party

**Best up-and-coming band to take bowling:** Ultimate Fakebook

**Best Scottish import:** Travis

**Best sentimental look at rock and roll at the movies:** Cameron Crowe's somewhat autobiographical feature, *Almost Famous*.

**Best art film of the year by a first-time director:** *The Virgin Suicides*, Sophia Coppola, director

**Public Service Awards:** To all the arts organizations, especially Artserve, who worked to pass Proposal A to help fund the arts. Even though it failed with voters, the initiative brought us all together and made us stronger. Here's to a bright 2001 filled with music, dance, theater, and the performing arts.

# Science from page C1

of Warren and John R. "When Mel and I met in May or June of 1998, he took me on a tour of this building that was in poor shape, it was too small, and it was literally raining inside," said Castaing. "Still the school busses were lined up outside and the children were inside getting involved. That's why I got involved."

The Detroit Science Center has actually seen darker days than that. In 1991-92, the center was forced to close for 10 months due to a sudden and unexpected loss of state funding.

But under Drumm's leadership, which began in 1995, the Center nearly doubled its annual attendance to nearly 200,000 visitors.

Still, the exhibit space was limited to one floor and often, displays were in disrepair. Many families abandoned the Detroit institution in favor of Toledo's COSI.

"They won't have to go that far anymore," said Lisa Schallich, director of marketing and communications. "This is a museum for children with educational components, a teacher's resource room and hands-on interactive displays."

Schallich, a Birmingham resident engaged to Detroit Symphony Orchestra President Emil Kang, moved from Seattle, where she was the director of marketing for the Seattle Symphony. Now she, Drumm and Castaing spend much of their days in a wood-paneled yellow trailer that's never quite warm enough despite a near-constant clanking of the radiator. It also lacks the basic luxury of a sink, but they improvise with a water cooler for the essential pot of coffee.

If it bothers them, the trio certainly don't let it show. Instead, they prefer to don the hard hats and show visitors what will be.

**On the horizon**  
What is currently on the draw-

## At a Glance

The New Detroit Science Center total renovation and expansion includes the following:

- A ten-fold expansion of exhibit space
- More than double the size of the existing structure
- New hands-on permanent exhibit laboratories
- Aligns with the major themes developed by the Michigan Curriculum Framework for science education
- Expanded school partnerships in the city, metropolitan region and statewide
- Internet linkages and web-casting capabilities to reach students in their classrooms and at home
- Creation of a new traveling exhibit space
- Addition of a Digital Dome Theater for multimedia programs, including astronomy and space exploration programs

To discuss a gift towards the Detroit Science Center's building expansion campaign, call the Development Office at (313) 577-8400, ext. 432 or write:

Detroit Science Center  
Attn: Capital Campaign  
5020 John R Street  
Detroit, MI 48202  
campaign@sciencedetroit.org

ing board is scheduled to become reality this summer when the New Detroit Science Center will open for visitors. It will feature five exhibit areas highlighting and linking to the state-wide science education curriculum.

The Science of Motion Lab will feature hands-on and large-scale interactive exhibits. In a two-story windowed area, the Life Lab will feature an exploration of DNA, highlight life in a rain

forest and explore the microscopic world.

The Sparks Theatre will be the focal point of the Matter and Energy Lab, and will demonstrate the interaction between electricity and magnetism.

The Waves Lab will relate specifically to light, sound and the transfer of energy through wave motion. And finally, a Children's Lab will allow pre-school through second-grade visitors to explore science with pint-size experiments.

In addition, the existing IMAX Theatre and a new Digital Dome Theater and Planetarium will give spectators plenty to view. The addition of the Ford Learning Resource Center will allow for class field trips, summer programs and camp-ins. And the creation of a traveling exhibit space will ensure an ongoing schedule of new attractions. When the facility opens, *Beakman's World*, based upon the children's television program, will be the first special exhibit featured.

"Too few young people are locked out of careers in engineering or research because they don't understand science," said Castaing. "One avenue that is recognized as efficient and effective at getting young people to realize that science is of great interest is science centers."

Castaing said that with \$17.5 million raised so far, the Center still has a ways to go before it reaches its goal of \$30 million. But he has no doubts that he'll continue to play an active role in the Center long after the ribbon-cutting ceremony is over.

"I may not be down here every day, but I will recruit more trustees and work to ensure the stability of the Center," he said. "Once we were the crumbling building on the corner, and now we can stand up with Orchestra Hall and the Detroit Institute of Arts. I guess you can say we've grown up now."

# 'First Night' has become Birmingham tradition

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

skowalski@oe.homecomm.net

It's billed as a "dry" event and no matter how much snow gathers before New Year's Eve, it appears nothing can dampen the spirits of those attending the 10th annual First Night Birmingham.

Those who have made it tradition to ring in the New Year sober rather than toasting with a bottle of bubbly find many entertainers feel the same way.

It's a return engagement for many. Nearly 20 entertainers, including singers and musicians, magicians, storytellers and puppeteers, are scheduled to perform at 11 venues in and around downtown Birmingham, according to First Night director Cindy Cheaves.

Pianist David Syme has performed at each First Night Birmingham and wouldn't think

**What:** First Night Birmingham, the 10th annual New Year's Eve party in downtown Birmingham that offers families an alternative to alcohol related activities  
**When:** Sunday, Dec. 31  
**Where:** In and around downtown Birmingham

**Admission:** \$8 per person in advance, \$10 on day of event  
**Entertainment:** MB2, Kooky Karla, Bernie Stevens Magic, Beverly Meyer the Music Lady, storyteller Carri Wilson, Kimmy Horne Jazz, Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band, 5th Michigan Regiment Band, Vocal Arts Ensemble, Royal American Folklore puppets, classical guitarist Paul Vondiziano, pianist David Syme, bonnier & Keller Jazz Duo, dynaMike Magic, Golden Griffon contra dancing and BBSO String Quintet

**Venues:** Baldwin Library, Birmingham Historical Museum, City Hall, Community House, First Baptist Church, First Church of Christ Scientist, First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, First United Methodist Church, St. James Episcopal Church, Shain Park and Village Players Theatre

**Note:** The Birmingham Bloomfield Cultural Council is teaming up with the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra this year as co-chairs of the event. The Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra is kicking off the First Night Birmingham activities with a concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30 at Temple Beth El. Cost is \$20 per person.

about missing the 10th anniversary event.

Syme will play three sessions of his classical and popular piano

mixes at St. John's Episcopal Church on Maple Road.

The Detroit native spent most of the fall season touring in Europe as a soloist with the Czechoslovakian National Symphony, and he looks forward to

being home for the start of another year.

"Throughout my travels I have eagerly anticipated returning to my hometown to once again perform at First Night Birmingham," Syme said. "I enjoy playing for a receptive audience and First Night audiences have been uniformly enthusiastic. Every time I play it's special for me."

And he should know. The 51-year-old pianist has been playing since he was 3. His parents were both musicians so he didn't need to leave the house for beginner's lessons.

"I didn't take lessons until I was almost 13," he said. "I just instinctively had talent for that field."

In fact, his talents have taken him to 13 European countries, plus Canada and Mexico and all over the United States.

Syme said his music ranges from Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* to the *Phantom of the Opera* and lots of popular music in between.

"I just play what I do best," he

said. Cheaves, who is also president of the Cultural Council of Birmingham-Bloomfield, said between 6,000 and 7,000 attended last year's event when the world reveled in a new century, not just a new year.

On a smaller scale, First Night attendees have been circling this New Year's Eve on their calendar, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the event.

Most of the venues are within walking distance of the Community House and Shain Park. Those not will provide free shuttle service for First Night participants.

Cheaves doesn't expect all the snow that's fallen around metro Detroit to hurt the turnout. In fact, it may help.

"Unless it was an absolute huge blizzard and the city was totally shut down, First Night is weatherproof," Cheaves said. "The snow gets everybody in the spirit."

# Expressions

from page C1

married to Tony for 49 years. "It was his favorite time of the year. He never missed a parade - not in 46 years. And even though he was too sick to photograph it in 1994, he wanted to photograph the clowns. It was his last assignment before he died the following January."

Frances Spina thinks her husband would have liked the fact that the money raised from the calendar will go to the Detroit Historical Society. Thanks to R. L. Polk & Co. of Southfield, who underwrote the calendar for the last three years, the project has raised more than \$100,000 for the society, the major source of private funding for the Detroit Historical Museum, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Historic Fort Wayne, and the Historic Moross House.

For more information or to order with a credit card, call (313) 833-7937.

Call arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

**Mama Mia**  
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION!  
• DELUXE BUFFET MEAL  
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If you can answer the three questions listed below, call Crazy Al's Radio Party (1460 AM) on a Monday at one of the following times:  
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You could win the gorgeous cruisin' with Crazy Al jacket offered!  
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2. Who was Paul Simons singing partner?
3. Steppenwolf was born to be what?

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# Noteworthy

## Gallery exhibits, art shows, classical concerts

**MAKING CONTACT:** Please submit items for publication, at least two weeks in advance of the event, to Noteworthy, The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 or fax (248) 644-1314

### CALL FOR ARTISTS

**BLUE LAKES FINE ARTS CAMP**  
Howmet Playhouse, a summer stock theater in western Michigan, is recruiting actors, teachers, directors and technical personnel for its 2001 season. Interested individuals should send a resume to: Kevin Wurz, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, 3000 East Crystal Lake, Twin Lake, MI, 49457. The camp also has openings for counselors who live in cabins with students. For information, call (800) 221-3796 or write the Personnel Office, Blue Lakes Fine Arts Camp, 300 E. Crystal Lake, Twin Lake, MI, 49457.

**CREATIVE ARTS CENTER**  
Exhibit dates for the *Journey into Jazz* show are Feb. 16-March 31. Deadline for submission is Jan 11. Call the CAC at (248) 333-7849.

