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IN WOMAN

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EFF golf

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Excellence Foundation hosts its 19th annual Golf Open Wednesday, June 19, at Fox Hills Golden Fox.

Through this event, business and community members have helped the Educational Excellence Foundation raise more than \$275,000 to help PCCS students and teachers achieve academic success. Sponsorship or team registration is available by completing the registration form found at www.pccs.k12.mi.us/node/2003

For more information about the golf outing or the Educational Excellence Foundation, call (734) 416-2718 or visit www.EEFforkids.org.



PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Rick Gorski and Sue Vignoe talk about the placement of different plants on hand at this year's Rouge Rescue planting at Tyler Creek in Plymouth Township.

Graduation memories

Over the next few weeks, O&E Media photographers will take hundreds of graduation photos. These photos are available as framed keepsakes, prints or on T-shirts and coffee mugs. Look for photos inside today's newspaper or view galleries a day after the graduation ceremony on our website, hometownlife.com. Every staff photo is for sale and purchasing one is as easy as clicking on the yellow "buy photo" button above the image.

EV show set for June 8

The fifth annual Michigan Electric Vehicle Show will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 8, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The free show takes place on the main campus (parking lot north) off Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

Event co-sponsors are Schoolcraft College and the Michigan Electric Auto Association in partnership with Clean Energy Coalition, DTE Energy, Greening Detroit and *Observer & Eccentric Media*.

To the rescue

Volunteers stream to township's Rouge site

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A battalion of volunteers armed with shovels, plants and fertilizer toiled Saturday morning on the banks of a Plymouth Township creek to ensure its health and that of the bigger river downstream.

Point Park — an open field, some landscaping and the tiny Tyler Creek — was the township's site for this year's Rouge Rescue, and more than three dozen volunteers spent time there putting in shrubs and other plants that will green up the park and help clean the creek, a Rouge tributary that flows through it. Point Park is a wedge-shaped parcel east of the intersection of Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail.

The project, one of more than two dozen Rouge Rescue events in communities throughout the river's watershed — the area of land that drains into the river system — was organized by the township. Sponsor Aisin World Corp. of America, with Aisin Technical Center of America, provided the plants and many of the volunteers.

"It's an easy way to educate people on the Rouge River, introduce them to good practices," said Susan Vignoe, the township's solid waste and public services coordinator, who planned the township's rescue.



Aisin Director Mike Lapinski and Aisin President John Koenig prepare to plant one of the flowers that Aisin World Corp. in Plymouth donated again this year.

Please see RESCUE, A2

State action delays fireworks crackdown

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A crackdown on exploding fireworks in Plymouth was delayed Monday because of movement on the issue at the state level.

With a bill that would give many communities the ability to ban nighttime fireworks around 10 national holidays expected to be approved by the Michigan Senate this month, the Plymouth City Commission tabled a final reading of a proposed ordinance that would limit the use of exploding and flying fireworks to 30 days a year — the day before, the day of and the day after the holidays.

Police Chief Al Cox said officials want to amend the ordinance to take advantage of expected changes in state law, which currently forbids communities from any restrictions on consumer fireworks around the holidays, and enact overnight restrictions for those days, plus a complete ban for the other 335 days of the year.

Expected signing

The bill, which passed the state House of Representatives by a 107-1 vote May 28, is expected to be approved by the Senate before its tentative Thursday, June 13, summer recess, and Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to sign it.

Plymouth commissioners are scheduled to vote on a revised ordinance at their next meeting on Monday, June 17.

"That will still allow us to have it in place before the Fourth of July," City Manager Paul Sincoc told the commission.

The ordinance proposal is a response to the loosening of state restrictions on exploding and flying fireworks — firecrackers, bottle rockets, Roman candles and the like — that resulted in noise complaints in many neighborhoods and a backlash felt by local and state lawmakers.

Michigan formerly had a near-total consumer fireworks ban, with only non-exploding, nonlaunchable items like sparklers and "snakes" allowed to be used by the general public. But those restrictions were loosened with Public Act 256 of 2011, which also prohibited local governments from passing any fire restrictions for the day before, the day of and the day after the holidays.

Bill support

Proposed revisions in the state law would allow communities with populations of 50,000 or more, or any community in a county with a population of 750,000 or more, to regulate fireworks use between midnight and 8 a.m. on the day before, the day of and the day of the national holidays. For New Year's Day only, the restrictions could be between 1 a.m. and 8 a.m., which would allow midnight fireworks displays.

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Middle school design moves front-and-center

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

With the \$114.4 million bond passage in the rearview mirror, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators and Board of Trustees have turned their attention to the biggest issue now in play: Getting the new middle school built.

With the decision to close Central Middle School and open the new middle school in September 2015 already made, adminis-

trators have said they're under a strict time line to get the new building planned, designed and built.

The question now is, who's going to manage and design the project.

At a board meeting last week, administrators said they'd like to stick with TMP as the architect and McCarthy-Smith as the construction manager based on past performance. Both those vendors have managed the district's bond work for a decade or

more, including the successful 2004 bond, which saw all projects come in on time and under budget.

"We've got a long history and commitment to TMP and McCarthy-Smith, who've done a lot of bond work and facilitated the capital improvement work (for this bond)," Phil Freeman, the district's assistant superintendent for facilities and operations, told board members.

The administration's recommendation is to hire both McCar-

thy-Smith and TMP without going through the request-for-proposal process that would seek out other, potentially lower, bids. Freeman and Brodie Killian, the district's executive director for business services, said they're comfortable that fees charged by both vendors are well within market range.

While Killian said he "wasn't comfortable" putting a price tag on the work at this point, he did

Please see DESIGN, A2

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RESCUE

Continued from page A1

Plants and shrubs

Volunteers planted and fertilized some 15 shrubs and 42 other native plants that Vignoe said will create no-mow zones on the Tyler Creek banks, and grow long roots that can filter out pollutants before they reach the creek.

"Native," Vignoe said, means the plants are adapted to the climate and thus require less water and fertilizer. The plants put in Saturday included red-twig dogwoods, swamp milkweed, black-eyed Susans and the obedient plant.

Aisin employees and their family members who joined the effort were outfitted in blue T-shirts and snacked on coffee and bagels during breaks. The Japan-based automobile parts supplier has its American sales headquarters and engineering center in the township.

Three-timer

"It's a great way to stay active in the community," and get together with other Aisin workers from



Volunteers gathered for the Rouge Rescue at Plymouth Township's Tyler Creek site.

different departments, said Rick Gorski, director of corporate communications. "It brings people together for a common cause, and this is a great cause."

It was the company's third year as a township Rouge Rescue sponsor.

Vignoe said past township Rouge Rescue events have also focused on putting in native plants; because it's close to the Rouge's headwaters, where there are small creeks and streams, she said, the township doesn't see a lot of the dumping and log-



The Nomura family from Plymouth come out on a beautiful Saturday morning. Ryutas (center) helps his father, Satoshi, with the planting.

jams found in some larger downstream parts of the river.

Vignoe's husband Chris, an electrician, volunteered his time for Saturday's rescue, as he does every year. Township Board of Trustees member Chuck Curmi also helped out.

Chris Vignoe, as he packed up equipment once the plants were in the ground, assessed the morning's work.

"It looks great," he said. "In a couple of years, this stuff'll take hold."

The city of Plymouth's Rouge Rescue event, planned for the area along Woods Drive near Hines Drive, was canceled Friday because of a forecast of severe weather, but the Point Park event saw only a light misting.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2405
Twitter: @mattjachman

DESIGN

Continued from page A1

acknowledge it would be "significant," but said the district understands its responsibility for being "good stewards" of bond proceeds.

"With a large project like this, there's always an effort to be good stewards of this money, and we are doing that," Killian said. "Due to the relationship we have (with TMP and McCarthy-Smith) and the proposals that have come in ... We feel in our initial review of the financial components of these contracts they are very much competitive."

"At this point our initial recommendation to retain our current team," he added. "It would be in the best interests of the school district. Maintaining our existing team will provide us the ability to maintain the current time lines. An RFP process would jeopardize that time line."

But Trustees Mike Maloney and Mark Horvath said they weren't comfortable with making a "sole source" decision without the bidding process, until they've seen more data that determines the vendors' fees are the right way to go.

"No disrespect to the team ... Before I'm going to be comfortable making a sole-source decision I'm going to have to see a lot more data," Horvath said. "If they were truly the best value, everybody would use them. No disrespect to the folks we've used, but I'm not prepared to make a sole-source decision for millions of dollars."

Board Vice President Judy Mardigian, the only trustee who was on

the board for the 2004 bond, said she's completely comfortable with the relationship the district has with both TMP and McCarthy-Smith, but she also wants to see the financial data.

"I would be comfortable making a sole-source decision, based on the experience we've had with (TMP and McCarthy-Smith), assuming we see the data and we see the comparative rates. As long as we've done our diligence that way, I'd be comfortable because I know how the team has performed. That means a lot to me."

The other question is the design of the new school. Freeman offered up several options, including using the footprint of Discovery Middle School and, perhaps, building a two-story building that might offer some energy conservation and maintenance cost-cutting options.

Maloney wondered why the district would entertain other options when the district is on a tight time line and there are already successful footprints at schools such as Discovery.

"We're talking about how concerned we are about timing, but we're talking about designing a whole new school," Maloney said. "It seems to me, as an example, taking Discovery, which has a pretty high satisfaction ratio, to take that and put it on a new site would speed up the design process. I think you could save 3-4 months by using the Discovery (footprint). Taking that footprint and designing it for the site would be cheaper."

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Busy Women's Retreat
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9:30 a.m. **Check In** (Alexander Blue House)
10:00 a.m. **Beginning Yoga** Instructor provided by Livonia Yoga Center. No mat required. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.
10:45 a.m. **Meditation** Meditation to soothing music, guided by Dave Krajovic, Global Breathing Institute.
11:15 a.m. **Gaining a New Perspective** Karen Danto, LMSW, ACSW will discuss how to identify negative mental frameworks and to develop ways to shift your perspective.
11:45 a.m. **Box Lunch and a Short Walk** Sponsored by Henry Ford Health System, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Division of Sports Medicine (henryford.com/sportsmedicine)

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Chamber kicks off new business institute

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

In a move to help local businesses boost their profit margins, Canton Chamber of Commerce leaders are eager to roll out a new initiative, the Institute of Business Development — the latest tool in the chamber's long-range strategic plan.

The institute's inaugural session, "Six Steps To Financial Mastery," kicks off at 8 a.m. Tuesday, June 11, at the chamber office, 45525 Hanford west of Canton Center. It features Premier Development Solutions leader John Lankford, a master certified business coach who has held executive positions with Fortune 500 companies Ford Motor Co., Comcast University and Ascension Health, touted as the second-largest Catholic health system in the nation.

Lankford's one-hour session, free to chamber members and first-time guests, aims to teach Canton business officials ways

to improve margins on products they sell, increase prices on their services, boost their cash flow, better control their financial data and track their monthly growth in less than an hour.

Chamber President Thomas Paden is asking attendees to register by calling (734) 453-4040 or by email at admin@cantonchamber.com.

Paden said the kickoff of the Institute of Business Development marks a new way to help local businesses and the chamber, with over 525 members, grow.

"The Canton Chamber is thrilled to offer this new benefit to the business community," Paden said. "The institute will provide businesses with the necessary tools, skills, systems and processes that they will be able to implement so that they are operating at maximum efficiency."

Moreover, Paden said the institute can help Canton remain a vibrant community where businesses thrive.

"The Canton Chamber wants

to play a vital role in ensuring that our local business community will be successful and will remain vibrant," he said. "A healthy business community contributes to a vibrant community at large. The Canton Chamber institute offers businesses the resources to position themselves for long-term growth and profitability."

Lankford's "Six Steps To Financial Mastery" marks the first of a series of Institute of Business Development sessions the chamber plans to announce. Chamber officials had unveiled the creation of the institute during a breakfast meeting in May.

"We want to help local businesses increase their bottom line and become more profitable," Tammy Brown, chamber board chair, said. "We want to build on the relationships chamber members have with each other and the community."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Chamber of Commerce President Thomas Paden said the kickoff of the Institute of Business Development marks a new way to help local businesses and the chamber, with over 525 members, grow.

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238
Twitter: @CantonObserver

AROUND PLYMOUTH-CANTON

HEISE HOURS

Date: Monday, June 10
Location/Time: 10-11 a.m., Parthenon Coney Island, 39910 Ford Road, Canton; noon-1 p.m., Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady in Northville; 3-4 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth.

Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise invites local residents to meet with him to share their perspectives and ask questions. Rep. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.
Contact: Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REPKURT or e-mail kurtheise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

CHEER CLINIC

Date/Time: Saturday, June 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Plymouth High School cafeteria
Details: The Plymouth High School Cheerleaders are sponsoring a Kids Clinic for kids in kindergarten through eighth grade. The cost to attend is \$25 per child and includes a Clinic T-shirt, juice & snacks. The deadline to register is Friday, June 14th. A registration form is required; visit the Plymouth Cheer website for a form, www.plymouthcheer.com
Contact: For more information, contact Plymouth Cheerleading or Julie Jones at jonesing05@gmail.com.