**EWING REVIEW**  
Chicago had cows, Cincinnati had pigs, and in 2001, Rochester will have sheep. The Downtown Rochester Development Authority is currently seeking sponsors and artists for decorating lifesize fiberglass sheep. To request a sponsorship package or artist's application, contact the Rochester DDA or request online at [www.thewereview.com](http://www.thewereview.com). For information, call (248) 656-0060.

**GROSSE POINTE THEATRE**  
Auditions for *You Can't Take It With You* are 6:30-10:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5 and 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7 at Grosse Pointe Theatre Building, 315 Fisher, Grosse Pointe. Performances are March 7-11, 15-18 and 22-25. (810) 775-5329.

**LAWRENCE STREET GALLERY**  
Accepting proposals for exhibitions in 2001. Mail proposals, slides, resumes to Lawrence Street Gallery, 6 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, 48232. Call Kris at (248) 360-2381 or the Gallery at (248) 334-6716.

**LIVONIA YOUTH PHILHARMONIC**  
Auditions for the 2000-2001 season are being held. Call Wendy Bernard at (734) 591-7649 for an appointment.

**MICHIGAN FINE ARTS COMPETITION**  
The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center's competition will be juried by Detroit artist Brenda Goodman. Artists are invited to submit their fine art for the competition by Jan. 2, 2001. The exhibition date is March 9-31. For information call the BBAC at (248) 644-0866.

**PAINT CREEK CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
Seeks applications from artists interested in exhibiting fine arts or fine crafts at the juried Art & Apples Festival Sept. 8-9, 2001 in Rochester Municipal Park. The booth fee is \$325/\$375. Applications must be received by March 1, 2001. Entry fee is \$25. To obtain an application form, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Art & Apples Festival, 407 Pine Street, Rochester, Mi. 48307. (248) 651-4110.

**PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY**  
The Youth Artist Competition will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4 at Evola Music, 7170 N. Kaggerty, Canton. The competition is composed of three divisions: senior instrumental (grades 10-12), senior piano (grades 10-12) and junior division (combined instrumental and piano grades 7-9). Applicants must be music students in the school districts of Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton, Van Buren or Wayne-Westlands, or be students at Evola Music. Prizes from \$350-\$500. Applications due Jan. 15, 2001. For an application call (734) 451-2112 or e-mail [plymouthsymphony@aol.com](mailto:plymouthsymphony@aol.com).

**QUILT PROJECT**  
The Maniscaico Gallery calls for contributions to raise money for Karmanos Cancer Institute by contributing a square or sponsoring one. Quilt squares due by Dec. 20. For information, call Amanda Poland at (313) 886-2993.

**VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE**  
Auditions for the a capella vocal group that performs at Renaissance feasts, concerts,

weddings, workshops and fundraisers are now taking place. For details, contact Cindy Keleman, business manager, at (313) 299-0451 or (734) 941-5955.

### CLASSES

**ART GALLERY STUDIO**  
Classes by Lin Baum are available at 29948 Ford, Garden City. (734) 261-0379.

**CENTER FOR CREATIVE STUDIES**  
Fall continuing and community education classes are at the CCS campus in Detroit and at the Civic Center in Novi. For a schedule of classes or more information, call (313) 664-7456.

**DETROIT BALLET**  
Classes in child and adult classical ballet, tap and jazz. Adult beginners welcomed. Classes offered at the Betty Johnston Dance Studio in Farmington Hills at Folsom and Nine Mile. (248)

Fitness, strengthening and conditioning for skaters, gymnasts and dancers. Ballet and tap classes for adults. 541 S. Mill, Plymouth. (734) 207-9970.

**PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL**

Fall classes and workshops for all ages are available at the Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth. For a brochure and list of events call (734) 416-4ART.

**TOUCH OF LIGHT**  
Taking applications for fall glass-blowing classes. 23426 Woodward, Ferndale. (248) 543-1868.

**VISUAL ART ASSOCIATION OF LIVONIA**

Classes in watercolor, figurative drawing and painting; workshops in batik and watercolor monotypes at the Jefferson Center, Room 16, 9501 Henry Ruff, Livonia. (734) 455-9517.

The center will be offering new youth courses for its winter session which begins Jan. 16. The new courses include My First Art Cakes, Cretaceous Creations, Potential Potters and Cartooning. 117 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 994-8004, ext. 101.

**EVOLA MUSIC**  
Register for summer classes in Kindermusik (birth to 7 years old), piano (ages 6-12), percussion (ages 6-12), guitar (6-12) and violin (ages 7-14) at Evola Music, 7170 N. Kaggerty, Canton. (734) 455-4677.

**KINDERMUSIK**  
Enroll anytime for classes for newborns to age 7. Parents participate in classes for children under 3. Classes are held at the First Baptist Church of Plymouth, 45000 N. Territorial, Plymouth. Call Lori at (734) 354-9109.

**VILLAGE MUSIC**  
Registering children for

Glenn Barr and David Sandlin. 4160 Woodward, Detroit. (313) 833-9901.

**COMMUNITY ARTS GALLERY**  
Through Jan. 26 — Graduate works in progress. 150 Community Arts Building, Detroit. (313) 577-2423.

**JANICE CHARRACH EPSTEIN GALLERY**  
Through Jan. 31 — Quilt and fiber exhibition. 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. (248) 661-7641.

**GALERIE BLU/UZELAC GALLERY**  
Through Dec. 30 — Stephen Hansen. 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 332-5257.

**GALLERY 212**  
Through Dec. 27 — Chris Mars: Fairly Recent Work. 212 S. Main, Ann Arbor. (734) 665-8224.

**HABATAT GALLERIES**  
Through Jan. 31 — Dale Chihuly. 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 333-2060.

**HERMITAGE GALLERY**  
Through Dec. 31 — Paintings by S. Lee and Cabellero and acrylic sculpture by Qema. 235 Main, Rochester. (248) 656-8550.

**SUSANNE HILBERRY GALLERY**  
The gallery has relocated to a temporary storage and office space. Hours by appointment only until the new gallery space is ready. Our new phone number is (248) 541-4700.

**ROBERT KIDD GALLERY**  
Through Jan. 20 — Fritz Mayhew: New Paintings. 107 Townsend, Birmingham. (248) 642-3909.

**DAVID KLEIN GALLERY**  
Through Dec. 30 — A group show featuring William Glen Crooks, Brad Durham, Bart Elsbach, Rafael Perez, James Del Grosso, Roy Lichtenstein and Hans Hofmann. 163 Townsend, Birmingham. (248) 433-3700.

**ARNOLD KLEIN GALLERY**  
Through Jan 31 — *Women in the foreground*. The gallery will be closed Dec. 8-Jan. 2. 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak. (248) 647-7709.

**LIVONIA CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY GALLERY**  
Through Dec. 28 — *Spaces and Places* by Sharon Weisswasser. Five Mile Road, east of Farmington.

**OAKLAND COUNTY GALLERIA**  
Through Jan. 18 — *The Waterford Friends of the Arts*. Oakland County Executive Building, Pontiac. (248) 858-0415.

**PEWABIC POTTERY**  
Through Dec. 31 — *Earthy Treasures* annual holiday show. 10125 East Jefferson, Detroit. (313) 822-0954.

**PIERCE STREET GALLERY**  
Through Dec. 31 — Mary Keithan: *Michigan Heritage Bams*. 217 Pierce Street, Birmingham. (248) 646-6950.

**PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL**  
Through Dec. 30 — Dennis Jones stone sculpture and Marge Pacer photographs. 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth. (734) 416-4ART.

**POSTER GALLERY**  
Features theater posters and showcards at the Fisher Bldg., Detroit. (313) 875-5211.

**POSA**  
Through Dec. 31 — June Lark Owen is the featured artist of the month. Summit Mall, Waterford. (248) 683-8779.

**REVOLUTION GALLERY**  
Through Jan. 6 — Ron Nagle: *Recent Works*. Also through Jan. 6 is *One Paper III*: Heather McGill, Scott Richter and Amy Vogel. 23257 Woodward, Ferndale. (248) 541-3444.

**SCARAB CLUB**  
Through Dec. 31 — 87th annual gold medal exhibition. 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. (313) 831-1250.

**SOUTHFIELD CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
Through Jan. 3 — An exhibition of Haitian art by Emily C. Hall. 24350 Southfield, Southfield. (248) 424-9022.

**SWOONS INTO FLOWERS**  
Through Jan. 6 — Postcards from Home, photographs from Joe Crachole and George Waldman. 33 E. Adams, Detroit. (313) 963-7675.

**THE SYBARIIS GALLERY**  
Through Jan. 13 — *Figurative Suggestions: Women, Knitted and Constructed Forms*. 202 E. Third Street, Royal Oak. (248) 544-3368.

**VAN NOESSEN FARM**  
Through Jan. 27 — *Classic Ensemble: an exhibition of antique musical instruments*. 1005 Van Noessen Road, Rochester Hills. (248) 608-8261.

Bushon displays her oil portraits. 29500 Van Dyke, Warren. (810) 754-1466.

**WOODS GALLERY**  
Through Dec. 31 — *Re-collect: Cranbrook Academy of Art*. An exhibit highlighting the talents of three Cranbrook students, Perri Lynch, Emily Kennerk and Deborah Fisher. Huntington Woods Library, 26415 Scottia, Huntington Woods. (248) 543-9720.

**WOODWARD GALLERY**  
Through Jan. 12 — *Mark Yarnis Art Exhibit*. 1357 Davis, Birmingham. (248) 642-1357.

### MUSEUMS

**CRANBROOK ART MUSEUM**  
Through Feb. 4 — *Double Flame*: New work by Steve Murakishi. Through Jan. 7 — *The Portrait in Contemporary Photography*. 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. 1-877-GO-CRANBROOK.

**CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE**  
Opens Dec. 26 — *Museum Mystery*. Become a science sleuth as you solve a mock crime with experiments, evidence gathering and forensic science through Dec. 31. Through April 29 — *Electric Space: Bolts, Jolts and Volts from the Sun*. 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. 1-877-GO-CRANBROOK.

**DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**  
Through March 11 — *Little Treasures: Northern and Italian Paintings of the 16th and 17th Centuries*. Through Dec. 31 — *Punch's Progress: A Century of American Puppetry*. Through March 4 — *A Decade of Acquisitions 1900-2000: Photographs*. Through Jan. 7 — *Bill Viola/Video Collaboration*. Through Dec. 31 — *Pop Art: Prints and Multiples from the DIA Collection*. Through Dec. 30 — *Small Wonder: Worlds in a Box*. Through Dec. 31 — *The Fine Art of Woodworking: The Bohlen Collection*. 5200 Woodward, Detroit. (313) 833-7900.

**CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY**  
Through Jan. 21 — *For Honor and Valor: African Americans in the United States Military, 1775-1953*. Through March 30 — *Historical Themes, Tales and Legends: The Art of Jerry Pinkney*. 315 E. Warren, Detroit. (313) 494-5800.

**MUSEUM OF NEW ART**  
Stuff: An installation by Iain Baxter and Very Similar a series of nudes by Frank Horvath through Jan. 27. 19 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 210-7560.

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MUSEUM OF ART**  
Through Jan. 28 — *Casting Shadows: Photographs by Edward West*. Through Jan. 7 — *William Kentridge: Weighing...and Wanting*. Through Jan. 21 — *Plant Life: Works from the Permanent Collection*. Through Feb. 25 — *Mark Rothko and the Lure of the Figure: Paintings 1933-1946*.

### THEATER

**DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE**  
*This Blood's For You* through Dec. 31. 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. (313) 868-1347.

**GEM THEATRE**  
*Late Night Catechism* is through Feb. 11. Wednesday through Sunday nights. *Ecstasy in de Moonlight* closes Dec. 31. The final two performances are at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 31. *The Tropical Pickle* will be opening Feb. 21 in the Gem. 333 Madison, Detroit. (313) 963-9800.

**JEWISH ENSEMBLE THEATRE**  
*Twilight of the Gods* by Jonathan Tolins runs through Dec. 31 at the Aron DeRoy Theatre, lower level of the JCC, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. (248) 788-2900.

**MEADOW BROOK THEATRE**  
The annual tradition, *A Christmas Carol*, is through Dec. 24 at Oakland University, Rochester. (248) 377-3300.

**TONY N' TINA'S WEDDING**  
The comedy is at Harmonie Club Thursday-Sunday nights. No show Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Two special shows are on New Year's Eve. Each features an expanded Italian supper and champagne. Early show is at 5 p.m. for \$60. Later show is at 10 p.m. and is \$125. It also features appetizers, supper, a live band until 3 a.m. followed by a hot breakfast. 311 E. Grand River, Detroit. (313) 961-5211.

### Gallery exhibit



**Working folks:** Galerie Blu/Uzelac Gallery exhibits the paper mache sculptures of Stephen Hansen through Dec. 30. The piece shown is entitled "Work, Work, Work." 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 332-5257.

474-3174.  
**D & M STUDIOS**  
Taking registration for holiday workshops. Classes available at three locations in Plymouth and Canton. (734) 453-3710.

**EISENHOWER DANCE ENSEMBLE**  
All levels of classes for recreational and professional students, including modern, ballet, pointe, tap and jazz for children ages 3 and older. 1541 W. Hamlin, between Crooks and Livernois, Rochester Hills. (248) 852-5850.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**  
Adult art classes 9 a.m. to noon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Woodcarving classes at 9 a.m. Monday-Friday. 15110 W. Ten Mile, Oak Park. (248) 967-4030.

**KAMMUELLER DANCE CLASSES**  
Adult daytime summer ballet classes Sundays through Fridays, ages 16-60 years. Call Chris at (248) 932-8699 or Mo at (248) 960-0778. Keego Harbor area.

**MADISON CHORALE**  
Auditions are at 7:35 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9 at Wilkinson Middle School, 26524 John R, Madison Heights. (248) 879-7444.

**METRO DANCE**  
Teen/adult hip-hop for ages 16 and up. Also, boys-only classes offered in hip-hop and ballet.

### CONCERTS

**BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
Present *Jazz up Your Holidays* at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30 at Temple Beth El, 14 Mile and Telegraph Roads, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 645-BBSO.

**BORDERS BOOKS**  
Kristin Piater, a Boston-based singer/songwriter originally from Troy, performs 7:30-9:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 29. Borders, Oakland Mall, Troy.

**CENTURY CLUB**  
Features live music, dancing and a late-night menu on Friday and Saturday evenings. A rotating roster of musicians, including vocalists Misty Love, Jennifer George-Congalio and Johnnie Bassett. 333 Madison, Detroit. (313) 963-9800.

**CHRIST CHURCH GROSSE POINTE**  
Recital before *Midnight Mass* featuring Bach's Christmas Oratorio is at 10:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 24. 61 Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms. (313) 885-4641.

**DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
The New Year's Eve Gala is at 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31 at Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, Detroit. (313) 876-5111.

**FOR KIDS**  
**ANN ARBOR ART CENTER**

Kindermusik classes beginning the week of Jan. 22. Classes available for newborns through 6 years. Registration is also open for piano lab. 130 E. Liberty, Plymouth's Old Village. (734) 354-9825.

**WEST BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY EDUCATION**  
Rita's music classes for parents and children ages 2 months to 4 years. For location and registration call (248) 539-2290.

### GALLERY EXHIBITS (ON-GOING)

**BIRMINGHAM SOCIETY OF WOMEN PAINTERS**  
Through Jan. 30 — *The Oakland County's Office of Arts, Culture & Film sponsors the event at American House, 3741 S. Adams, Rochester Hills. (248) 858-0415.*

**GARY GALLERY**  
Through Dec. 30 — *Marilyn Dornan's "Loving Back" features watercolor paintings.* 226 Walnut St., Rochester. (248) 661-5900.

**GRACE GALLERY**  
Through Feb. 24 — *Love & Pain*, paintings by Corrie Parks. 4820 Cass, Detroit. (313) 651-3400.

**GRACE GALLERY**  
Through Jan. 3 — *High Seas*,

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC  
GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

**Midwest American**  
Showtimes  
11:30, 1:40, 4:00 MON-THURS.  
11:20, 1:40, 4:00  
NO VP TICKETS

**Midwest Cinema 16**  
7501 Highland Rd.  
S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd.  
24 West Maple Lane  
248-666-7800  
CALL 77 FILMS FEST  
We've tripled our lobby and added five new screens. The only theatre in Oakland County with the new Dolby digital EX sound system and more... Check us Out!  
Our expanded parking lot is now open free full on Popcorn and Pop  
NO ALL THE PRETTY HORSES (PG13)  
MON-THURS. 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00  
NO CASTAWAY (PG13)  
12:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00  
NO DRACULA 2000 (R)  
11:20, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45  
NO FAMILY MAN (PG13)  
11:20, 1:45, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55  
NO MISS CONGRUENTIALITY (PG13)  
11:20, 1:40, 4:15, 7:15, 9:40  
NO DUDE WHERE'S MY CAR (PG13)  
10:40, 11:10, 12:00, 1:50, 4:00, 6:30, 8:30, 9:25, 9:40, 10:05  
NO EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE (G)  
11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50  
NO DUDE WHERE'S MY CAR (PG13)  
11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:15, 7:30, 9:30  
PROOF OF LIFE (R)  
3:45, 5:35, 9:35  
VERTICAL LIMIT (PG13)  
11:05, 1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50  
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS (PG13)  
10:50, 1:25  
NO MISS CONGRUENTIALITY (PG13)  
SUN. 10:30, 12:40, 2:50, 5:00  
MON-THURS. 11:20, 1:40, 4:00  
UNREARABLE (PG13)  
SUN. 10:45, 1:30, 3:55, 6:40, 9:00  
MON-THURS. 6:40, 9:00  
BUGRATS IN PARIS (G)  
11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30  
DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG)  
11:15, 1:35, 4:10, 6:55, 9:25  
CHARLIE'S ANGELS (PG13)  
SUN. 7:05, 9:10  
MEET THE PARENTS (PG13)  
6:45, 9:20

**Showtime Dearborn 1-8**  
Michigan & Telegraph  
313-361-3449  
Bargain Matinee Daily  
All Shows until 6 pm  
Continuous Shows Daily  
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.  
THRU THURSDAY  
NO DENOTES NO PASS  
NO CASTAWAY (PG13)  
12:00, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45  
NO DRACULA 2000 (R)  
11:30, 1:40, 4:10, 7:20, 9:35  
NO FAMILY MAN (PG13)  
10:30, 1:15, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55  
NO MISS CONGRUENTIALITY (PG13)  
11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:40  
NO EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE (G)  
10:40, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:50  
NO WHAT WOMEN WANT (PG13)  
11:00, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15  
VERTICAL LIMIT (PG13)  
10:45, 1:25, 4:20, 7:05, 10:05  
NO DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG)  
10:55, 1:30, 4:25, 7:25, 9:30

**Showtime Pontiac 1-8**  
Telegraph-S. Lake Rd. W. Side of Telegraph  
248-332-0241  
Bargain Matinee Daily  
All Shows until 6 pm  
Continuous Shows Daily  
Late Shows Thurs. Fri. & Sat.  
THRU THURSDAY  
NO DENOTES NO PASS  
NO CASTAWAY (PG13)  
12:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00  
NO DRACULA 2000 (R)  
11:10, 1:10, 1:50, 3:50, 4:30, 6:30, 7:10, 9:20, 9:40  
NO EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE (G)  
11:10, 1:10, 1:50, 3:50, 4:30, 6:30, 7:10, 9:20, 9:40  
NO WHAT WOMEN WANT (PG13)  
11:10, 1:10, 1:50, 3:50, 4:30, 6:30, 7:10, 9:20, 9:40  
NO DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG)  
11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40

**Showtime Pontiac 6-12**  
2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph  
810-334-6777  
Bargain Matinee Daily  
All Shows until 6 pm  
Continuous Shows Daily  
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.  
THRU THURSDAY  
NO DENOTES NO PASS  
NO CASTAWAY (PG13)  
12:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00  
NO DRACULA 2000 (R)  
11:30, 1:50, 4:20, 7:30, 10:00  
NO FAMILY MAN (PG13)  
10:40, 1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50  
NO MISS CONGRUENTIALITY (PG13)  
11:10, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40  
NO EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE (G)  
SUN. 10:30, 12:30, 3:30  
NO DUDE WHERE'S MY CAR (PG13)  
10:50, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 7:00, 9:00  
NO DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG)  
SUN. 11:20, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:15, 9:15  
VERTICAL LIMIT (PG13)  
SUN. 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:30  
UNREARABLE (PG13)  
SUN. 4:50, 7:40, 9:55

**Quo Yadis**  
Warren & Ypsilanti  
313-423-7700  
Bargain Matinee Daily  
All Shows until 6 pm  
Continuous Shows Daily  
Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat.  
NO DENOTES NO PASS  
NO ALL THE PRETTY HORSES (PG13)  
MON-THURS. 11:00, 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30  
NO DRACULA 2000 (R)  
11:30, 1:45, 4:15, 7:20, 9:40  
NO DUDE WHERE'S MY CAR (PG13)  
11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:05, 7:10, 9:30  
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS (PG13)  
SUN. 11:00, 1:15

**MON-THURS 3:30**  
102 DALLAMATIONS (G)  
SUN. 11:20, 1:40, 4:00 MON-THURS.  
11:20, 1:40, 4:00  
NO VP TICKETS

**MON-THURS 11:25, 1:20, 3:45, 6:55, 9:45**  
MEET THE PARENTS (PG13)  
SUN. 6:55, 9:20  
PROOF OF LIFE (R)  
MON-THURS 7:00, 9:45  
VERTICAL LIMIT (PG13)  
11:05, 1:35, 4:20, 6:50, 9:25  
UNREARABLE (PG13)  
6:40, 9:10

**Showtime Westland 1-8**  
6800 Warren Rd.  
One blk. S. of Warren Rd.  
313-725-1060  
Bargain Matinee Daily  
All Shows until 6 pm  
Continuous Shows Daily  
Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.  
NO DENOTES NO PASS  
NO CASTAWAY (PG13)  
SUN. 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 9:00  
MON-THURS. 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 9:00  
NO FAMILY MAN (PG13)  
SUN. 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 9:00  
MON-THURS. 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 9:00  
NO MISS CONGRUENTIALITY (PG13)  
SUN. 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:30, 9:00  
MON-THURS. 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:30, 9:00  
NO WHAT WOMEN WANT (PG13)  
SUN. 10:45, 11:15, 1:30, 2:00, 4:15, 6:45, 8:00, 9:15  
MON-THURS. 10:45, 11:15, 1:30, 2:00, 4:15, 6:45, 8:00, 9:15  
NO EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE (G)  
SUN. 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 9:00  
MON-THURS. 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 9:00  
NO DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG)  
SUN. 11:30, 2:15, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10  
MON-THURS. 11:30, 2:15, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10

**Star Theatres**  
The World's Best Theatres  
Bargain Matinee Daily 11:00 AM All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm  
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard  
"NP" Denotes No Pass Engagement

**Star Great Lakes Crossing**  
Great Lakes Shopping Center  
NO FRIDAY FORECASTER (PG13)  
MON-THURS. 12:05, 1:15, 3:05, 4:10, 6:05, 7:10, 9:05, 10:05  
NO ALL THE PRETTY HORSES (PG13)  
MON-THURS. 11:15, 1:45, 3:00, 7:10, 9:50  
NO EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE (G)  
10:40, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:50  
NO WHAT WOMEN WANT (PG13)  
11:00, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15  
VERTICAL LIMIT (PG13)  
10:45, 1:25, 4:20, 7:05, 10:05  
NO DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG)  
10:55, 1:30, 4:25, 7:25, 9:30

**NO MISS CONGRUENTIALITY (PG13)**  
SUN. 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00  
MON-THURS. 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:00  
NO VP TICKETS

**NO WHAT WOMEN WANT (PG13)**  
SUN. 11:05, 11:50, 12:40, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:20, 5:10, MON-THURS. 11:05, 11:50, 12:40, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:20, 5:10, 6:00, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20, 11:10, 12:00, 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:10, 5:00, 5:50, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9:10, 10:00, 10:50, 11:40, 12:30, 1:20, 2:10, 3:00, 3:50, 4:40, 5:30, 6:20, 7:10, 8:00, 8:50, 9:40, 10:30, 11:20, 12:10, 1:00, 1:50, 2:40, 3:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:00, 6:50, 7:40, 8:30, 9:20, 10:10, 11:00, 11:50, 12:40, 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:20, 8:10, 9:00, 9:50, 10:40, 11:30, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20, 11:10, 12:00, 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:10, 5:00, 5:50, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9:10, 10:00, 10:50, 11:40, 12:30, 1:20, 2:10, 3:00, 3:50, 4:40, 5:30, 6:20, 7:10, 8:00, 8:50, 9:40, 10:30, 11:20, 12:10, 1:00, 1:50, 2:40, 3:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:00, 6:50, 7:40, 8:30, 9:20, 10:10, 11:00, 11:50, 12:40, 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:20, 8:10, 9:00, 9:50, 10:40, 11:30, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20, 11:10, 12:00, 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:10, 5:00, 5:50, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9:10, 10:00, 10:50, 11:40, 12:30, 1:20, 2:10, 3:00, 3:50, 4:40, 5:30, 6:20, 7:10, 8:00, 8:50, 9:40, 10:30, 11:20, 12:10, 1:00, 1:50, 2:40, 3:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:00, 6:50, 7:40, 8:30, 9:20, 10:10, 11:00, 11:50, 12:40, 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:20, 8:10, 9:00, 9:50, 10:40, 11:30, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20, 11:10, 12:00, 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:10, 5:00, 5:50, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9:10, 10:00, 10:50, 11:40, 12:30, 1:20, 2:10, 3:00, 3:50, 4:40, 5:30, 6:20, 7:10, 8:00, 8:50, 9:40, 10:30, 11:20, 12:10, 1:00, 1:50, 2:40, 3:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:00, 6:50, 7:40, 8:30, 9:20, 10:10, 11:00, 11:50, 12:40, 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:20, 8:10, 9:00, 9:50, 10:40, 11:30, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20, 11:10, 12:00, 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:10, 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6:20, 7:10, 8:00, 8:50, 9:40, 10:30, 11:20, 12:10, 1:00, 1:50, 2:40, 3:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:00, 6:50, 7:40, 8:30, 9:20, 10:10, 11:00, 11:50, 12:40, 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:20, 8:10, 9:00, 9:50, 10:40, 11:30, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20, 11:10, 12:00, 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:10, 5:00, 5:50, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9:10, 10:00, 10:50, 11:40, 12:30, 1:20, 2:10, 3:00, 3:50, 4:40, 5:30, 6:20, 7:10, 8:00, 8:50, 9:40, 10:30, 11:20, 12:10, 1:00, 1:50, 2:40, 3:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:00, 6:50, 7:40, 8:30, 9:20, 10:10, 11:00, 11:50, 12:40, 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:20, 8:10, 9:00, 9:50, 10:40, 11:30, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:50, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20, 11:10, 12:00, 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:10, 5:00, 5:50, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9:10, 10:00, 10:50, 11:40, 12:30, 1:20, 2:10, 3:00, 3:50, 4:40, 5:30, 6:20, 7:10, 8:00, 8:50, 9:40, 10:30, 11:20, 12:10, 1:00, 1:50, 2:40, 3:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:00, 6:50, 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THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC PRESENTS



WOMEN seeking MEN Call 1-800-454-5666 \$2.19 per min. 82.19/call connection fee

YOUNG AT HEART Divorced, honest, sincere, attractive, white female in her 30s with a great sense of humor. I enjoy slow dancing, movies, and eating time with family and friends. Looking for a single male, 30 to 40, who is healthy, attractive, with a big heart. BOX 10612

A SENTIMENTAL PERSON Old fashioned divorced white female, sentimental person, 53, 5'8", 140 lbs. shy, non-smoker, care about my health and exercise regularly. Enjoys walks in the park, quiet special times, outdoors, boating, camping, travel and more. Family oriented. Easygoing, caring, person. No games please. BOX 10748

TRUST IS THE KEY Divorced white female, 40, medium build, sandy blond hair, 3 children, nurse with day shift. 3 children, enjoys walks, the beach, the country, and more. Seeking 5'9" and taller, non-smoker, who enjoys life, is family oriented, to build a strong friendship and possible long term. BOX 10755

OPEN YOUR HEART! Single white female, 46, petite, honest and sincere, enjoys dancing, sports, travel, working out, and much more. Seeking single white male, with similar interests, for a long term relationship. Possible long term relationship. BOX 13749

BASIC INFORMATION 43 yr old, 5'8", full figured, blonde hair, brown eyes, mother of 14 yr old, homemaker, looking for someone who is tall, who enjoys going to concerts and the redwings. BOX 14026