APIA DINNER

Date/Time: Saturday, July 27, 6-10 p.m.
Location: East Lake Chinese Restaurant, 5087 Rochester Road in Troy
Details: Asian-Pacific Islander American/Vote-MI hosts its third annual dinner to honor and recognize outstanding APIAs in the community. The keynote speaker will be Tuyet Le, the Executive Director of the Asian American Institute (AAI), a Midwestern Pan-Asian organization committed to empowering Asian Americans through research, education and coalition building. Tickets are \$65 (general admission and one-year membership), \$50 general admission and \$40 for members.

Contact: Sally Kim, (313) 438-8862 or email sallykim@apiavotemi.org

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: West Middle School, Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Crafters wanted for Delta Kappa Gamma's 29th Annual Craft Show. Proceeds from the show will be used to support college scholarships for local students focusing on careers in education.

Contact: Call or email Judy at (734) 347-1001 or jbstone716@comcast.net or Alice at 248-348-9610 or dachrenko@hotmail.com

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates/Times/Locations:
• Friday, June 7, 10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Canton Library, 1200 Canton Center.
• Sunday, June 9, 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., St Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty.
• Monday, June 10, 10 a.m.-3:45 p.m., Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main.

• Sunday, June 23, 8 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Our Lady of Good Counsel church, 47650 N. Territorial.

• Monday, June 24, 1:30-7:15 p.m., VFW Post 6695 in Plymouth, 1426 S. Mill.
• Friday, June 28, 11 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main.

Details: The American Red Cross hosts blood drives at various times and locations. Appointments are available, but walk-ins are welcome.

Contact: Diane to set up an appointment at (313) 549-7052 or Diane.Risko@redcross.org

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Family's grief prompts benefit walk to combat brain tumor deaths

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Karen Cioma James and husband Phil grieve the death of daughter Leah, who was diagnosed at age 4½ with an inoperable brain tumor. Leah lived just over a year after that before passing in 2005.

"As a way to channel our grief, we formed our 501(c)3," mom Karen said.

The family also includes daughter Kylie, 16, who attended Northville Christian Academy.

"We learned to love Northville," Karen James said of the family, which is now living in Florida for her husband's work. They'd moved to Livonia after marrying.

Their organization, Leah's Happy Hearts, is based on the little girl's expression of "My heart is happy." The annual "Happy Feet for Happy Hearts Walk" will be held Saturday, June 8, at Maybury State Park, Eight Mile west of Beck in Northville Township.

The organization's board is made up of many friends. "Most of them knew Leah," she said.

This is the sixth year for the walk, which last year drew about 200.

Robot photos

Registration will start 9 a.m., the walk at 10 a.m. For every \$20 in pledges raised, participants will receive 25 raffle tickets, with additional raffle tickets offered for purchase at the walk. There will be a dove release and a butterfly release, along with clowns and face painting.

The robot R2D2 will pose for photos, and a



Leah James was just 4½ when diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. She died in 2005, and her family holds an annual benefit walk to support pediatric brain tumor research and other projects.

light lunch and refreshments will be served. Go to www.leahshappyhearts.org to register and/or create a pledge page.

People are encouraged to sign up in advance but walk-ins are also welcome.

Proceeds will support pediatric brain tumor research at the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, where Leah was treated. The organization also puts on each year a holiday shopping event for hospitalized children.

"We set up a store on three different floors," James said, with children choosing gifts for family members and themselves. Area Girl Scouts make no-sew fleece blankets for children for the

event.

"It's just a really fun event," James said of the holiday shopping. "It's very rewarding for me."

Grief help

The family finds the benefit work helps them grieve. "That's the main reason we decided to form it," she said. "I knew I had to do something. It was well worth it. The pain is always going to be there."

Offering more treatment options for others helps the family cope.

Leah's tumor was in the brain stem and couldn't be biopsied. It was described to her parents by doctors as like taking sand from Jell-O.

Funds from last year's walk and other fundraisings are supporting a book



More walkers are always welcome at the event, set for Saturday, June 8, at Maybury State Park.

HAPPY FEET FOR HAPPY HEARTS

What: Walk benefitting Leah's Happy Hearts, which raises money for pediatric brain tumor research at the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital

When: Registration begins at 9 a.m., Saturday, June 8

Where: Maybury State Park, Eight Mile west of Beck in Northville Township

More info: Visit www.leahshappyhearts.org to register and/or create a pledge page

to be written by Ridge Wood Elementary teacher Sue Beth Balash in the Northville school district. The book will be for children diagnosed with tumors and their siblings.

"It's supposed to inspire hope for children," said James, adding C.S. Mott Hospital is also working on that. The main character will be named Leah and the book will share the girl's joyful spirit but not be her story. The book will be shared with other hospitals down the road.

At the June 8 event, the Northville Fire Department helps with a fire truck and fire hats for the kids. "They've been

great, always there for us," James said.

James and other organizers would be happy to raise \$20,000 from the June 8 walk. She appreciates "great sponsors," such as Domino's Pizzeria, Table 5 restaurant of Northville, Sunny J's of Plymouth, and Independent Bank of Livonia.

Tons of support

The James family moved to Florida in 2009, and plans to return to Michigan when Kylie graduates from high school, with Northville their first choice. "It's been difficult for her but she's getting along as

best she can," mom said of Leah's death impacting Kylie. It was helpful when Kylie turned 16 and could visit the hospital, seeing work there.

The teen also benefits from supporters at the annual walk. Karen James said it draws from Northville, Novi, Livonia and Plymouth, as well as their family members from Trenton, Whitmore Lake and Monroe.

James is pleased with this year's raffle prizes, including Detroit Tigers Den seats, an iPad and an American Girls doll. Leah's favorite color was purple, so the walk features purple T-shirts and balloons. Each walker will get a purple backpack.

Leah is buried in Livonia and the family appreciates a couple, friends and neighbors, who care for the grave. "I'm very lucky to have them," James said.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



Winners of Community Financial Credit Union scholarships included (back, from left) Scott Kardel, Trinity Christian; Rachael Barrie, Canton High School; Dana Blankenship, Salem High School; Patrick Renner, Novi High School; Sandra Shoukair, Michigan State University; (front, from left) Andrew Carlone, Northville High School; Hannah Morello, Ladywood High School; Jessica Scarpello, Plymouth High School; and Mary Kate Winn, Mercy High School. Not in attendance were Christina Riga, Ladywood High School; Ashley Saunders, Plymouth High School; Brock Baum, Atlanta High School; and Abby Schlicher, Johannesburg-Lewiston High School.

Credit union hands out scholarships

Thirteen students were honored as 2013 Community Financial Scholarship award winners recently, continuing the credit union's commitment to supporting youth and education in local communities.

The scholarships were awarded in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Plymouth and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation to students who exemplify Community Financial's "People Helping People" philosophy.

The \$1,000 scholarships are named in honor of Margaret Dunning, and the late George Lawton, both of whom, according to scholarship officials, are "great examples of that philosophy."

This year's George Lawton Memorial Scholarship winners include Rachael Barrie, Canton High School; Brock Baum, Atlanta High School; and Dana Blan-

kenship, Salem High School.

The Margaret Dunning Scholarship winners are Andrew Carlone, Northville High School; Scott Kardel, Trinity Christian; Hannah Morello, Ladywood High School; Patrick Renner, Novi High School; Christina Riga, Ladywood High School; Ashley Rose Saunders, Plymouth High School; Jessica Scarpello, Plymouth High School; Abby Schlicher, Johannesburg-Lewiston High School; Sandra Shoukair, Michigan State University; and Mary Kate Winn, Mercy High School.

"All of these students are outstanding students and citizens and deserve our applause for their accomplishments so far," said Bill Lawton, Community Financial president and CEO. "We are proud to support their education going forward and are looking forward to seeing what they accomplish next."

Festival highlights cultural traditions

Canton's Liberty Fest continues its popular tradition of hosting an International Festival during its highly-anticipated summer community event. The celebration of diversity showcases a variety of cultures from around the world 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at the Heritage Park Amphitheater in Canton.

Festival-goers will enjoy music and dance that communicates across cultural and linguistic barriers from countries across the globe, including Bulgaria; China; India; Sri Lanka; Africa; Ireland; Spain; the United States; Scotland; Tahiti; New Zealand; South Korean; and Polynesia.

"Our International Festival is a great opportunity for audience members to experience music and dance from around the globe in one centralized location," said Can-

ton Arts Coordinator Jennifer Tobin. "Audiences will be delighted as the stage comes alive with colorful costuming, exotic instruments and stirring rhythms when these talented individuals share their heritage and some traditions that date back centuries."

Sopranos on stage

Performers expected to take the stage, include Sopranos Sonja Srinivasan and Corinthia Sims and Baritone Benton DeGroot of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan. These talented singers will perform from 3:30-4 p.m. Soprano Sonja Srinivasan, presently continuing her music studies at the University of Michigan School of Music, is an award-winning emerging professional with an extensive curriculum of performances with various opera organizations in the USA and abroad.

Corinthia Sims is currently attending Clafin University and is a previous first place winner of the George Shirley African-American Art Song and Operatic Aria Competition. Benton DeGroot is a recent finalist in the Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students.

Other acts include: Ealain Ceime School of Traditional Irish Dance; Harmony Town Barber Shop Chorus; Yantze Melody Group; Tim O'Hare School of Traditional Irish Dance; Canton Chinese Choir; sitar performer Monica Prasad along with Prashant Javkar on the Tabla; Hoaloha Polynesian Dancers and the Mother City Ukies; students of Parul Shah; K-Pop Club; Plymouth Canton Chinese Learning Center; Little Chinese Angles - students of Josie Zhou; Julie Grav-

el performing Spanish songs; students of Chinmayee Kulkarni performing Indian dances; the Bulgarian Folk Dance Ensemble Izvor; the Albanian Folk Dance Group from the Balkan American Community Center; Suhasini Mody and Group; Dance Xplosion - students of Heidi Worthly; as well as the New Hope Baptist Church of Wayne's Rhythmic Praise Dancers, Joyful Noise Step Team and the Symbols of Silence Ministry.

Organizers said this year's dynamic performances at the International Festival are appropriate for children, adults, seniors, and students.

For more detailed information about this year's International Festival and all things related to Canton's Liberty Fest, visit www.cantonlibertyfest.com or call (734) 394-5460.



Chinese dancers perform enchanting traditional choreography in vibrantly colorful costumes during Canton's 2012 International Festival.

Library set for summer reading

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Registration is under way for the popular summer reading program at the Plymouth District Library, with a theme of "Dig Into Reading" for kids.

Carol Champagne, head of youth services, said some 1,500 to 1,600 children participated last summer.

"I'm hoping that we'll have a nice booming summer," she said, adding there are also summer reading programs for teens and adults. The theme is "Go Beneath the Surface" for teens and "Groundbreaking Reads" for adults.

The kickoff program for the whole family will be 11 a.m., 2 p.m. or 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, at the library, 223 S. Main. The puppets of Kevin Kammeraad of the Tomato Collection fame will be featured. Free tickets for this can be picked up at the Youth Services Desk starting June 17.

That's followed by weekly programs for children ages 5-12, held both afternoons and evenings to accommodate family schedules. Archaeology, animal adventures, family roots and rocks are topics, in keeping with the theme.

There are also drop-in storytimes for children ages 2-5 and their families. The final program for kids ages 5-12 will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, and will feature author PaleoJoe on fos-

sils and dinosaurs. Registration starts July 27 at the Youth Services Desk or by phone at (734) 453-0750, #5.

There's an Edge Summer Reading Program for children who've finished third, fourth or fifth grade. They stop by the Youth Services Desk to register, fill out an entry blank for each book read and turn it in. There are prizes based on number of books read as well as weekly drawings for special prizes for kids reading seven or more books. There are both weekly and final prize drawings.

There are also special programs as part of Edge. Summer reading activities are sponsored by the Friends of the PDL.

"They get to read whatever they want," Champagne said. "It doesn't have to be a library book."

She points to academic research that school-age children lose about two months at school if they don't read for fun in the summer. "It doesn't take being chained to a desk," Champagne said. "Twenty minutes (daily) is enough to keep those skills up."

Champagne's excited about a new activity this year, a children's garden in four raised beds on the south side of the library. Weather permitting, kids will work there 7 p.m. Tuesdays. There are both plants and seeds.

"We're hoping to have fun with that this summer," she said.

Online registration started last summer and was a hit with teens and adults. Children's librarians found parents preferred to bring children in to sign up and then keep the reading log, reporting on what they'd read and doing some writing too.

"That was something we were not expecting," Champagne said. "It was a surprise to us. We're delighted to offer both."

Campers and children who participate with grandparents benefit from the online option, she said.

The teen program, for those entering middle school and up, features library programs, community events like Art in the Park, watching movies made from books and of course reading. For details, go to <http://plymouthlibrary.org/index.php/teen>.

Adult summer reading runs through Aug. 10 and features two ways to play: Library Bingo, in which you can win prizes by completing five boxes in a row on the bingo form by reading different genres. Forms are available at the library and online at plymouthlibrary.org. No registration's required for this.

Adults can also do a summer reading log online. Sign up at plymouthlibrary.org to create your account, then read at least five books of your choice and log them. Book review can also be posted.

Car club hosts festival show

America's Most Wanted Car Club of Canton hosts the 22nd annual Canton Liberty Fest Car Show 8 a.m. Saturday, June 15, in Heritage Park in Canton.

A pre-registration party is set for Friday, June 14, from 5-8 p.m., also in Heritage Park, located on Heritage Parkway (behind the Canton administration building).