ARE YOU OUT THERE? Single white female, 42, blond hair, green eyes, 110 lbs, attractive, with green children, smoker, social drinker, enjoys going north, water, relaxing at home, dining out, enjoys attractive one woman man, to enjoy quality time with, possible long term relationship. BOX 14041

COMPANION WANTED Single white female, 46, petite, honest and sincere, enjoys dancing, sports, travel, working out, and much more. Seeking single white male, with similar interests, for a long term relationship. Possible long term relationship. BOX 13749

YOU MIGHT BE THE ONE 25 yr old, single white female with hazel eyes and brown hair. Looking for a single white male, 25 to 30, for good times, conversations, and maybe more. BOX 12575

LIGHTEN UP MY LIFE Single white Christian female, 39, 5'8", full figured, long brown hair and blue eyes. Looking for a jazz Christian musician, single, who enjoys camping, hiking, and a long term relationship. Wayne County. BOX 33625

DOCTOR WANTED Christina Aguilera look alike, masters degree. Seeking a single MD/PhD, 25 to 30, no drugs, healthy, modest fit, positive attitude, romantic, loves animals, intellectual, who would make me their world, for quiet times, waiting marriage. You will not be disappointed. BOX 10672

QUALITY QUALITY Seeking a sincere, honest, no games played, non-smoking, single, attractive, single white male, 30 to 40, who likes to do almost everything. Looking for friendship, companionship or something long term. West side Wayne County. BOX 25333

NEW BEGINNINGS Divorced white mother of three, 35, brown hair and eyes, 5'7", average build. Enjoys camping, outdoor activities, movies and dinners. Looking for a white male, 40 to 45, who is caring, loves children, outgoing, good sense of humor and similar interests. Friendship and possible relationship. Wayne County. BOX 33625

FIRST TIME AD Divorced Native American female, 38 yr old, 5'10", 150 lbs, long brown hair, brown eyes. Seeking white male, 6 plus, 30 plus, honest, who loves the outdoors, smoker and social drinker, for long term relationship. Wayne County. BOX 25335

LET'S TALK Divorced white female, 5'40 yr, mother of three children, social drinker, smoker. Enjoys the outdoors, camping, hiking, and a long term relationship. If interested please respond. BOX 32632

SPICE OF LIFE 5'6", 140 lbs, long wavy red hair, independent, romantic who enjoys dancing, shooting pool, boating, cars, outdoors or a quiet evening at home watching movies. Looking for a man, 35 to 45, who is romantic and enjoys some of the same interests. Down River Area. BOX 33514

TALL ORDER Attractive 5'10" redhead, Catholic, fun loving, adventurous, romantic. Comfortable in jeans to evening gown. Loves sports, travel, theatre, gourmet cooking. For that special man! Seeking tall white gentleman, financially/emotionally secure, 40 to 60 who is a romantic, kind, has a good sense of humor with similar interests. Oakland County. BOX 25353

CUTE AS A BUTTON Single white female, 28, 5'2", medium build, enjoys casinos, dancing, fine dining in or out, walking, holding hand and cuddling. Seeking a white gentleman, 45 to 60, who knows how to treat a lady. BOX 35484

READY FOR ROMANCE Attractive single black female, 48 plus, light smoker, social drinker. Seriously thinking of love kisses on cool nights. Loves movies, dining in or out, and long massages. In search of a sweet loving, single white male, 5'10" or over. For friendship and more, age open. BOX 35490

A LADY OF CLASS Vivacious, upbeat, very attractive, blonde female, a professional, 5'7", 115 lb, upper 80's, seeking soul mate counter part, 60's, a professional, for dating, possible long term relationship. Call me and see who I am. BOX 35998

IN GENUINE GORE 52 yr old, white female, non-smoker, enjoys loving, and lots of fun, loves life. Looking for a sincere, successful, secure, stable, loving, Caucasian gentleman, non-smoker, 45 to 60, who's positive and loves life as much as I do. Go for the genuine gem, your life will be worth living, answer my ad today. BOX 25328

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL... with a friend, 38 yr old, black, beautiful female, 5'9", 140 lbs, seeking White/Hispanic professional, handsome male, 30 to 35, for friendship and possibly more. BOX 33689

NEVER TOO LATE Falls here, let's go to it. Divorced white female, 68, 5'4", 140 lbs, non-smoker, social drinker, active and outgoing, enjoys the outdoors, travel, music, dancing and more. Seeking a single gentleman with a good sense of humor and similar interests. BOX 25991

GREAT COMPANION Attractive, trim, optimistic, blue eyed, blonde divorced white female, 55, 5'8", affectionate, seeks possible long term relationship with non-smoking, degreed, honest outgoing white gentleman, 48-62, who enjoys travel, golf, romance, and the Arts. Oakland County. BOX 25321

ALL I WANT AND MORE Attractive black female, 63 yrs old, physically fit, 5'5", 155 lbs, employed, educated, enjoys fishing, movies, museums and more. No dependents. Looking for a male, 45 to 57, non-smoker, mandatory who enjoys life for an honest, monogamous relationship. BOX 13932

COMEDIAN AT HEART Classy, elegant, 5'8", single, blonde, divorced white female. Enjoys movies, walking, all activities, candies, and romance. Seeking professional male, 35 to 45, for a companion, fun, enjoyable relationship. BOX 25078

LOOKING FOR MY MATCH Single white female, 39, 5'5", brown hair, medium build, independent, good cook, loves to read, spontaneous, loving, caring, like a variety of activities and sports. Seeking emotionally secure, honest, well-mannered, confident, all American guy, 35 to 50. BOX 26076

OLD FASHIONED 5'10", white full figured, 46 looking for meaningful relationship, including walking, swimming, and a dog to earth, honest, sincere, single female. BOX 10576

ADVENTUROUS LADY Single white female, 38, 5'6", 115 lbs, blonde hair and hazel eyes. Enjoys riding Harley's, camping, traveling. Seeking a man, 38 to 48, who knows how to treat a lady. BOX 10576

ATTENTION HARLEYS Divorced white female, 41, no dependents, height weight proportionate, caring, considerate, cute and cuddly. Seeking a man, 38 to 48, who knows how to treat a lady. BOX 10576

IM SANE 22 yr old, single white female, 5'9", 125 lbs, loves horror flicks and cooking. Seeking muscular, single white male, 25 to 31, who is smart and strong. Willing to live. BOX 35485

GOLFERS WHERE ARE U Single white female, 66 young looking, active, down river area, loves to golf, but not ready for the four L's of interests, new adventures. Seeking fit single white male, 5'10" or taller, between 50 and 60, for conversation, friendship and more. BOX 33652

ARE YOU THE ONE? Young 57, down to earth, non-smoker, non-drinker, in search of grandpa or grandpa wannabe, non-drinker, with sense of humor, family values, to share life with as we watch our grandchildren grow. BOX 25350

MIL RIGHT Single white female, 28, medium to full figured, likes movies, bowling, cozy nights at home and much more. In search of honest, caring white male, for friendship and maybe more. If this sounds like you, call me. BOX 26311

HONEST & TRUE Petite, 5'11", 110 lb, attractive, white professional divorced mom. Enjoys working out daily, good conversation, music, sports, and is an optimistic. Looking for a professional, divorced, white male, 40's, physically fit, tall, no beard or mustache, intelligent, good sense of humor, for lasting relationship. BOX 25360

SHOOTING STAR Divorced, white professional female, 5'5", 125 lb, brown/black hair and eyes, dimples, looks minus 40 and stable. Seeking a divorced, white male, 55 to 63, attractive, 8' stable and a good sense of humor. BOX 31913

ONE IN A MILLION Very attractive, single, white female, young looking 60, great shape/figure, 5'4", brunet/brown, blonde hair, 45 to 55, honest, easy going, non-smoker, no dependents, emotionally and financially secure, for a sincere, stable, loving, and possible relationship. BOX 25388

INVITATION TO MEET Single white female, 38, 5'7", fit, beautiful blonde, green eyes, good hearted, outgoing, seeking a successful gentleman, over 45, who wants to team up and share a great life. BOX 25679

SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE Pretty, petite, passionate, divorced white female, 46ish, seeks non-smoking, single white male, over 35, for dating, mating, relating. Let's connect and watch them fly! BOX 25332

SEEKING COMPANION Professional single white female, 38, attractive, non-smoker, single, loves animals, significant weight loss, well-mannered. Seeking a single white male, for friendship, companionship, and possible mature relationship. BOX 25314

ALL I WANT AND MORE Attractive black female, 63 yrs old, physically fit, 5'5", 155 lbs, employed, educated, enjoys fishing, movies, museums and more. No dependents. Looking for a male, 45 to 57, non-smoker, mandatory who enjoys life for an honest, monogamous relationship. BOX 13932

COMEDIAN AT HEART Classy, elegant, 5'8", single, blonde, divorced white female. Enjoys movies, walking, all activities, candies, and romance. Seeking professional male, 35 to 45, for a companion, fun, enjoyable relationship. BOX 25078

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NEW BEGINNINGS Divorced white female, red hair, blue eyes, weight proportionate to size. Seeking a single male, 40 to 55, who enjoys movies, dining, and having fun, for a possible long term relationship. BOX 33666

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE European born, refined, intelligent, romantic female, 5'5", height weight proportionate with many interests. Interested in meeting white gentleman, 37 to 44, intelligent, caring, emotionally and financially secure, non-smoker with a sense of humor, for lasting relationship. BOX 25360

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IS THIS YOU? 19 yr old white male, 5'7", reddish blonde hair, hazel eyes, medium build, likes bowling, go out with friends and quiet times. Looking for a white female, to spend the holidays with, leading to a relationship. BOX 13785

GIVE ME A CALL! 37 yr old attractive black male, father of 1, seeking single black female, 28 to 35, for a date and possibly more, someone down to earth. BOX 13998

FIT THE BILLY? Divorced white male, 48, dark brown hair, green eyes, large build. Works full-time, part-time musician. Enjoys music, laughing, reading, proud father of 12 yr old girl. Seeking a white female, 30 to 40, self supporting, long hair, full figured, intelligent, articulate, and willing to communicate. BOX 14020

YOU SHOULD CALL! Black female, 40, 5'11", 210 lb, enjoys outdoor sports, cars and antiques. Seeking a white professional female, with similar interests. BOX 14040

GIVE ME A CALL! Single white male, 43, 6'1", brown hair, seeking someone who go to movies, dining out, for companionship. BOX 14083

CATCH OF THE DAY! Single white male, 6'4", brown/brown, attractive, handsome, independent professional, caring, seeking someone for good times, dining out, for companionship. BOX 14083

CALL ME 55 yr old gentleman, blue eyes, light sandy hair, recently retired, non-smoker. Enjoys exercising, animals and laughing. Call if interested. BOX 10684

ARE YOU OUT THERE? Divorced white male, 53, employed, with variety of interests including the outdoors and all sports. Seeking female for long term relationship. BOX 10682

VERY ACTIVE White male, 41, 6'11", never married, very long hair, total to be good looking, smoker, social drinker. Enjoys snowmobiling, bowling, boats, rice can, camping, and fishing. Seeking a white female, 35 to 45, with similar interests. BOX 25993

VERY GENTLE If you are looking for a early 60's, 5'9", 175 lbs, caring, loving, light hearted, single lady, 50 to 60, to spend life with. Downriver area. BOX 33429

CALL ME BOON Handworking, divorced, white male, 48 yr old, 5'9", 175 lb is seeking a fun loving, easy going, intelligent, pretty, single white female, for companionship and long term relationship. Radford Area. BOX 36992

SPECIAL PERSON Single black gentleman, 48, 6'225 lb, non-smoker, non-drinker, no children, never married, good listener. Looking for a young lady, fit and slender build, and a non-smoker. BOX 10777

JUST ME AND YOU 24 yr old Hispanic male, 5'10", 178 lb, brown eyes, brown hair, very outgoing, seeking female, 18 to 28, who likes movies, dining, shooting pool, and having a good time. For possible long term relationship. BOX 33687

LET'S BEST Affectionate, retired, single male, 68, 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, likes dining out, movies, walks in the park, watching tv and traveling. Seeking a nice lady, to have some fun with. BOX 36881

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LET'S CHAT Single male, 37, dark hair, brown eyes, down to earth, non-smoker, theater, dining out, dancing, working out, 37 to 48, for friendship. BOX 10781

DOWN TO EARTH GUY! Fun loving, attractive, professional, single white male, 33, recently moved to the area, loves movies, theater, dining out, dancing, working out and fun. Seeking an attractive woman who enjoys life! BOX 25351

LONELY MAN Single male, 42, 5'7", humorous, blue eyes, lively, hard worker, non-drinker, drug free. Looking for a non-drinker, drug free, single female, will reply to ad. BOX 32615

BIG HEARTED Attractive, widowed, white single male, 5'9", 175 lb, with good sense of humor, early 60's, enjoys all the good things in life, financially secure, gentle. Looking for a slim, attractive, white lady, 50 to 58, for a permanent relationship, no games. BOX 33486

LOOK NO FURTHER Single, classy, sharp black male, 37, seeking a single white female, full figured, 35 to 49. Who enjoys laughing, movies, sports, and going to festivals. BOX 32621

IF YOU ARE, 48 to 58, slim, white and attractive, call me. If you are looking for a non-violent, loving, happy go lucky, non-drinking guy, call me. I'm 5'7", 175 lbs, attractive, widowed and lonesome, looking for a life time relationship. I'll answer your call. Down River, no games. BOX 33419

WARNING: MAY CAUSE... Happiness. Answer this ad, you won't be sorry! Attractive, financially secure, professional, single white male, 49, 6', 170 lb, no dependents. Seeking an attractive, single white female, 25 to 45, weight proportionate to height, who's happy with who she is. BOX 35976

IF YOU'RE FASHIONABLE, attractive single white male, 52, 5'10", 190 lb, broad interest, no couch potato. Looking for someone kind, serious, open, but fun. Must be a must. Oakland County. BOX 35976

GOOD CLEAN FUN? Go ahead and call the single white male. He is 45, charming, easy to talk to, active and adventurous. Seeking nice single white female, for romance and friendship. BOX 35487

YOUNG MAN SEEKING Older white female, 35 to 50, slim to medium, for friendship and companionship. I'm an attractive, healthy, fit, clean cut, single white male, 30, very easy going, open minded, sincere and financially stable. Seeking a single white female, height, weight proportionate, with similar interests, must like children and animals. BOX 35489

A PRELUCE... My two loving arms, warm forehead, 5'9", 190 lbs, with a weight proportionate, and ready for a real relationship. This tall, very caring, affectionate, non-smoking, single white male, who's looking for a lady who makes each other happy. Wayne County. BOX 25329

DOWN RIVER 1ST TIME 48 yr old, single white male from Down River area, dark brown hair, blue eyes, 5'9", 180 lbs, was for one of the big three auto companies. Enjoys just about anything. Looking for a woman, 35 to 55, with a loving heart. I have no problem. BOX 34683

A REAL GOOD CATCH Divorced white professional male, financially secure, self employed business owner, 5'10", 185 lb, enjoys dining out, movies, quiet times and sports. Seeking a single white professional female, 40 to 50, financially secure, non-smoker, social drinker, height and weight proportionate. Sumner County. BOX 33630

3 GOOD 2 BE TRUE 43 yr male, 183 lb, 5'9", brown hair, blue eyes, romantic, adventurous. Enjoys camping, outdoors, nature and long walks. Looking for someone who is happy with themselves, ageless, weight/height is unimportant. Will reply to ad. BOX 10688

SEEKS SPECIAL LADY Divorced black male, 68, 6'1", 200lbs., very handsome, matured, professional male. Enjoys outdoor sports, classic cars and antiquing. In search of professional lady, non-smoker, 45 to 58, tall, height and weight proportionate, with similar interests, like to come, for friendship and maybe more. Wayne county. BOX 25913

ROMEO IS ALIVE Very attractive, single black male, 40, 5'10", 170 lbs, energetic, humorous, employed, no dependents. Seeks very attractive, fit, white female, for dining, dancing and romance. Age open. Wayne County. BOX 33630

STARTING OVER Divorced white male, 53, 5'8", 200 lb, brown hair, green eyes, attractive, sporty, honest and also an adventurous soul. BOX 26811

STOP! READ THIS! If you are tired of these ads and meeting kooky men, then call me. I have both feet on the ground, fit, hearted, don't drink, am gentle, widowed, well built, early 60's and look much younger. You must be under 41, attractive and self-confident. About your future I will return your call. Down river area. BOX 35488

ATTRACTIVE & SMART Hoodlum, fit, energetic, white, professional male, 61, likes tennis, reading, bridge, piano, dancing, movies and moonlit walks. Seeking a professional female, 41 to 53. BOX 26052

FAMILY FUN ANIMTS 57 yr old, 6'11", 190 lb, handsome, sincere, single white male in Dearborn with 8 yr old daughter. Enjoys reading, movies, boating, family activities and more! Seeking a fit, honest, loving female for a great relationship and enjoying life! BOX 33419

DOY! BE ALONE! Pick up the phone, meet single guy now. Good looking, white male, 47, cultured, enjoys nature, wine and dining, etc. Seeking single white female, 40 to 50, for long term relationship. Macomb County. BOX 25315

DOWNRIVER AREA Financially secure, retired, 65, white widower, 5'9", 185 lbs, brown hair and eyes. Into boating, bicycling, walking, movies, country music, dining, slow dancing and just quiet times. Seeks retired, single white female, 50 to 65, for a long term relationship. Who knows what it will lead to. BOX 26048

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INTERACT WITH... Quality! A single white male, 48, children, college grad, nice looking, open to marriage or long term relationship. Seeks to interact with a charming lady companion. BOX 24697

GOOD BABY BABY Are you looking for love? Get to know this personable, energetic, well rounded, white male, 48, enjoys music, laughter, the arts, etc. Seeking romantic, friendly female, age 30 to 60. Madison County. BOX 33687

HANDSOME AND HONEST 38 yr old, handsome, 6'7, blue eyes, nice smile, athletic, seeks an attractive woman who has character, spirituality, honesty and also an adventurous soul. BOX 26811

SEEKS TRUE LOVE If you feel that you are a very special lady, 40 to 55, height/weight proportionate and want an exciting life call this very special white professional man, 58 going on 30, in good shape, looking for a true connection. Dearborn area. Wayne County. BOX 33387

GOOD GUY Honest, romantic, refined, silver hair, far looking, steady build, seeks tender lady for bonding and golf, 55 to 65, that's caring, talkative and fun to be with. Call me! North Oakland area. BOX 24691

BLACKBERRYMAN Divorced white male, 48, looks younger, 5'9", 175 lb, good looking, fit, honest, sports, music, movies, theater, sports. Seeks black or Hispanic female, 25 to 35, very attractive, good shape, open minded with a good sense of humor for dating, possible long term relationship. Downriver area. BOX 33313

HOPEFUL BILLY SHY? I'm your guy! Honest, handsome, white male, 48, with a good attitude. Seeks shy but confident, single white female, for dating and relationship. BOX 25922

MATT DAMON Cute, 5'8", 185 lb, over 57, young looking single male. Enjoys movies in or out, great cook. Seeking smart lady for partnership. Same of humor, feeling slightly disappointed. Lives in Farmington, New Jersey. BOX 26084

SEEKS COMPANION Single white male, 38, 5'1

# MALLS & MAINSTREETS

C6

**Don't get angry, get some help**

**SHOP TALK**



**NICOLE STAFFORD**

Been duped or cheated by a retailer? You may want to talk it over with a local government representative. You may even get your money back. Sounds like propaganda, huh? Even in today's environment of strange government happenings that kind of cynicism may be off the mark.