The donation for showing a car is \$15 prior to June 7 and/or at the pre-registration party. Car owners will donate \$20 per car to register on the day of the show. Spectators are welcome at no charge.

All the proceeds this year will be donated to Open Door Ministry in Canton. Open Door Ministry provides food and job skills for those residents of Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Belleville, Ypsilanti, Westland and Wayne who need for support. They not only feed 450 families per week but they also give classes in resume writing, job interviewing, job skills and help people get back into the work force.

For additional information contact Barb Xenakis at (734) 455-9796.



America's Most Wanted Car Club of Canton hosts the 22nd annual Canton Liberty Fest Car Show 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 15, in Heritage Park in Canton.

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Geriatrician

10 - 11 a.m.
"Engaging the Body"
Aron Henderson, Exercise Physiologist

11 a.m. - Noon
"Engaging the Spirit"
Harsha Jayatilake, MD, Medical Director, Center for Integrative Medicine

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Exhibitors

- Health screenings - blood pressure, bone density, depression
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- Free boxed lunch: Noon - 1 p.m.
- Cooking demonstration: Noon - 1 p.m.

Pre-registration is preferred. For more information or to register, call 734-655-1706 or to register online, visit stmarymercy.org/healthyagingconference.

Thanks to our sponsors: ARAMARK, Area Agency on Aging - The Senior Alliance, ComForcare, Evola Music, Fireside Adult Day Ministry, HandyPro, The Hearing Center of Excellence, Traditional Care Unit at The Village of Redford, and lunch sponsors: Arden Courts and Home Instead



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fighting cancer

Canton-area HomeGoods shoppers will have the opportunity to support cancer care and research while shopping at the off-price home fashions retailer through June 30. More than 275 HomeGoods stores nationwide will be participating in the 12th annual HomeGoods "Helps Families Fight Cancer" campaign benefiting the Jimmy Fund, which supports pediatric and adult cancer care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Mass.

HomeGoods customers can participate by making a contribution at the register to "Help Families Fight Cancer" with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting Dana-Farber. Customers also have the opportunity to purchase a reusable shopping bag for 99 cents featuring artwork by Jimmy Fund Clinic pediatric patient Phoebe Davis and her brother Caleb.

HomeGoods will contribute \$.50 for each bag purchased to the Jimmy Fund.

"HomeGoods and its dedicated customers have raised more than \$3.1 million for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. We are so grateful for their continued support in our fight against cancer and helping families facing this disease," said Suzanne Fountain, director

of the Jimmy Fund.

Fifth Third grants

Fifth Third Bank (Eastern Michigan) distributed 42 \$530 Employee Involvement Grants to non-profits on behalf of their employees who volunteer with that organization.

Fifth Third's "Week of Giving" encouraged volunteerism and provided additional incentive for employees to give of themselves to their communities. Check presentation ceremonies were held at nine Financial Center locations within the Eastern Michigan footprint from April 29 through May 9.

Among the organizations getting grants were Living Word Church of God, Catholic Central Mom's Club, New Life Christian Fellowship and Starfish Family Services.

"The sweat equity volunteer work and charitable giving that Fifth Third Bank has provided to local communities over the past decade, is part of our heritage", stated David Girodat, president and CEO Fifth Third Bank Eastern Michigan. "A basic tenet of our business is to give back to those communities where we work and live. We see this as part of our mission to help stabilize neighborhoods through corporate and employee involvement."



New wagon

The Kiwanis Club of Plymouth-Evening cut the ribbon on their new popcorn wagon prior a recent Friday night concert in Kellogg Park. The new wagon was sponsored by donations from local businesses and all contributors have their names on the wagon. Pictured are members of the club, sponsors of the wagon and public officials.

Antonio's to reopen closed Giulio's Italian Restaurant

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

A former Italian restaurant on Plymouth Road in Livonia will see a new name and owner later this year.

Antonio's Cucina Italiana is planning to reopen the former Giulio's Italian Restaurant and Bar, located at 31735 Plymouth Road.

The restaurant could start serving customers by the end of the year.

"There are some issues that need to be addressed before everything is finalized," said Antonio Rugiero, the owner of the restaurants. "We do not have anything finished yet. That's why we don't have a date."

The former Italian restaurant west of Merriman recently closed its doors to customers. It opened in 2004 after the former DiPalma restaurant burned down.

A phone call to the restaurant's number Monday afternoon discovered the phone lines have been disconnected. It was still open for business as of Mother's Day.

Antonio's owns locations in several surrounding communities, including Canton, Farmington Hills, Dearborn Heights and Dearborn. Rugiero said many of his customers come from Livonia, so opening a restaurant in the city is exciting for him and his family.

"We love the City of Livonia. It's a great city," he said. "We sort of surround Livonia. We just thought it would be a good fit."

He said the restaurant



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Giulio's is closed and being acquired by Antonio's, which has restaurants in Canton, Farmington Hills, Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

plans on supporting more events in the city, as they do in the communities they operate in, and Livonia will be no exception. The restaurant is currently preparing for the 20th Annual Feast of St. Antonio on June 13, a fundraiser done each year to benefit charitable causes in the Metro Detroit area.

Antonio's, which has been owned and operated in the area since 1964 by the Rugiero family, is a restaurant that serves a variety of appetizers, salads, pizzas, pasta and several main courses. Most items on the menu run between \$10-\$15.

Other locations have banquet rooms and can be rented out for events. The restaurant also caters for funerals. Rugiero said plans for the Livonia restaurant are still being worked out, but he expects the space to be more intimate. He said the quality of the food will remain as high as it is at the other locations.

"We are going to try and downsize it a little bit to fit the footprint we have there," he said. "I can promise you this: You'll know you'll have great Italian food. We're going to keep it true to our word."

Amish Tables marks 18th year

Amish Tables, located in downtown Plymouth, has a lot of reasons to celebrate.

This month marks the anniversary of their relocation from Ann Arbor to Main Street in downtown Plymouth a year ago, as well as their 18th year as a company. Additionally, Amish Tables has also launched a new comprehensive website at www.signatureamish.com.

Originally started in the owners' basement, Amish Tables was launched to fill a need, providing long tables to large families. The mission was a heartfelt one that the company still believes: "Family happens around the table." Providing beautiful and handcrafted tables that will last means that they will be with families through the years, for birthdays, weekly meals and special celebrations.

"It's the place you come to, the place where you can connect with each other and share the joys and struggles of family life," owner/CEO Nell Narowski said.

Since their inception in 1995, the business has grown to a team of nine staff, operating a 2,500-square-foot showroom, maintaining three websites and shipping orders locally, nationally, and internationally.



Amish Tables celebrates its first year at its new home and 18 years in business in Plymouth this month.

"We have come a long way since the early days and much of our success is attributed to our presence online as well as to our local customers," said John Paul Narowski, vice president and co-owner.

The company is celebrating their dual anniversary with a sale. For the first 18 days of June, their 18 top-selling products will be 18 percent off.

"We wanted to highlight the products that have been influential in our growth," said Debra Stewart, business manager of Amish Tables.



Weekly HAPPENINGS



Sunday Savings

Chicken Cordon Bleu, Parmesan Stuffed with Ham, Cream Cheese & Spinach, Linguine with Olive Oil & Garlic \$12

Mixed Grill & Martini Madness Mondays

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Dinner for Two Tuesdays \$60

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CHOICE OF TWO:
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• Roast Chicken with Garlic Sauce, White Truffle Oil & Chef's Potatoes
• Grilled Gulf Shrimp with Sweet Chili Sauce & Ginger Rice
• Spicy Maple Grilled Pork Chops with Red Onion Marmalade and Blue Corn, Sweet Potato Tacos

CHOICE OF A BOTTLE OF:
Raywood Merlot, Salmon Creek Cabernet Sauvignon, Salmon Creek Chardonnay or Beringer White Zinfandel

AND CHOICE OF TWO:
Crème Brûlée • Sander's Hot Fudge Cream Puff • Cheesecake

All You Can Eat Smelt Wednesdays

Remoulade Sauce, Chef's Potatoes, Fresh Vegetables & Cole Slaw \$12

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Phony worker distracts couple while their house is burglarized

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

More than \$50,000 worth of cash and jewelry were stolen from the home of an elderly Plymouth Township couple late last month when a man claiming he was there to plan yard work distracted them and at least one accomplice burglarized their house.

The theft occurred around 4 p.m. May 24 on Canton Center Road on the township's south side, a Plymouth Township Police Department statement said. No one was hurt.

Officer Charlie Rozum, the detective in charge of the case, said the couple were in their front yard doing yard work when they were approached by a man who claimed he was sent by their subdivision's homeowners association to do yard cleanup in the commons area in back of their home. The three went to the back yard, the couple told police, and spoke for about 15



This sketch is based on a description, provided by the victims. Police report similar incidents in Royal Oak and Sterling Heights.

minutes about the work that was to be done. During that time, the couple said, the man received several calls on a cellular phone, and each time told the caller he

was still with the couple. When he left, the couple continued working in the yard. Later, the couple went inside and found that cash and jewelry had been stolen, police. More than \$36,000 cash was stolen from a safe, the couple reported, and jewelry valued at more than \$15,000 was also reported stolen.

Rozum said the burglar or burglars went in through an unlocked front door or the door between the house and

the attached garage. Valuables were taken from both the main floor and the basement of the ranch-style house, he said.

The pretend worker, Rozum said, introduced himself as "Mike." The couple reported that they saw no vehicles, nor anybody accompanying "Mike."

The subdivision's homeowners association had in fact planned for a clean-up of the backyard commons, and the couple were aware of that, but no company had yet been picked to do the work, Rozum said.

Township Lt. Cal Lauria said an identical incident was reported recently in Royal Oak and another in Sterling Heights. He said residents should be wary, and secure the front doors to their homes when working in the back yard, and the back doors when working in the front yard.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2405
Twitter: @mattjachman

Township condos hit with vehicle burglaries

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Residents of a condominium complex on Plymouth Township's southeast side were hit with a rash of vehicle break-ins one night last week.

Four vehicles were burglarized, and an unsuccessful attempt made on a fifth, at parking areas at the Bradbury Park condominiums, on Newport Drive in the area of Joy Road and Haggerty, on the night of May 28, according to Plymouth Township Police Department reports.

The items reported stolen included the stereos from each of the four vehicles, plus tools, cash, and a char-

ger for a cellular phone. From one van, more than \$2,000 worth of golf equipment was reported stolen, while from another, golf equipment was left behind, the reports said.

"You have to secure your cars, take valuables in, don't have valuables in sight" and provide plenty of outdoor lighting, said township Lt. Cal Lauria.

Lauria said it was unknown whether the larcenies were related to three other recent vehicle burglaries, in each of which the stereo was stolen. There was also a vehicle burglary attempt around the same time, he said.

"Could be two different crews out there," he said. Police reports said that

four of the five vehicles targeted at Bradbury Park were entered after a window was smashed out. The fifth, a van, had been left unlocked.

The burglaries all occurred late on May 28 or early the next day; in the attempted burglary, the victim reported it May 30 and said it had occurred since May 21, police said.

In that incident, someone had tried unsuccessfully to steal the combined stereo and navigation screen from a Jeep after a window on the vehicle was broken out, a police report said.

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How To Get Rid Of Knee Pain Once And For All...Without Drugs, Shots Or Surgery

Now, in Livonia, Michigan, one doctor is helping local residents with knee pain live more active, pain-free lives.



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My name is Dr. Greg Kramer, owner of Kramer Chiropractic. Since we opened, we've seen many people with knee problems leave the office pain free.

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The First 25 Callers Only can get everything I've listed here for only \$35. The normal price for this type of evaluation including x-rays is \$250, so you're saving a considerable amount by taking me up on this offer.

Remember what it was like before you had knee problems; when you were pain free and could enjoy everything life had to offer? It can be that way again. Don't neglect your problem any longer - don't wait until it's too late.

Here's what to do now:

Due to the expected demand for this special offer, I urge you to call our office at once. The phone number is 248-615-1533.

Call today and we can get started with your consultation, exam and x-rays as soon as there's an opening in the schedule. Our office is called Kramer Chiropractic and you can find us at 34441 W. Eight Mile Rd., Ste. 116, in Livonia, MI. Tell the receptionist you'd like to come in for the Knee Evaluation.

Sincerely, Greg Kramer, D.C.

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Don't wait and let your knee problems get worse, disabling you for life. Take me up on my offer and call today: 248-615-1533

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FIREWORKS

Continued from page A1

For communities under 50,000 in counties with a population of less than 750,000, the local fireworks restrictions for all 10 holidays, plus the day before and the day after each, could be between 1 a.m. and 8 a.m.

Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, who

represents the city in the state House, voted for the changes, and Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton Township, who represents the city in the state Senate, said Wednesday that he supports the changes, too.

"I think the Detroit fireworks display is rivaled by all the fireworks in the neighborhood where I live right now," Colbeck said. "I think it's gotten a

little out of hand."

The 10 specified national holidays include the Fourth of July, New Year's Day and Memorial Day as well as holidays that don't normally see consumer fireworks use, such as Christmas and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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Police seek help with suspect ID

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton Police are asking for the public's help in identifying a suspect accused of robbing the 7-Eleven store, 43340 Warren near Morton Taylor, at gunpoint around 2:55 a.m. Tuesday, May 28.

"No shots were fired," Detective Sgt. Craig Wilsher said.

Police received a call that a suspect had entered the store and demanded money from a clerk while pointing an object at her that she believed was a handgun. The employee was restrained, but Wilsher said he couldn't elabo-



Canton Police are asking for help identifying this suspect following an a May 28 robbery at the 7-Eleven store on Warren near Morton Taylor.

rate because those details could become evidence in an ongoing investigation.

The clerk wasn't injured, Wilsher said.

The suspect was described as a white male, between 6 feet tall

and 6-foot-3, approximately 25-30 years old, wearing a dark hoodie and dark pants. He wore a nylon over his head.

Police said the suspect fled in what was described as a dark-colored Volkswagen Jetta, likely from the mid-2000s. It had a white strip along the bottom of the vehicle and after-market rims.

Anyone who has information is asked to call the Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400. Crime Stoppers of Michigan is offering a \$1,000 tip that leads to an arrest. Crime Stoppers can be contacted at (800) SPEAK-UP or online at www.1800.speakup.org.

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Shoplifting arrest

A 21-year-old Wixom man was arrested on a shoplifting charge Friday evening after a security guard at a Plymouth Township store accused him of trying to steal a pair of shorts.

The incident occurred just before 9 p.m. Friday at the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road at Haggerty, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said.

The guard told a responding officer that he watched on a video security monitor as the man picked up a pair of black shorts, took the price and anti-theft tags off of them, and concealed them on his person, the report said.

The man bought a T-shirt, the guard said, and left the store when he was confronted by security, the report said.

The suspect was cooperative, the report said, and waited for police to respond to the store.

Business break-in

A laptop computer was reported stolen from a business on General Court, in the area of Joy Road and Lilley, after a break-in there early Friday morning. Officers responded to an alarm at

Maverick Property Maintenance shortly before 1 a.m. Friday and found the glass in the front door had been broken out, a police report said. The owner walked through the office with police and determined the laptop was the only thing stolen, police said.

The owner said he had left work shortly before 10 p.m. the previous evening.

Fraud reports

- A township woman reported finding an unauthorized cable service account in her name recently while checking her credit report.

The account had an unpaid balance of \$538 from 2012 for service at a house on Asbury Park in Detroit; the woman told police she had never lived at that house and didn't know anyone who had.

- A township woman reported finding an unauthorized charge of \$742 on one of her credit cards.

The woman told police she checks her credit statements daily through the Internet and noticed a charge from a Michigan business that she hadn't made. She canceled the credit card.

— By Matt Jachman

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Indecent exposure

Canton Police arrested a 59-year-old Livonia man and cited him for indecent exposure following accusations he was nude outside of Plymouth High School, a police report said.

A security guard notified police about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 29, to report a man who was seen walking nude around his car, described as a silver Mazda.

Police spotted the car on Joy Road near Canton Center and stopped it. The man was still naked and hiding himself with a pair of red shorts he had placed on his lap.

The suspect told police he was going for a joy ride and that he had to use the bathroom. He initially told police he had irritable bowel syndrome.

Police had the man put his clothes back on, arrested him and cited him for indecent exposure. His vehicle was impounded.

The man, described as a divorced father of three, was later interviewed at his home and changed his story, the report said. He told police he is a nudist and was looking into becoming a member of a nudist camp. He said he had issues with voyeurism.

The man told police he had gone nude in public three times last summer, but he said none of his actions involved children. When asked how he believed his teenage daughter would react if she saw someone doing what he had done, he began to cry and said he was embarrassed, according to the police report.

Police notified Livonia authorities as well because the man lives near Churchill High School.

Burned feces

A man who lives on Sandalwood, northeast of Glengarry and Beck, notified police to report someone had burned a bag of feces on his front porch while he was away May 24-28.

The man said the door mat had been burned as well. He said pieces of concrete had been thrown at his garage door, damaging it. Police told the man to report any further incidents and said patrols would be increased in his neighborhood.

eBay scam

A 26-year-old Canton man went to the

police department to report that he had been the victim of a scam on eBay, a police report said.

He told police he had sold a laptop on eBay and received notification from a buyer who said he wasn't happy with the purchase. He told the buyer to send the laptop back and refunded the money.

However, the victim said he only received a power card and display monitor — and not the laptop he had sold. He contacted the buyer again and got no response. He was advised by eBay to file a police report.

Meds stolen

A 62-year-old Canton man reported that someone stole his prescription pain medication from his kitchen cabinet sometime prior to 3 p.m. Monday.

The man lives in the 1700 block of Elmhurst, southeast of Ford and Sheldon roads. He said he takes the pills, Tramadol, for a condition that affects his legs. He said he believes the theft occurred when his family had 20 people over for a Memorial Day gathering.

The man said he needed to file a police report to obtain a new prescription from his doctor.

Dog rescue

A Canton woman's actions may have saved a small dog that was in the middle of Morton Taylor Road eating road kill.

The woman, who lives in the 6300 block of Wedgewood near Morton Taylor and Warren, said she had managed to get the dog out of the middle of the road, a police report said. Police checked the area but couldn't find the owner.

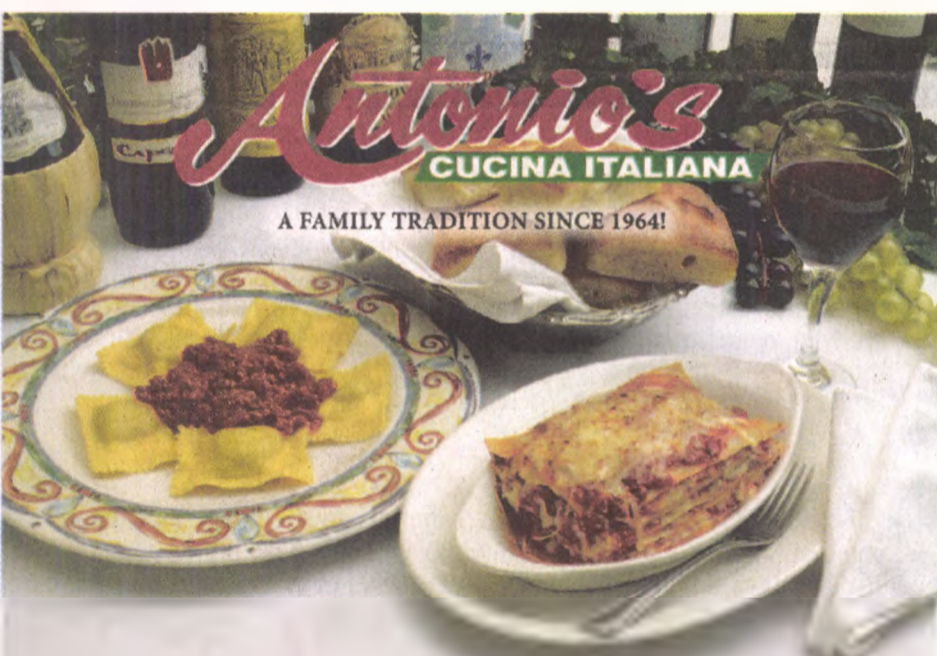
The dog was turned over to the Michigan Humane Society.

Hit and run

A 26-year-old man notified Canton police amid allegations another driver struck his car and fled the scene at a small shopping center northwest of Cherry Hill and Haggerty roads.

The man said a driver of a brown Cadillac struck his vehicle about 6:35 p.m. He said it appeared the man was going to get out of his car and attend to matters, but he then saw the suspect driving away.

— By Darrell Clem



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Great Female Artists of Detroit
Wednesday, June 26
1:30 p.m.

Take a nostalgic look back at famous females of Detroit presented by the Detroit Historical Museum. Top it off with an old fashioned Boston Cooler! RSVP by June 24.

Father's Day Brunch
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Don't fall for bogus charities in the wake of tragedy

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

As I looked at the calendar, I realized that it is the 69th anniversary of the D-Day landings in World War II. Unfortunately, too many people in our society have forgotten about that day and the incredible acts of bravery that occurred. If you want to talk about heroes, all you need to do is read the stories about what happened on Omaha Beach and Utah Beach.

I bring this up because, unfortunately, too many people forget about the past and never learn from it. They repeat the same mistakes time after time. When it comes to personal finance and investing, investors can't forget about the past — rather, they must learn from it.

A perfect example of where the past is repeating itself deals with the recent tornadoes in Oklahoma. We've all seen the pictures of the carnage and destruction and the heartbreak the storm caused. However, we're



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

also seeing people fall for the scams that are being perpetuated by so-called charities. The scam artists are once again taking to the Internet, attempting to basically steal your hard-earned money. These low-lives set up websites and send out emails soliciting contributions for the victims in Oklahoma. You have to recognize in today's world, anyone can send emails and put up a website that looks legitimate. It is important to do your homework before sending any money to any charity.

You don't have to be an expert to research a charity; it's relatively easy. Use websites like www.charitynavigator.org or www.give.org. Both contain a wealth of information on charities so

you can make a decision whether to contribute.

New charities are formed whenever there is a natural disaster. Although many of them are legit, the reality is many are not. Low-lives know that Americans are the most generous people on Earth and they look to exploit our generosity. Bogus charities will do whatever it takes to scam money. We must be smarter than them.

I wish there was one tip I could give to avoid all scams, but unfortunately, I can't. However, we can all learn from history. Basically, whether we are investing or donating to a charity, taking time and doing homework before writing a check will go a long way in making sure an investment or charity is legitimate.

Good luck.

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



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Madonna offers retreat for busy women

Looking for a break from the heavy workload at the office or the running of your household?

Madonna University's Busy Women's Retreat offers a few hours of stress-free activity 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, June 14, at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

Check-in is 9:30-10 a.m. at Greenmead Meeting House, 20501 Newburgh Road. The event kicks off at 10 a.m. sharp with beginning yoga, followed by meditation led by instructors

from Livonia Yoga Center and Global Breathing Institute. No mats are required, but women should wear comfortable clothing.

Once relaxed and refreshed, attendees will hear about "Gaining a New Perspective" from Karen Danto, a Farmington Hills social worker and therapist. They'll also discuss common issues facing today's women.

Winding up the retreat, participants will enjoy a box-lunch picnic on the lawn of the sprawling

95-acre historical farm. The lunch is sponsored by Henry Ford Health System's Department of Orthopedic Surgery.

Registration is required and will be taken until Tuesday, June 11, through the Office of Continuing Education & Professional Studies. Cost is \$39 for the general public or \$29 for Madonna University students or alumni.

Call (734) 432-5804 or visit www.madonna.edu/ continuing to register or for more information.

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OUR VIEWS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Fourth of July picnic is a Plymouth Township staple, and will go on this year despite some internal bickering among the township's Board of Trustees.

Picnic, fireworks above board bickering

It appears, despite the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees' best efforts to cloud it with bickering and in-fighting, the traditional Fourth of July fireworks show and picnic will go on.

Residents — and fireworks fans — are the winners here.

But it hasn't happened without controversy. Trustee Bob Doroshewitz, who has managed the picnic with his wife, Tammy, the last several years, abruptly resigned a couple of months ago, after he failed to gain support for the idea of setting a budget and documenting expenditures for the picnic.

His suggestion sparked a spat with Treasurer Ron Edwards, who took the position that Doroshewitz, as the picnic organizer, ought to be aware what he's spending and that, besides, the budget is available in the clerk's office. Doroshewitz wants as much transparency as possible, including the names of donors to the events, and he's certainly entitled to that. Edwards protects the names of such donors, pointing out some of the larger donors want to be supportive, but the same time protected from other groups seeking similar donations.

But these businesses are certainly capable of warding off, or politely denying, requests for donations. There's no real reason not to list them. Edwards' opponents have for years tried to shade the picnic with accusations of wrong-doing. What better way to fight that than making all of the information available.

We lean toward Doroshewitz's point of view, and believe there should be as much transparency as possible, including having the budget on-line. Edwards always points out the books are available for residents to come in and peruse, but there's really no reason not to put it on-line where anyone can review it without having to make the trip to Plymouth Township Hall.

"It comes down to transparency," Doroshewitz said, and we agree.

There's much less controversy surrounding the fireworks, although Doroshewitz again put up a bit of a struggle before agreeing to OK the \$35,000 contract (as did trustee Chuck Curmi). Doroshewitz's beef this time was with not bidding out the contract (it was again awarded to Pennsylvania-based Zambelli Fireworks Manufacturing Co., which has put on the show since Edwards brought it back).

Doroshewitz put up a brief fight, pointing out the township's own policy requires the seeking of bids for contracts of more than \$15,000. But his argument lost steam when he still voted in favor of the contract, which is paid for through sponsorships and donations.

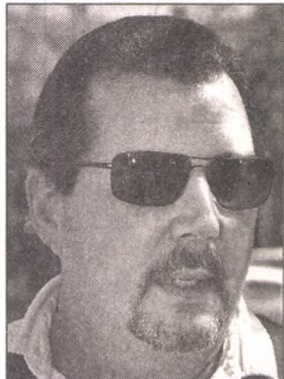
Curmi has no real objection to the show, but doesn't think township officials should be organizing it. Edwards has, by all accounts, done a great job with it, but it's on the kind of solid footing now that turning it over to a non-profit (if one can be found willing to do the fundraising and organizing) might not be a bad idea.