I have yet to receive a refund check in the mail, but I the service given to me by the Michigan Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division felt like partial compensation. A department representative not only took the time to listen to my full story — a one-year saga of poor customer service — but also offered to help me get a refund, if I so desired.

"Oh, that sounds terrible. I think most people would have given up by now," she said therapeutically, like a shrink extending empathy.

"So it's not unreasonable that I want a refund?" I asked.

"Oh, no. At this point I think you're entitled to a refund," she replied.

"Really, you think so?" I asked. "And you guys can help me?"

"We can try. Just write in your complaint what you want us to do, that you want a refund."

At this point, you may be wondering exactly what my consumer complaint involves.

Just so you know you're not alone when and if a retailer doesn't hold up their end of a bargain, here's the story.

I custom ordered a couch. It arrived at my home with a small tear. I called the retailer the following day. They faxed me a diagram of the couch and told me to mark the location of the tear and fax back the information. I did.

Then, I waited.

Months went by. But I remained patient. My new couch was still new; it was just slightly damaged, I told myself. I had paid for a new couch and a new couch it would be soon.

Finally tired of waiting, I called the retailer only to learn they had placed a fabric order but had no other information about my case. They told me to wait — again — for a letter in the mail.

To be fair, the letter arrived within a week or two and instructed me to call a service center to set up a repair appointment.

Okay, we're making progress, I thought. I'd only have to make a phone call and take off a half day of work to meet the service technician, and "Bam," I'd have a new couch. I called the service center the next day.

Naturally, though, I had to leave a voice mail; Nobody was there to pick up my call. No big deal, I thought and went about my day.

Silly me, what was I thinking? As it turned out, there was never anybody there to pick up my call. There were no return phone calls, either. Eventually, I took a break from calling and leaving messages and decided to wait.

And eventually, the service center returned my call.

They called me at home. And, since I was at work, they had to leave a message on my answering machine, which is exactly what they did every time they called back no matter how desperately I pleaded for a daytime call at the office.

So began a long, long, this-feels-like-I'm-being-put-off game of phone tag.

Back to the drawing board, I thought, and called the store where I had ordered the couch, which worked. I received a call from the service center at my office the next day.

Unfortunately, I have to say it was downhill from here. The company's attempts to send out the appropriate replacement fabric or component failed three times. And, since I had no idea what to expect in the mail, I only became aware that the company had — yet again — messed up when the service technician arrived for our scheduled appointment and unwrapped the package. The third shipment was a new set of pillows.

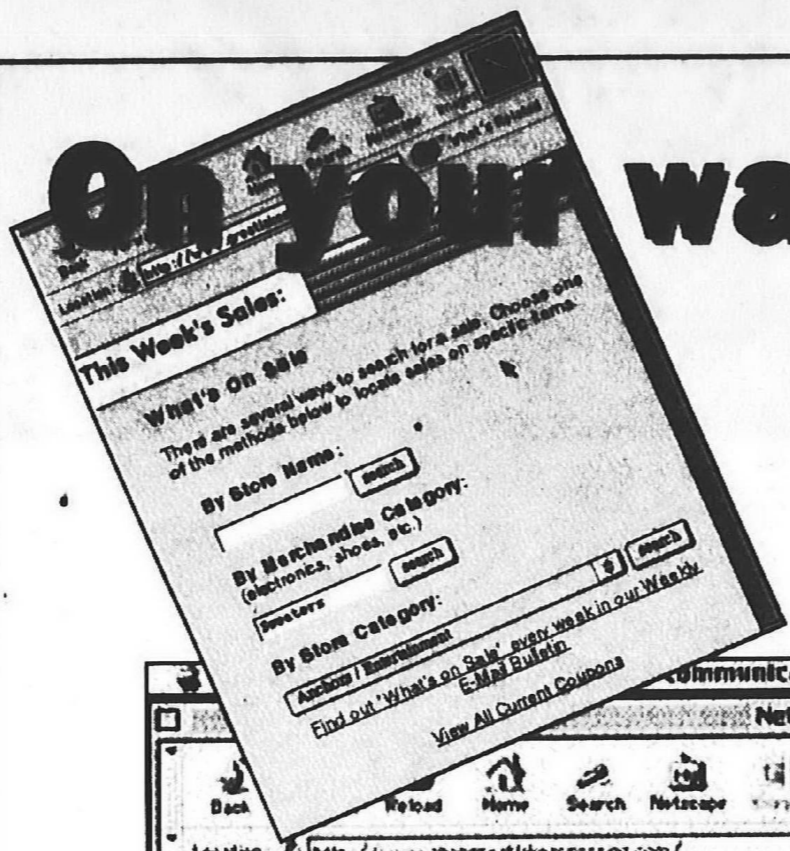
That's when I decided to turn to the Consumer Protection Division, which felt like a last resort but turned out to be a source of renewed hope.

Feeling, as they say, empowered again, I asked the representative, "Can I go to court, if they don't give me a refund?"

"Yes, you can," she replied. "You can go into small claims court," she said. "But give us a try first. We'll see what we can do."

Now, that's service.

The Consumer Protection Division of Michigan's Attorney General Department can be contacted 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at (517) 373-1140.



**way to the mall?**  
*Make your first stop the Internet*



BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
SPECIAL EDITOR  
nstafford@oe.homecomm.net

**S**ay you're a Saks Fifth Avenue junkie who's not too proud to ransack for bargains. Then, Saks' outlet store at Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills probably gives you the shakes. Now, imagine learning a week in advance what's slated for deeper discounts at Saks' Off 5th or another of your favorite Great Lakes stores.

In the good old days, a store's most loyal customers enjoyed insider knowledge about sales. Today, very few retailers can afford to allow clerks to function as personal shoppers that call their customers at home about new merchandise and markdowns.

But Bloomfield Hills-based Taubman Centers Inc., which owns 16 malls in seven different states including Great Lakes Crossing, Twelve Oaks in Novi and Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor, has harnessed the power of the Internet to provide such a service.

On Thanksgiving week, Taubman

launched web sites for seven of its malls, including Great Lakes, Twelve Oaks and Briarwood. Then, on Nov. 30, the company added a free e-mail service for customers interested in receiving weekly sales bulletins from their favorite mall stores.

The e-mails, which issue every Thursday, contain a round-up of sales and new merchandise, as well as computer coupons from stores selected by the customer at registration. Taubman's web sites also have a pictorial gift guide, wish list registry, gift reminder service and the ability to search merchandise categories for current sales.

Unlike e-commerce sites where shoppers can make on-line purchases, Taubman's web pages target shopping, not buying.

"As malls, we have to be careful and ask ourselves what we want these sites to do," said Carol Geis, Taubman Centers vice president for center planning and marketing. "The purpose of our web page is to facilitate a visit."

True, consumers are buying an increasing amount of retail products on the Internet, but shopping centers know now one of the primary reasons people go on-line is to get product information and do comparison shopping.

So Taubman set out to take advantage of that trend and surveyed mall shoppers for two years before developing their web sites. They talked to 18,000 shoppers and conducted 36 focus groups, both frequent and infrequent customers.

"And what we found out is that

what people want on a web site is quite different depending on the nature of the site," said Geis.

In the case of a mall web site, surveyed customers said they wanted quick access to information about items and sales at a handful of their favorite stores.

Conceivably, that's because consumers are looking for ways to reduce shopping time, said Geis. "One of the surprising things that we found in our research was a big misconception — that people come to the mall to walk around."

More than 66 percent of Taubman's surveyed shoppers were doing what Geis called a "mission trip," going to the mall with a specific agenda both for their purchases and store visits. "We're also finding that overall shopping time in the mall is dropping."

Given consumers' concerns about time, shouldn't shopping malls still fear the Internet?

Apparently not. Many other local malls have web sites, including Laurel Park Place and Wonderland Mall, both in Livonia, and Troy's Oakland

Mall. Troy's Somerset Collection launches an upscale, magazine style web site in early January. Others are considering ways to benefit from the technology.

"It's a marketing tool," said Angela Taylor of Gyro Design Group, the Detroit company in charge of Somerset's Internet site. "It will push Somerset as the authority on style and lifestyle," said Taylor. "One of the interesting things about the site is that it doesn't entirely focus on Somerset."

In addition to basic general mall information, the site will contain seasonal narratives on fashion, home and lifestyle trends with photos.

The hope is shoppers will turn to the web site for the same reason they peruse publications like *Town and Country* or *HOOR Detroit*, said Taylor. "The site sets Somerset apart from other malls, and not just malls, but other areas, too, other shopping districts. ... That makes Somerset something more than a mall. It's not necessarily a community, but maybe a resource."

**More on the web**

Next week, look for the debut of **Malls & Mainstreets** new 'Cyber Shop' column and a story about how local downtown shopping districts are taking advantage of the Internet.