Despite the squabbling, the picnic and the fireworks are wonderful events that raise the quality of life in Plymouth Township, and should be preserved.

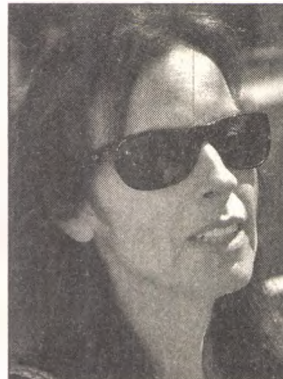
COMMUNITY VOICE

How high do you think gasoline prices will go this summer before starting to fall, and why?

We asked this question outside the U.S. Postal Service station on Penniman in downtown Plymouth.



"I think they'll go over \$5. Why are they raising it for no reason?"
Gerard Sheremet
Plymouth



"It all depends on how much they want to take from us."
Diane Boufford
Rochester



"Probably \$4.25. They went up 20 cents over night."
Sharon Moss
Plymouth



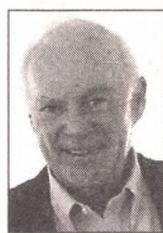
"Four-thirty (a gallon). ... I have no idea. My husband loves that I get Kroger points (for discounts)."
Lorna Nitz
Plymouth Township

GUEST COLUMN

Help save bomber plant at Willow Run

By Bob Hynes
Guest Columnist

The Yankee Air Museum and its partner, the Michigan Aerospace Foundation, are on a mission to save a cornerstone of the Arsenal of Democracy.



Bob Hynes

The historic bomber plant at Willow Run Airport, which turned out more than 8,700 B-24 Liberator heavy bombers in World War II, is headed for demolition. The legacy of this factory goes well beyond building armaments. This complex helped build a nation in every way imaginable.

My good friend, the great broadcaster and meteorologist Sonny Eliot, passed to a better place, Nov. 16, 2012. Sonny was a pilot and combat veteran of the U.S. Army Air Forces in World War II. He commanded a B-24

Liberator in the strategic air war against Nazi Germany. His B-24 was shot down, but he survived. For 18 months, he was a prisoner of war. Sonny was also a life member of the Yankee Air Museum.

If he were here, I'm sure he would be working to save the bomber plant. Now my friend is forecasting with his inimitable charm, perpetually happy atmospheres in his heavenly realm. Sonny's brilliance could shed light on light. So I'll take a cue from his style manual and keep this message simple, direct and true.

We need help to save the bomber plant.

The opportunity to save a critical portion of the plant arose just recently. More importantly, we have only until Aug. 1 to raise the needed funds. At present, we need to raise more than \$5 million. We've raised \$3 million so far.

The Yankee Air Museum and Michigan Aerospace Foundation need media champions. We sim-

ply do not have the wherewithal to conduct the kind of mass communications necessary to be successful. We need to get the word out, tell our story and ask for help far and wide to achieve our mission.

We need audience participation now. Yes, that means you. Visit www.savethebomberplant.org for the whole story. Everything you need to know is there. Please donate and help spread the word.

For me, it's about my friend Sonny Eliot. For you, it may be about Rosie the Riveter. For all of us, it's about preserving tangible evidence ... we were here and, because of that, democracy prevailed.

Bob Hynes, an aviator and longtime Detroit TV and radio broadcaster was host of WXYZ-TV's morning show from 1966-77. Hynes also hosted a radio program, *Night Flight 760*, on WJR-AM (760) in the 1980s. He is a member of the Yankee Air Museum Board of Directors and chairman of the public relations committee.

LETTERS

Much ado

In the May 23 edition of this paper, a writer asked where was the outrage over the IRS investigation of the Tea Party?

I am not a member of any of the organizations he mentions, but I will respond as an independent voter. It is my understanding that in 2012 the IRS received complaints that extremely wealthy backers of the Tea Party were setting up sham, tax-free units to funnel money to right wing candidates in state and federal elections.

The IRS, rightly so, initiated an investigation. Once these Tea Party backers found out they were under the microscope, they had their lackeys in Washington D.C., start an inquisition. These inquisitors besmirched several loyal and honorable federal employees and managed to take the heat off their backers and put it on the IRS.

Now, these same entities are free to violate our financial election laws without any oversight. But, despite these ultra-partisan hearings in D.C. and the Tea Party's efforts to derail all of the president's proposals, they will have little impact on his agenda.

I think Shakespeare said it best when he penned the line "much ado about nothing."

James Huddleston
Canton

Scandal or efficiency?

Don't we all want our government agencies to function as efficiently as possible by exercising common sense, especially at a time when ill-conceived deficit-mania has overtaken any desire to get anything positive like job

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

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Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

creation done? Why then are conservatives gaining any traction at all on claims of scandal? No proof exists that the White House had anything to do with local management decisions of the Cincinnati office of the IRS to pay special attention to the deluge of "Tea Party" organization applications for tax exempt status. In defense of the IRS, if the word "party" was included in an organization's name, wouldn't a prudent employee investigate whether that group's primary function was that of "social welfare" rather than electioneering as the law requires?

Shouldn't the fact that conservative organizations have garnered 85 percent of all monies donated to 501(c)4s have instantly raised a flag if economy of effort at the IRS was the goal? Theoretically, if 70 percent of "social welfare" applicants were of a specific, unique type

wouldn't it be reasonable for those applicants to get at least 70 percent of the scrutiny?

Current circumstances demand greater employee efficiency than ever before from the IRS, especially in Cincinnati. The data show that the Cincinnati IRS office processes over 70,000 501(c)4 applications per year with only 200 investigators and since 2010 has experienced a dramatic spike in requests for tax exempt status, largely from conservative organizations.

Complicating matters, according to tax expert David Cay Johnston, is the fact that the IRS has been tasked to do much more with much less by answering new demands for further scrutiny of Romneysque off-shore accounts while experiencing a 17-percent funding cut since 2000.

Apparently some of the alleged increased attention may be the fault of the Tea Party organizations themselves. Johnston points out that many applications originating from Tea Party organizations were filled out in error and rejected for having political language like "ousting Obama" or "getting Tea Party or Republican candidates elected" included in their mission statements.

The real scandal may be that many organizations get the tax exemption despite very thin evidence of promoting social welfare. Perhaps Mr. Issa should spend his time ferreting out organizations, conservative or liberal who violate the statutes rather than manufacturing scandal where none emanating from the White House seems to exist.

Mitch Smith
Canton

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GIRLS SOFTBALL DISTRICTS

Aresco propels Chiefs into regionals

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

After Canton's emotional 5-0 district semifinal victory over rival Plymouth which featured a no-hitter by junior Hanna Warren, another team was laying in the weeds ready to spoil the Chiefs' afternoon.

And Canton had to rally from a pair of three-run deficits before getting a clutch two-out, 3-run homer from junior shortstop Paige Aresco in the bottom of the sixth inning to stave off upset-minded Livonia Churchill, 8-5, for the Division 1 girls softball district championship at Northville.

The Chiefs, now 27-5 overall, will square off against Catholic League A-B Division champion Farmington Hills Mercy in the regional semifinals beginning at noon Saturday at Novi.

"They jumped on us right away and got us down a little bit," Canton coach Jim Arnold said. "We weren't fired up at the beginning. I told the kids, 'This is your game to win. It's time to wake up and start playing. You should be playing better than what you are.' They decided, I guess, to turn it on and start playing. I'm proud of them. They did a heckuva job after

being down that many runs ... I'm proud."

While the hard-throwing Warren proved masterful in the shutout win over 31-5-1 Plymouth, she was rendered only human against the 28-12 Chargers, who jumped on the Canton ace for three runs on four hits in top of the first inning.

Julia Cavagnini took Warren's first pitch to the right-center field gap and Casey Bias, Nicole Salloum and Mellanie Richardson each followed with RBI singles to make it 3-0.

Canton got two runs back in the third thanks to singles by Aresco and Jessica Webster sandwiched around a Churchill outfield error to cut the deficit to 3-2.

Churchill, however, made it 5-2 in the fourth taking advantage of a Canton infield error followed by Katie Shereda's bloop 2-run single to right field.

In the bottom of the fifth, Canton evened the score at 5-all.

Aresco, who went 3-for-4, started the rally with a one-out single. Catherine Porter followed with a walk and Aresco came on Webster's single.

Warren then hit a hot shot into the hole at second base

Please see **SOFTBALL, B3**

Canton junior pitcher Hanna Warren, shown from earlier this season, won both of her team's district games Saturday.

Another OHL honor for Mike Vellucci

The hardware is piling up for Mike Vellucci of the Plymouth Whalers.

It was announced this week that Vellucci was named Ontario Hockey League Executive of the Year for the 2012-13 season.

Vellucci, who recently earned the Matt Leyden Trophy as OHL Coach of the Year this season, led the Whalers behind the bench and in all front office operations as the club captured their 12th division title in franchise history while earning a berth in the OHL playoffs for a record 22nd consecutive season.

The OHL Executive of the Year Award is presented annually to the executive whose team demonstrates success both on the ice and at the administration level through excellent organization and franchise success.

Vellucci is the second member of the organization to earn the award following Jim Rutherford, who won back-to-back Executive of the Year Awards in 1992-93 and 1993-94 with the Detroit Jr. Red Wings.

"I believe Mike is very deserving of this award, I am very proud of him," said Whalers Owner Peter Karmanos, Jr. "As good of a coach as Mike is he is an even better business executive. Being able to perform both jobs is something that is very difficult."

Vellucci is the first winner of both Coach of the Year and Executive of the Year honors in the same season.

MU's pitcher All-American

Madonna University senior pitcher Jeremy Gooding (Livonia/Dearborn Divine Child) capped off his career by earning honorable mention honors for the 2013 NAIA Baseball Coaches Association All-America team.

Gooding, who also named first-team All-America in 2011, is the Crusaders' career wins leader (31) with 19 complete games and four shutouts in 308.1 innings.

This season, Good went 5-2 in 11 starts allowing just 16 earned runs in 63.2 innings to go along with 78 strikeouts as the Crusaders captured the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference title and finished 37-12 overall.

LCSC Premier rules tourney

The Livonia City Soccer Club's under-13 girls premier team, coached by Livonia's Jeff Bobo, finished 4-0 and scored 14 goals en route to a division title in the 35th annual Memorial Day Invitational Soccer Tournament in South Bend, Ind.

Team members include: Megan Verant, Allison Kaupp, Natalie Hawkins, Kiana Buchanczenko, Jillian Amad, Madison Sonnefeld, Caitlin King, Teresa Semak and Jennifer D'Antonio, all of Livonia; Lindsey McGowan, Rose Hodge, Reagan Woodward and Lizzy Roy, all of Canton; Tatiana Ivanac, Farmington; Erin Abramczyk, Farmington Hills; Kathryn Horn, Northville; and Hayley Mayes, Commerce.



Plymouth junior Emily Burkman (No. 20) gets set to send a shot that would result in Saturday's lone goal. In the foreground for Salem is Leah Moss (No. 2).

'Cats ward off pesky Rocks

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem head coach Scott Duhl drew up a straightforward game plan for his varsity girls soccer team to attempt to stymie top-ranked Plymouth in Saturday's Division 1 district final: Stop Madi Lewis.

The Rocks succeeded in keeping University of Michigan-bound Lewis off the scoresheet. But the rest of the Wildcats are pretty good, too, and a second half goal by junior defender Emily Burkman proved all Plymouth needed to earn a 1-0 victory.

Burkman scored with about 15

SOCCER DISTRICTS

minutes gone in the second half, on an assist from Katie Chipman. Goalkeeper Kylie Robb took care of the rest, earning her 16th shutout (not counting a 1-0 win via forfeit over Wayne Memorial earlier during districts).

Plymouth improved to 20-0-1 entering Wednesday's D1 regional opener against Saline at Farmington High School. Results were not available as of press time.

According to Duhl, whose team battled injuries and fatigue fol-

Please see **SOCCER, B2**

D1 TRACK & FIELD FINALS

Making history

'Cats McCurry best in pole vault at D1 finals

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Jane McCurry literally vaulted to the top of the charts in Plymouth varsity girls track and field history at Saturday's Division 1 state finals.

The senior finished first in the pole vault at East Kentwood High School with a mark of 11 feet, three inches, enabling her to become the first state champion in the program's history.

"For Jane it was a culmination to a great season," Plymouth head coach Ricky Styes said. "She went undefeated the entire year. Every dual meet, every meet she entered she took first place in."

"It was nice for her to finish out that perfect season at the state meet, exciting for (pole vault coach) Kevin Palmer, exciting for her parents, everybody there."

"Jane's always kind of been the one we all look to in big meets to perform well. And on the biggest stage she was able to do something that's never been done



Plymouth seniors (from left) Jane McCurry and Sarah Uhlman earned all-state honors in the pole vault at the D1 state finals. McCurry was the state champion.

in Plymouth school history."

Joining McCurry as an all-state pole vaulter was senior Sarah Uhlman, who tied for sixth with a 11-3 mark.

Another member of Plymouth's tight-knit "Space Whales" pole vaulting crew, senior Taylor Rieckhoff, finished in 10th place.

The top seven finishers in the event had marks of 11-3, but McCurry was awarded first place because she "made all of her jumps

on her first attempt" where Uhlman needed a third try.

Rieckhoff came close to making it a tri-fecta.