**Mall web sites**

- Great Lakes Crossing: [www.shopgreatlakes.crossing.com](http://www.shopgreatlakes.crossing.com)
- Twelve Oaks: [www.shoptwelveoaks.com](http://www.shoptwelveoaks.com)
- Briarwood: [www.shopbriarwood.com](http://www.shopbriarwood.com)
- Laurel Park Place: [www.laurelparkplace.net](http://www.laurelparkplace.net)
- Oakland Mall: [www.oaklandmall.com](http://www.oaklandmall.com)
- Wonderland Mall: [www.newwonderlandmall.com](http://www.newwonderlandmall.com)
- Somerset Collection: [www.thesomersetcollection.com](http://www.thesomersetcollection.com) (debut in January)

*Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. By fax, (248) 644-1314. E-mail, nstafford@oe.homecomm.net. Deadline for publication is two weeks in advance.*  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26**

**MALL WALKING**  
In partnership with Botsford Hospital, Livonia Mall, 29514 7 Mile Road, opens its door to walkers 7-9 a.m. Monday-Saturday. Blood pressure checks offered by Botsford Hospital on Wednesdays every three months (next check is slated for Jan. 17). For more information, call (248) 476-1160.  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

**SURPRISE SALE**  
Nicole's Revival in Westland hosts a surprise sale featuring special savings, many Christmas items, more Coach bags and bath and body items, through

**ADDED ATTRACTIONS**

Dec. 30. For more information, call (734) 326-0926.  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29**

**TOY & HOBBY SHOW**  
The Toy & Hobby Expo runs through Dec. 31 at the Novi Expo Center and features operating model train displays and vendors selling new, used and antique toys, trains, sports collectibles, stuffed animals and dolls. Show hours are: 5-9 p.m. Dec. 29, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec. 30 and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 31. Admission is \$6 (children age 4-12 enter for \$3). Parking is \$5. For information, call (734) 455-2110.  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30**

**HOW-TO CLINICS**  
Home Depot offers a series of free how-to clinics for

those who like to do it themselves. Clinics last approximately 30-45 minutes and cover step-by-step instructions for tackling a variety of home improvement projects. Topics explored include closet organization, floor and tile installation and audio/video hook-up. Sessions are primarily slated on Saturdays and Sundays. For details, call your local Home Depot.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**FIRST NIGHT**  
Downtown Birmingham hosts First Night with performances and activities at several venues including the Baldwin Library, Birmingham City Hall, Birmingham Historical Museum, the Community House and the Village Players Theater. Dancing and midnight countdown take place at Shain Park with Q 95.5 FM radio. Admission buttons are \$8 in advance and \$10 on Dec. 31. For details and an activity and performance schedule, call (248) 258-9075.



# Legoland is a sunny spot in trip to San Diego

BY ALICE REIN  
STAFF WRITER  
arhein@oc.homecomm.net

When searching the Internet for travel information about San Diego, I came across an amusement park called Legoland.

I must admit, I was mildly intrigued by a 128-acre park devoted to a rectangular toy. And when a friend of mine said it was a sure hit with the toddler set, my 2-year-old and I set out to explore this plasticized environment.

### Better get Lego

Now San Diego is a fabulous city, and more about that later, but I have to say that Legoland is an absolute blast.

The admission price is a bit steep at \$34 for adults, but kids 2 and under are free, and discount coupons are aplenty.

Legoland is located in Carlsbad, an oceanside city about a half-hour north of San Diego. The heart of the park is Mini-Land. Miniature versions of American cities and worldwide landmarks abound. Washington, D.C., New Orleans, New York, San Francisco are just a few of the models in this, well, model world.

But miniature might not be such an accurate word. The Empire State Building is nearly 20 feet tall, and the Eiffel Tower is made with nearly 350,000 legos.

It's an engineering marvel unto itself, but Legoland also offers 40 rides, interactive attractions and several stage shows during the day. There's even a model factory that shows

### If you go:

■ Legoland is accessible from San Diego by either I-5 or historic Highway 101. The scenic cruise will take you twice as long, but if it's a clear day, you'll have beautiful views of the ocean. Legoland is at One Lego Drive at Cannon Road. (760) 498-LEGO.

■ The San Diego Zoo is open daily and bus tours leave every half-hour. Ample parking is available, but the best time to get there is right when it opens. Many of the animals are at their liveliest in the morning. Park Blvd. at Zoo Place.

■ Bazaar del Mundo offers mariachis, margaritas and Mexican arts. Open daily. 2754 Calhoun at Wallace.

■ Catamaran Resort Hotel is also a botanical preserve with exotic birds and plants dotting the sprawling landscape. Many of the 312 rooms have kitchens and balconies, but you'll want to take in the fine cuisine of the Atoll Restaurant in the hotel's lobby. 3999 Mission Blvd. (800) 288-0770.

how the little wonder blocks are made.

Kids three-feet tall can go on most of the rides, except for the roller coasters. But there are cars to drive, boats to navigate, trains to peddle and helicopters to propel, so there's plenty to keep an active tot happy.

Parents will appreciate that the park also offers juice, fruit

and yogurt, but there are still the requisite grilled and deep-fried offerings that are the mainstay of amusement parks.

Construction was heavy around the perimeter, so expect an expansion and a few new rides in the coming years.

### The zoo of zoos

Most will say a trip to San Diego isn't complete until you visit the zoo.

That's probably true, but unless you're really into exploring, I'd suggest taking the bus tour and hopping off at points you really want to see. The 100-acre zoo is a labyrinth of canyon paths, and no map can help you get easily from point A to point B.

But the bus tour covers 90 percent of the zoo, it makes frequent stops to allow for animal observation, and you get a driver well versed in the habits of the zoo's residents. The pandas are a very popular attraction, but my toddler and I enjoyed the playful antics of the koala bears and their babies.

Top off the visit with a ride on the Skyfari for a birds-eye view of the zoo.

### Balboa Park

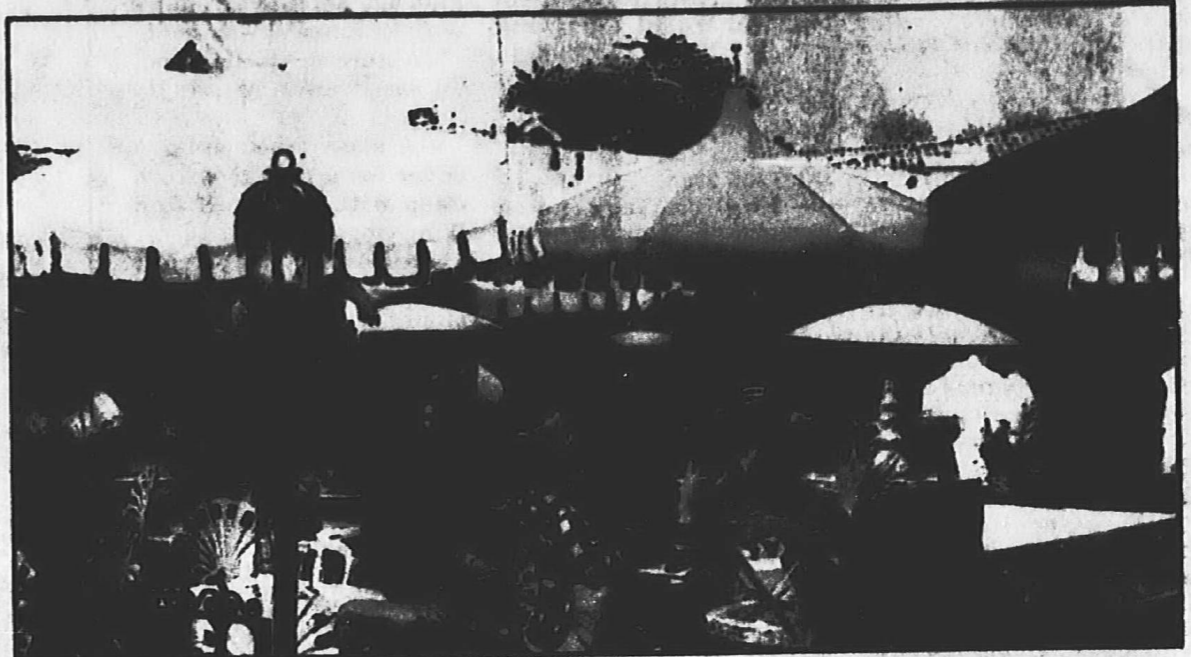
The San Diego Zoo is located in a 1,200-acre canyon, which is also home to many of the city's recreational and cultural institutions. The Natural History Museum, the Japanese Friendship Garden and the Simon Edison Center for the Performing Arts all share space along a long grass and fountain-lined plaza with the San Diego Museum of Art.

I got to see the lobby of the museum, but was told I would have to check my son's stroller at the desk. I'm still not sure what the reasoning behind that policy is. Would you rather have kids running around the museum? Is that same hospitality extended to patrons in wheelchairs? I didn't feel like pursuing it, so we just left.

### Explore downtown

We were welcome at the Children's Museum, which is still struggling to find its niche now that it has a permanent home in a revamped downtown warehouse.

It's described as an arts-based museum for children, and though there are many interactive art projects, the permanent exhibits have little appeal to very young children.



Mucho munchies: The Bazaar Del Mundo in San Diego's Old Town offers ethnic food, arts and entertainment in a colorful atmosphere.

Not far from the museum, but certainly not within walking distance (San Diego has its share of grittier areas, too), is Horton Plaza. Picture the Somerset Collection in shades of salmon and turquoise without a roof and you pretty much have it.

A few miles north of downtown is the oldest area of the city called Old Town, where San Diego's first fort was located in the 1700s. A pleasant afternoon can be found at the Bazaar Del Mundo, where shopping, dining

and local culture merge.

### Balmy beach

But who goes to San Diego without spending time at the beach? Bay and oceanside resorts abound, so you won't ever need to be too far from the water. Our family stayed at the Catamaran Resort Hotel on Mission Bay, which offered panoramic views of the bay and ocean.

In the summer, Mission Bay is resplendent with buff bodies and

water sports fiends. But in the balmy 70-degree days of winter, joggers mainly occupy the beach, followed by dog walkers and an early morning crew team.

In early December, the lighting of the Christmas tree on the Prado in Balboa Park is one of the city's most beloved events. But try as they might, San Diegans just don't have the weather to make the holidays seem right. Perhaps, in this season of giving, we could ship them a little of our surplus snow.



Lawful Legos: The Capitol as viewed in Legoland. The Lego-made marching band moves along tracks. The Smithsonian Museum and the Jefferson Memorial are in the background.

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