"It was kind of bitter-sweet for Taylor," Skyes said. "She was jumping well early on and just had trouble at 11 and didn't make it. But three of the top 10 girls in the pole vault at the state meet were Plymouth girls."

Other Wildcats performing, but not placing,

Please see **TRACK, B3**

New 'Cats coach praises players

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Storm winds blew through the Plymouth baseball landscape in 2013, and by the time things calmed down, the Wildcats had a new head coach — Mike George.

Reported discord from parents about the direction of the program ultimately led to the dismissal of George's predecessor, Bryan Boyd, who last month stepped down due to "personal reasons."

George, a longtime Madonna University assistant coach, took over to finish out the year.

That conclusion came Saturday in a 9-1 loss to Canton in a Class A district semifinal.

"It's not the kids' fault," George said. "They've accepted us the two weeks we've been here. They busted their butts and it's unfortunate that adults mix it up for the kids because they don't deserve it. They're stuck in the middle. It's like a divorce."

"But it's a great group of kids and it's been a privilege for us to come over and help out and hopefully they learned something. And hopefully there's a

BASEBALL DISTRICTS

good future for the program."

The team George took over, along with former Plymouth player Brad Lineberry and MU assistants Stu Rose and Ted Faulkner, finished 15-14 (3-6 following Boyd's resignation).

Asked about next season, George replied: "Don't know yet. We're going to sit down with the athletic directors and the administration."

The loss to the Chiefs marked the end of the Plymouth careers of seniors Shawn Sudz, Brandon Waack, Matt Janke, Jamarl Eiland, Brendan Swanson, Casey Sudz, Brian Schmid and Nate Percy.

Schmid took the loss, victimized by errors that led to six unearned runs.

"He deserved a lot better, with the errors," George said. "I don't know if they had an earned run until that last inning, maybe. ... It's tough to give a good team three runs, and it's even tougher to come back against a good team like Canton. They do a nice job over there."

Canton falls in district final, B4

She looks to make big splash at Marist

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

THE MIDDLETON FILE

The chance to “dig it” with a college volleyball team is something Canton senior libero Becca Middleton can’t keep from smiling about.

Middleton recently signed to play Division I volleyball at small Marist College in New York state.

“I am a really hard worker and I think I can lead on and off the court,” Middleton said. “I think they (Marist coaches) saw my passion for the game and they saw I really loved it and they saw my abilities and decided to give me a good chance to play.”

She can’t wait to join the team, which already includes Westland John Glenn alum Brooke Zywick (who will be a junior in 2013-14).

Familiar face

“We played at the same (volleyball) club together, so it’s cool that I get to have one friend there already and then meet so many more new people,” said Middleton, a diminutive player who made a big impact on the Chiefs

Who: Becca Middleton, senior honors student and volleyball player at Canton High School.

What: She recently signed to play Division I volleyball at Marist College in New York state. She will pursue majors in special education and speech language pathology.

Honors: Middleton finished high school with a 3.86 grade-point average.

throughout her varsity career.

Her coach with the Chiefs in 2012, Steve Johnson, raved about Middleton and said the college opportunity is well-deserved.

“She worked awfully hard to get that opportunity for herself, both with club ball (at Premier Volleyball Club in Ohio) and school ball,” Johnson said. “Hopefully that kind of work ethic has rubbed off on the younger kids, because she worked extremely hard to get that for herself and we’re very proud of her for that.”

Middleton — who is finishing high school with a 3.86 grade-point average and looks to major in special education and speech language pathology — stressed the importance of her training at Premier for having the chance at Marist.

She also recently was honored with a Detroit Association Phi Beta Kappa Certificate of Recognition, President Barack Obama’s “President’s Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence” and the Andrew Paul Holmlund Memorial Scholarship.

Family: Her parents are Jeff and Amy Middleton. She has a brother, Alec.

The training also should help her make a smooth transition. “They specialize in preparing athletes for the collegiate level,” Middleton said. “We have over 250 commitments to college right now, so it’s a great experience for me to train at that club.”

Her penchant to train hard carried over to her duties with the Chiefs.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

It was a proud day for the Middleton family when Canton senior volleyball player Becca Middleton (third from left) signed her national letter of intent to play at Marist College. At left next to Becca are her parents, Jeff and Amy. Also shown are brother Alec Middleton and Canton varsity coach Steve Johnson (far right).

“This past summer I was the off-season captain and I ran all the summer workouts,” she noted. “I really challenged all the incoming freshmen and all the players that wanted to try out, I really want to push that working hard can pay off in the long run and it can get you really far.”

“I hope the younger girls saw how hard I worked and I hope they do the same” in the future.

Special trio

Middleton, whose parents are Jeff and Amy Middleton of Canton, is one of three seniors from

the 2012 Canton volleyball team to sign with college programs.

Outside hitter/middle blocker Erica den Boer will play at Concordia University while defensive specialist Dia Johnson signed with Defiance College in Ohio.

“They saw the same thing we saw in Dia,” Johnson said. “A high-flying back-row hitter.”

According to Johnson, this year’s players follows the footsteps of other Canton players in recent seasons.

“We’ve had a long lineage of players going off to college all along, but to have three in the same

year really says something about where we’re going with our program,” Johnson said. “It shows that the kids are signing on to the workmanship and pursuit of the game that we would hope that they are doing. And I think it’s showing up on the radars of the different college recruiters.”

Johnson added that “all the credit” goes to the kids for doing “hours and hours of practice and the hours and hours of conditioning that it takes to get to that level and my hats are off to them.”

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SOCCER

Continued from page B1

lowing a grueling 1-0 district win over Canton on May 30, “mapped out a way we thought we could win and we stuck to it. The girls gave themselves a chance to get a goal late on free kicks and service in the box.”

“Plymouth proved to be a little faster, and tougher winning 50/50 balls and balls in the air.”

In particular, Salem sophomore Kylie Knight “played possessed” shadowing Lewis for the first 65 minutes before Duhl moved her up to forward after the Wildcats took the lead in an attempt to tie the score.

The first-year coach added that the Rocks “put so much effort in trying to make it hard on Madi Lewis the other Plymouth girls really shined.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Up in the air to make a play during Saturday’s Division 1 girls soccer district final is Plymouth’s Maria Farmer (No. 5), battling against Salem’s Leah Moss. In the background for the Rocks are Megan Barfuss (No. 9) and Morgan Siterlet (No. 1).

Zoe Foster, Stephanie Dillon, Maria Farmer and No. 6 (Erin Winters) were terrific in the midfield.”

Other standouts for Salem, who finished 14-5-1, included junior defend-

er Olivia Kaye, junior midfielder Taylor Jaaska, freshman defender Leah Moss, sophomore defender Kaitlyn Pelech and senior defender Madison Kummer.

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Warren's no-hitter crushes Wildcats

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

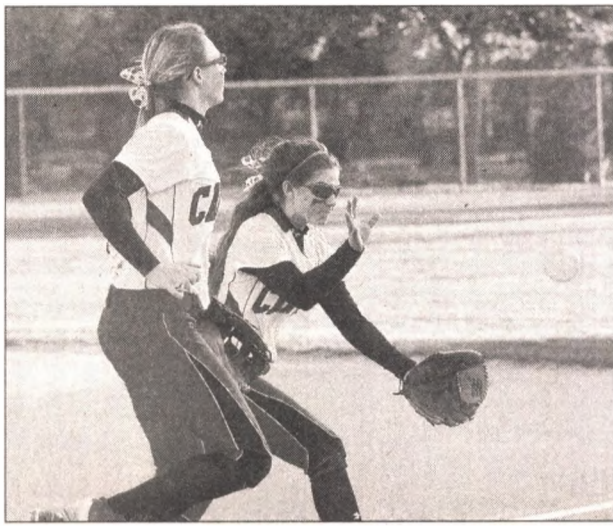
Canton junior pitcher Hanna Warren threw a no-hitter Saturday to spark the Chiefs to a 5-0 victory over KLAA champion Plymouth in a Class A district softball semifinal at Northville.

The Chiefs went on to defeat Livonia Churchill 8-5 in the district final, overcoming early 3-0 and 5-2 deficits. Warren pitched the second win, too, keyed by junior shortstop Paige Aresco's three-run homer that broke a 5-5 deadlock.

Canton (27-5) advanced to the Novi-hosted regionals which begin Saturday.

Staked to a 3-0 lead in the third against Plymouth senior starting pitcher Elaine Gerou, the Chiefs kept the momentum in large part due to Warren's strong pitching and standout defense backing her up.

"I started trying to throw more changeups," said Warren, about her approach to the Wildcats.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton boasted sure-handed defense against Plymouth, as shown here from a game earlier this season by Kendyl Richter (No. 4) and Shannon Watson (No. 10).

"This is a good-hitting team that hits hard pitches and I knew the changeup or slow curve would throw them off. Luckily it did."

Canton head coach Jim Arnold said the victory showed his players they didn't need to rely on home runs to win a key game. He added that Warren pitched a tremendous

game, "They're a tough team," said Arnold, about the Wildcats. "We beat them once before, they beat us twice during the season. This one is the one that counts."

"Our team played extremely well, we didn't hit the long ball and it proved to them (Chiefs) that you don't have to hit the long ball to win a

game. Plymouth head coach Bev McManus, whose team finished with an excellent 31-5-1 record, said it was "unfortunate" that the top two teams in the district bracket had to square off in the first game.

"But you know what? We gave it our best," McManus said. "We had a great season. We're holding our heads high."

McManus credited Warren and Canton's defense for forcing her team to the sidelines.

"We hit the ball hard, we hit balls at them, they played great defense," she continued. "You can't take anything away from them. Warren is an amazing pitcher and we're a great hitting team. We just didn't put them together today."

String of hits

The Chiefs managed to do just that against Gerou, who finished off an outstanding prep career on a losing note.

Canton's decisive third

inning opened up innocently enough with singles by senior Shannon Watson, Aresco (2-for-4) and (on a bunt) senior Sarah Wagner to fill the bases with no outs.

Senior catcher Catherine Porter then drilled a two-run double to left-center to make it 2-0.

Another senior, Jessica Webster, followed with a base hit to right to score courtesy runner Val Lentine.

Canton added two more runs in the fifth. Porter (2-for-4) singled, followed by a double to right by Webster (2-for-4). Junior second baseman Kendyl Richter sent a soft liner over the third baseman's head that hit the foul-line chalk to plate Lentine, again running for Porter.

Plymouth was stymied by outstanding defense by the Chiefs, who caught several line drives for key outs.

The closest the Wildcats came to registering a hit came in the bottom of the third when junior catcher Brooke Senkbeil hit a line

drive into shallow right field.

But Canton sophomore right fielder Nicole Clark charged the softball and threw to Watson at first base to throw out Senkbeil.

"We charted them all season long and figured out where they'd hit the most," Arnold said. "We stayed on top the whole game. I'm proud of the way the kids played."

For Plymouth seniors such as second baseman and future Madonna Crusader Bri Giordano, who envisioned the Wildcats making a strong pitch for a state title, the knockout blow was tough to take.

Giordano, choking back emotion, talked glowingly about her teammates and what they accomplished all year.

"I'm just really proud of them in general, everything they do," Giordano said. "Each of them as a person, they're just great people."

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SOFTBALL

Continued from page B1

that Churchill's Maggie McGowan knocked down on a spectacular backhanded stop from going into the outfield. But before McGowan could gather herself and make a play, Porter scored from second and courtesy runner Elizabeth Yager alertly came all the way around from first.

"She (Yager) saw the opportunity and took it," Arnold said. "And it wasn't on me, it was on her. She made a great decision and scored."

With score tied at 5-

5, Canton seized the momentum in the bottom of the sixth.

Kaitlyn Keys and Shannon Watson both doubled, setting the stage for right-handed hitting Aresco with runners on second and third and first base open.

"I was not thinking they were going to walk me," said Aresco, who laced a Shereda 1-0 pitch over the left field fence. "I just tried to stay relaxed and put a good swing on it. It was a fastball and it got quite a bit of plate. It felt pretty good coming off my bat."

Warren, meanwhile, settled down late in the game, retiring nine of the

final 10 Churchill hitters she faced, including a 1-2-3 seventh inning. She gave up six hits, walked two and struck out six.

Canton had a total of 11 hits with Aresco and Webster, a senior third baseman, each collecting three. Senior outfielder Sarah Wagner added two.

"We started off down, so we had to fight back," Aresco said. "We persevered and strung some great hits together and managed to score. With the more at-bats the more we became comfortable, more used to what she (Shereda) was throwing. We were putting better swings on it at the end of the game."



BRAD EMONS | PHOTO

Canton celebrates its Division 1 district girls softball championship after beating Livonia Churchill, 8-5, in the finals Saturday at Northville.



Salem's 400-meter relay team of (from left) Chris Dierker, Drake Jordan, Steven Homrich and Sean Davis finished sixth at the Division 1 state finals to earn all-state status.

Rocks break records at D1 finals

If at first you don't make all-state in an event, come back and try in the next one.

For the Salem quartet of Drake Jordan, Sean Davis, Steven Homrich and Chris Dierker, that proved to be the magical formula at Saturday's Division 1 state finals in East Kentwood.

They placed 10th in the 800 relay with a school record of 1:30.17 — two

places shy of making the all-state cut. But the same team came back about an hour later in the 400 relay to finish sixth with a time of 43:02 (another school record) and come away with all-state accolades.

Rocks varsity boys head coach Steve Aspinall added that the record in the 400 relay also set a new standard for all of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

With their efforts, Aspinall continued, the Rocks have had at least one all-stater for each of the past five seasons.

To put a cap on the great day, freshman Chaz Jeffress ran 9:40.41 in the 3,200 run for a personal best (by 14 seconds). Jeffress "ran the fastest freshman time from any division" at the finals, Aspinall continued.

TRACK

Continued from page B1

included Holly Stark (100 hurdles), Natalie Puckett (300 hurdles), Tionne Johnson (discus, shot put) and Kat Harris (high jump).

"We've had a few girls go all-state, but never the state champion," Styes said. "We haven't had an all-state track girl since 2008, so we were happy to have them go all-state let alone Jane winning the pole vault."

Kavulich all-stater

Salem junior distance runner Kayla Kavulich was the only other Plymouth-Canton Educational Park all-stater with a seventh-place time of 4:56 in the 1,600-meter run.

Kavulich set a new Salem school record in the process.

Also setting a new



Shown from a recent meet, Salem's Kayla Kavulich finished seventh in the mile run at the Division 1 state finals.

Rocks standard at the finals was Anya Cho, although she did not place. Cho registered a mark of 11:15 in the 3,200-meter run.

"Those two performances definitely made this meet very well worth it," Salem head coach Dave Gerlach said. "And just great for those two kids that really showed they are top-notch in Division 1."

Gerlach, whose team

had an outstanding season highlighted by the KLAA Central Division championship and a second-place finish at the D1 regionals, noted that the Rocks hit a "lull after two weeks off" following regionals.

"We also had prom last night (Friday) and just weren't as focused as I would have liked."

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal for **Technology Cabling Contract**. Specifications of the Request for Quotation (RFQ) are available by contacting Tiffany Brindza, Purchasing and General Ledger Associate, Plymouth Canton Community Schools at tiffany.brindza@pcscmail.net or (734) 416-2975. Technical questions should also be directed to James Casteel, Director of Technology at james.casteel@pcscmail.net or (734) 416-2708. Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Quotation at PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on/or before **1:00 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2013**. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Adrienne Davis, Secretary

Publish: June 6, 2013

AT8799382 - 3x2.5

Songs from the heart

Music CD, art sale benefit children with multiple disabilities

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Giving Songs and Guitar Grip are working hand-in-hand to raise money for children with multiple disabilities.

"We're doing a combination of art and music," said Mike Ryan, describing the upcoming event his Plymouth-based company, Guitar Grip, is sponsoring on behalf of Northville resident, Brent Johnson's nonprofit, Giving Songs.

Giving Songs a Hand, 8 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at Park Bar in Detroit, will include live music, food and works by local artists. Those same artists also will embellish hand-shaped guitar hangers that will be sold at the event, with profits benefitting Giving Songs. The nonprofit began raising awareness and funds for children with multiple disabilities in July 2012, when it produced and sold a compilation of songs by local musicians. A copy of the CD, *Giving Songs*, will be included with each \$25 ticket to the event.

"This event for us is huge. We are a young organization and just starting to see some growth," Johnson said. "Mike is connected with a lot of folks in the Detroit art scene. He approached us and thought a local organization that supports music and children and families was a good fit. And I couldn't agree more."

Ryan said he was searching for a way to reach out to a charity when he found out about Giving Songs.

"I was excited about the cause and what he was doing. Why not connect locally? It



Brent Johnson and his son, Jack, enjoy a beautiful day in Kellogg Park, in Plymouth.

seemed like a perfect fit," he said.

His company manufactures the hand-shaped guitar hangers that artists will paint and sell at the event.

"We're using the hands to get the artists excited to paint something different and unique. It's such a unique canvas and the interpretations are all different," Ryan said, adding that the hands will be priced between \$100-\$200.

They're designed to be mounted on the wall to hold a guitar, but can be used as decorative art pieces or for dis-

playing other items. Ryan said one customer sent him a photo of the product holding hockey sticks.

He hopes to use the event to launch a series of Guitar Grip hands that will continue to benefit Giving Songs. Guitar Grip's website also includes basic, custom and artist-embellished hangers shaped like male, female and skeleton hands.

Helping families

The *Giving Songs* CD, with 16 songs performed by more than 40 Metro Detroit musicians, is available from the group's

website for a \$10-\$1,000 donation. Proceeds from the recording and other donations have enabled Giving Songs, a volunteer group, to help one family buy a wheelchair lift vehicle. The organization also gave \$1,500 to the Penrickton Center for Blind Children in Taylor.

Johnson said the group's focus is on giving individual grants to families in need of the special vehicles.

"The sky is the limit. Our generosity is limited only by our means."

The seeds for Giving Songs were sown in December 2011,

after Johnson and his wife were told that their son, Jack, now 3, had a terminal condition. Jack is blind and multi-disabled.

"I really hit a low point. I felt helpless," Johnson recalled.

He had taken up guitar and began singing after he learned that his son was blind, figuring they might bond over music. Then, after hearing Jack's terminal diagnosis, Johnson decided to put his skills to use. He sang *Love Rescue Me* — which later became track 3 on the *Giving Songs* CD — and asked 50 family members and friends if they'd download the song and donate. Their donations would enable his wife to quit her job in medical technology at Beaumont Hospital and spend time with their son during his remaining days.

Generous donors

The e-mail was sent and resent, generating interest and dollars from as far away as Europe, Canada and China.

"It was bringing in thousands of dollars. It would have been hundreds of thousands of dollars and then we got the phone call indicating that Jack did not have a terminal illness. We refunded all of the money generated by the song, but what I learned was there is a lot of compassion in the world. That was the initial catalyst of Giving Songs."

"My brother-in-law is a studio engineer. I said, let's start recording songs and put a beautiful album together."

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Please see GIVING, B7

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Giving Songs sells this CD with songs by local musicians.

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What: A music and art event benefitting Giving Songs, a nonprofit organization that aids children with multiple disabilities and their families

When: 8 p.m. Saturday, June 15

Where: Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit

Details: Art by Tony Roko of Plymouth and other artists; artist-embellished guitar hangers donated by Guitar Grip of Plymouth; performances by Amy Gore & Her Valentines; The Questions; special appearance by Retro Girls; auction of a guitar autographed by Mitch Ryder

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Grilled Ribeye Steak with Chimichurri Salsa

TIPS FOR PERFECT GRILLING

1. Clean and preheat grill on high.
2. Lightly oil everything before putting it on the grill. This helps the searing process and prevents sticking.
3. Season food before grilling.
4. Sear the outside of steaks when grilling. This helps with the flavor and juiciness.
5. Use tongs or a spatula to turn meat on the grill. Using a fork can damage the meat.
6. Cover grill as much as possible during the process. This helps to lock in the grilled flavor and will help prevent flare-ups.
7. Keep a spray bottle with water handy to douse any unexpected flare-ups.
8. Use the 60/40 grilling method. Grill for 60 percent of the time on the first side, then grill 40 percent of the time after turning over the food. This will make sure your food is evenly cooked.
9. Place cooked food on a clean plate. Never place cooked food on the plate you used to transport the raw food to the grill without thoroughly washing it first.
10. Allow foods to "rest" for 5 minutes between cooking and eating. This will help them retain moisture when you cut into them.

To get your grill time just right, download SteakTime, Omaha Steaks' free app with an innovative grill timer, at www.itunes.com/appstore.

Adventures in GRILLING

The next time you fire up the grill, give your taste buds a thrill with recipes that are inspired by some of the best cuisines from around the world. These recipes from Omaha Steaks will take you on a culinary adventure right in your own backyard. Sweet and spicy Korean, zesty South American and bold Mediterranean flavors make perfectly grilled steak even better.

You can find more adventurous recipes at www.OmahaSteaks.com.

Grilled Ribeye Steak with Chimichurri Salsa Serves 4

4 ribeye steaks
Sea salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste
1 cup Chimichurri Salsa (see recipe)

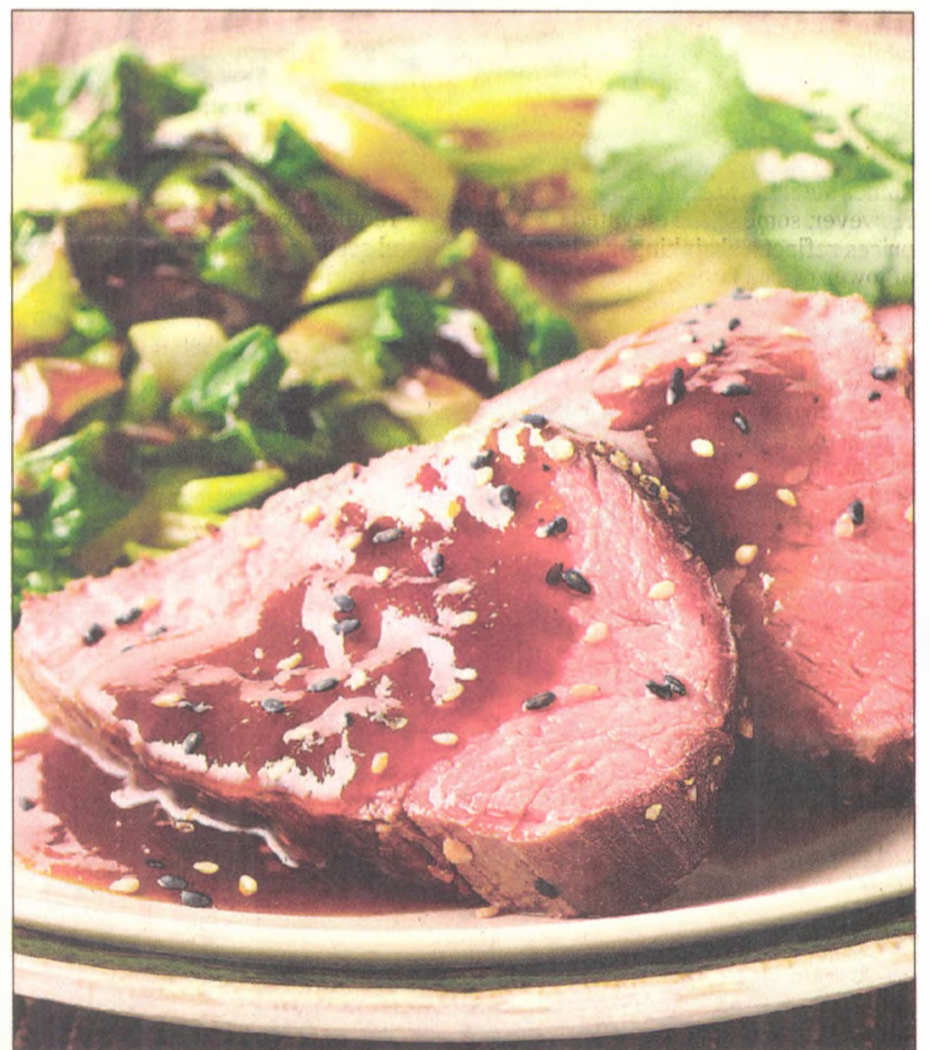
4 cilantro sprigs
Begin by thawing steaks. Then season and grill to desired doneness.

Top each steak generously with Chimichurri Salsa. Garnish each steak with one cilantro sprig.

Chimichurri Salsa Makes 1 cup

½ cup green onions, minced
2 teaspoons fresh oregano, minced
¼ cup red bell pepper, minced
¼ cup cilantro, minced
1 tablespoon jalapeno, minced
2 teaspoons fresh garlic, minced
½ teaspoon sea salt
¼ teaspoon fresh ground black pepper

1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
½ lime, juiced
Combine all ingredients and mix well.



Korean Barbecue Beef Tenderloin with Stir-Fried Bok Choy Serves 6 to 8

1 3-pound tenderloin roast
2 cups Korean Barbecue Marinade (see recipe)
¼ cup Omaha Steaks Private Reserve American Steak Rub
1 pound Stir-Fried Bok Choy (see recipe)
1 14-ounce bottle Korean barbecue sauce
6-8 cilantro sprigs
1 teaspoon black sesame seeds
1 teaspoon toasted sesame seeds

Begin by completely thawing tenderloin. It will take 2 days in refrigerator or 1 hour in a sink full of cold water.

Remove tenderloin from plastic, and place in a large resealable bag with Korean Barbecue Marinade. Marinate overnight in refrigerator.

Remove tenderloin from marinade, and season with steak rub. Sear tenderloin on all sides on a pre-heated grill. Place in a 250°F oven for 1 hour and 15 minutes, or until the internal temperature is 125°F for medium rare.

With 15 minutes remaining, prepare the bok choy and heat Korean barbecue sauce.

Remove tenderloin from oven, let rest 15 minutes. Slice and serve. Garnish with cilantro and a mixture of sesame seeds.

Korean Barbecue Marinade Makes 2 cups

1 tablespoon sesame oil
2 tablespoons garlic, finely chopped
2 tablespoons fresh ginger, minced
1 cup canned pear juice
½ cup soy sauce
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 tablespoon crushed red pepper

Place sesame oil in a thick bottom pot and add garlic and ginger. Place pot on a medium burner and add the rest of ingredients and slowly bring to a boil. Bring heat down to a simmer and cook while stirring for approximately 5 minutes. Remove sauce from heat and refrigerate for up to one week.

Stir-Fried Bok Choy

1 tablespoon canola oil
1 pound bok choy, chopped
1/3 cup Korean barbecue sauce
1 tablespoon sesame oil
Sea salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste

In a wok, briefly heat canola oil. Add bok choy and cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Add Korean barbecue sauce and sesame oil to wok and mix well. Serve while hot.



Mediterranean Sirloin Skewers Serves 4 to 6

2 pounds sirloin tips
1 cup Mediterranean Steak Marinade
4-6 skewers
Thaw sirloin tips.
Prepare Mediterranean Steak Marinade.

Drain sirloin tips and place in a resealable bag with marinade. Marinate sirloin tips in refrigerator for at least 8 hours or overnight. Agitate bag periodically to ensure marinade is well combined with the sirloin tips.

Preheat grill on high. Thread sirloin tips onto skewers. Grill for 4 to 5 minutes on each side.

Serve over couscous, pasta, salad or rice.

Mediterranean Steak Marinade Makes 1 cup

½ cup extra virgin olive oil
2 teaspoons sea salt
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
¼ cup fresh squeezed lemon juice
2 tablespoons fresh garlic cloves, chopped
1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, chopped
1 tablespoon fresh oregano, chopped
¼ cup California chardonnay wine
Combine all ingredients and mix well.

— Courtesy of Family Features

hometown life

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JUNE 2013

Woman

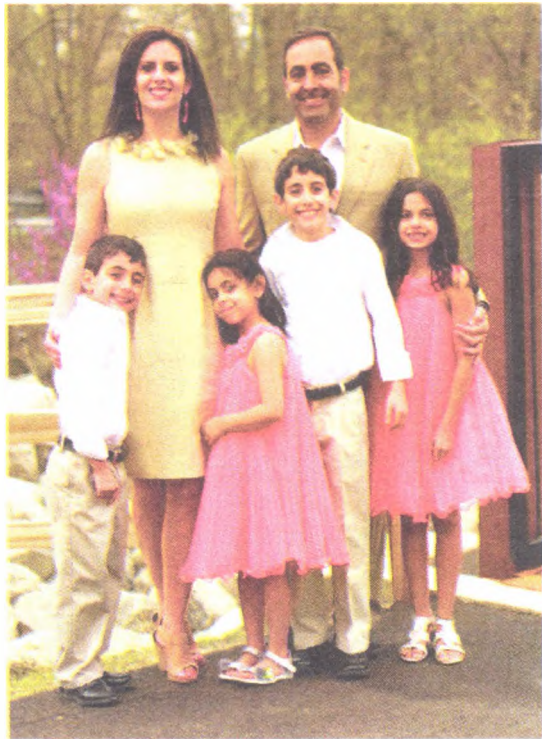


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EDITORIAL

615 W. Lafayette Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

CIRCULATION

41304 Concept Dr.
Plymouth, MI 48170

Publisher & Executive Editor
Susan Rosiek
srosiek@hometownlife.com

Advertising Director
Grace Perry
gperry@hometownlife.com

Cover Design/Layout
Dan Dean

Contributing Writers
Barbara Deyo, Jill Halpin,
Paula Swain

Contributing Editors
Julie Brown, Bill Emerick, Beth Jachman

Product Integration Director
Sheryl Labon

Contact us:
Phone: (313) 222-2223
E-mail: woman@hometownlife.com
Website: www.hometownlife.com

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Women on the move, inspiring, motivating others

The calendar still says spring but it is finally beginning to look (and feel) like summer.

College commencements have been held and high school ceremonies are either recently concluded or on tap within a week or two. The school year is winding down and moms and dads are lining up camps and activities to keep kids busy and challenged the next few months. Summer vacation is on the mind of most people.



Susan Rosiek
editor/publisher

But for some women and men the next couple of months will be spent fundraising and training for the Susan G. Komen Michigan 3-Day. The June, July and August editions of Woman, will profile the local women — and men — who are participating in this three-day, 60-mile walk to help end breast cancer. Read about why they participate and why they got involved. Their stories are inspiring and heartfelt.

And be sure to read today's story on Inforum's Inner Circle event (*starting below*), a program held in April which provided young women professional an opportunity to meet and network

with top female leaders throughout the region. The roundtable discussion setting provided access for young professionals breaking into senior leadership roles. Women already in the "inner circle" in business hosted small group conversations sharing practical information and inspiring the female leaders of tomorrow. Also an inspiring read.

Come back to Woman in July for more inspiring stories and as always I welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions.

Susan Rosiek
editor/publisher

Words of wisdom



Inner Circle Guest of Honor Janice Cosby Bridges; chief marketing officer, marketing and communications for St. John Providence Health Systems, hosts a round table discussion.

Women business leaders share advice with future leaders

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

Women don't just have to "lean in" — a term coined by Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg in her best-selling book of the same name — they need to reach out.

That is exactly what some 14 top

female business leaders from across the southeast Michigan region were doing when they gathered in April at Troy's Somerset Inn for the Inner Circle, an event aimed at providing support and inspiration for today's emerging leaders.

Sponsored by Inforum, a professional organization focused on creat-

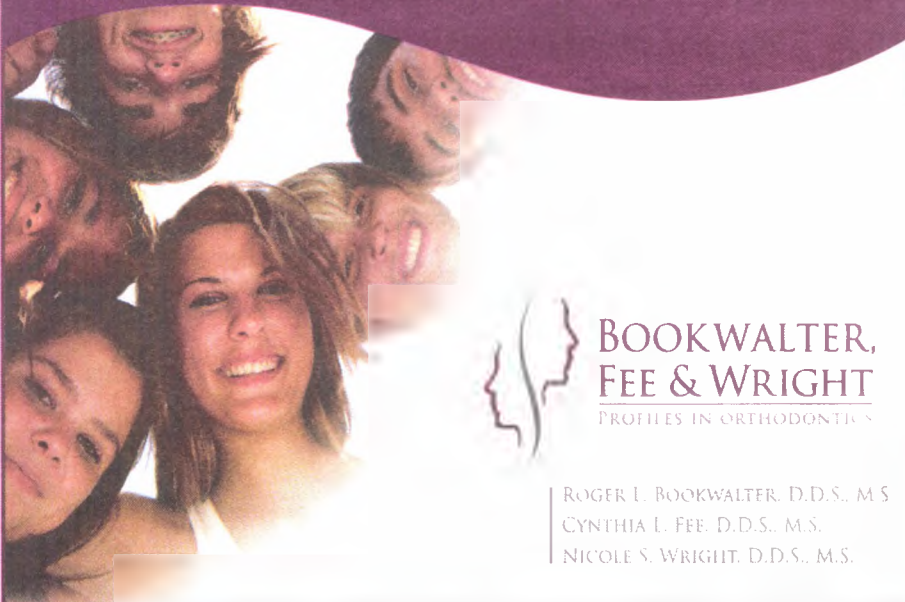
ing strategic connections and accelerating careers for women throughout Michigan and the Midwest, the Inner Circle event featured accomplished business professionals sharing their stories with 150 young professionals in intimate, round-table settings.

Please see ADVICE, 8

INSIDE

- Why they walk the Komen 3-Day 4
- There are benefits to some sun exposure — Barbara Deyo 10
- Adjusting financially after divorce — Paula Swain 11
- Protecting your feet from the heat 12

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"When they find a cure, I want to be a part of it. It is that simple," said Mattie Green, 58, of Southfield, who participated in last year's 3-Day event.

Area women tell why they walk in Komen 3-Day

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

They come together every August, gathering in big groups of pink, smiling through the perspiration as they walk together in the summer's heat. You may have even seen them as they walked down your street or passed through your city or town, talking and laughing as they complete 60 miles over 72 hours.

"They" are the participants in Michigan's Susan G. Komen 3-Day®, a 60-mile walk to raise money to fight breast cancer. Participants raise a minimum of \$2,300 and walk an average of 20 miles a day for three consecutive days. The money raised is used by the Susan G. Komen Foundation to fight breast cancer: funding research as well as providing community education and local health outreach programs.

The annual event taking place this year in 14 cities across the country has raised more than \$700 million since its

susan g. komen

3-DAY.

Presented by **Bank of America**

inception in 2003; it is scheduled for Aug. 16-18 throughout Metro Detroit.

Participants say the event is about more than walking and fund-raising, it is about being a part of a cause that impacts the entire world.

Mattie Green of Southfield

"Everyone is or will be affected by breast cancer in some way. Maybe it is one of your own relatives, or even a friend of a friend," said 3-day partici-

Please see **KOMEN 3-DAY, 6**

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This year marks the 10th year of walking for Westland resident Carol Lewandowski. Lewandowski (left) is shown walking through downtown Plymouth last year.

KOMEN 3-DAY

Continued from page 4

pant Mattie Green of Southfield.

Green decided to participate in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day, for selfish reasons, she says.

"When they find a cure, I want to be a part of it. It is that simple," said Green, 58, of Southfield, "My husband teases me that I just need to be a part of everything."

Despite not knowing anyone personally with breast cancer when she signed up, since then both her sister-in-law and some friends have developed the disease. Last year Green raised \$3,385 for the event; she hopes to top that this year by raising \$3,500.

"I want them to put an end to this disease and I want to be there when it happens," she said.

Although she says she was "not in great shape" before joining the event, once she decided to participate, she found a personal trainer, signed up and forged ahead, following the 24-week suggested training plan provided by race organizers. She joined a local team of the walkers, the "Hines Pink Pathers," and was ready to hit the pavement when her first walk started in August of 2012.

Now, as she prepares for her second year walking in the event, she finds herself trim, toned and, "I even quit smok-

ing," she said.

"I knew I could not walk and smoke at the same time, so I had to give one of them up. It was not going to be the 3-day," she said, "I even eat right now. It was like everything came together."

Carol Lewandowski of Westland

This will be the 10th year of walking in the event for Westland resident Carol Lewandowski.

As Lewandowski, 56, puts it, "I walk for a lot of people. My aunt is a two-time breast cancer survivor; one of the ladies that I golf with passed away from it. There is a long list of people that I know that have been touched by this in some way."

A member of the Hines Pink Pathers team, she trains with the group regularly following the Komen training regimen. She does not mind putting in the miles.

"Everyone walks at their own speed. It's fine as long as you have people to walk with," she said.

She said that although she was not looking for another family when she started walking in the event that is exactly what she found. It is just one of the reasons that I do this year after year.

"It is like we are just one big family. Everyone looks out for each other and is

Please see **KOMEN 3-DAY, 7**

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KOMEN 3-DAY

Continued from page 6

there to help and encourage one another. There is a saying on the 3-Day: 'It's 3 days of how the world should be' There is a lot of fun as well as many tears," she said.

Lewandowski is confident that the money she raised by participating in the event – close to \$20,000 – is making a difference.

"I see people getting experimental treatments and have access to things that weren't happening before," she said.

Brittany Nestor of Milford

Brittany Nestor of Milford said the reason she walks in the 3-day is simple: "I walk because I can," said Nestor, the 28-year-old mother of two, who started walking last year in honor of her aunt, a breast cancer survivor.

"There are so many people – both men and women – who have been affected by breast cancer. Through my training, I have met so many people and heard their stories and it is overwhelming. I think this makes a difference," she said of the event.

Nestor, who raised \$2,400 last year and hopes to match it again this year, said that although she was not "super into fitness" when she began training, it was not as hard as she thought it might be.

"We have a lot of fun it and it makes it much easier," said Nestor, a member of the Hines Pink Pathers.

Nestor has become passionate about finding an end to breast cancer since



Brittany Nestor, 28, of Milford started walking last year in honor of her aunt, a breast cancer survivor.

her involvement with the 3-day.

"I hope that other people will become motivated to join the fight," she said.

"If you can't walk in the event, there are so many other ways you can help. You can give money – anything you can spare – and you can give your time. Even lending an ear to someone who needs it is important," she said.

Read more profiles of others who are participating in the 2013 Susan G. Komen 3-Day and why they walk in the July edition of Hometown Life Woman.



The Hines Pink Pathers team trains regularly following the Komen training regimen.



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Joann Chavez, a vice president and chief tax officer for DTE Energy, was an Inner Circle Guest of Honor. Here, she facilitates a discussion with event attendees.

ADVICE

Continued from page 3

Conveying real-life lessons from their own journeys up the ladder, these top leaders acted as table hosts for event attendees, leading inspiring discussions in an effort to energize and provide guidance to young professionals breaking into senior leadership roles.

Call to action

The event was a “call to action,” said Jacqueline Wiggins, Inforum’s chief executive officer.

“Although we are recognizing these accomplished women, the Inner Circle event is not an awards program: it is a call to action,” Wiggins said. “It is a call to action for our table hosts to impart practical wisdom and inspire leadership and for guests to embrace the opportunity to be involved and make strategic and lasting connections.”

For attendee Patrice Matejka of Livonia, a human resources director at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, the event was a “wonderful chance to meet other women and share experiences in a relaxed atmosphere — everyone was so approachable.”

The event provided additional insight into the need for women to be confident about going after what they want, she said.

“We, as women, need to get in the habit of taking advantage of opportunities that are presented to us,” Matejka said.

Added Marla Wise, associate publisher for *Crain’s Detroit Business*, one

of the 14 executive leaders, “Don’t be afraid to ask for what you want, or to say ‘no’ when you don’t want to do something.”

The attendees were “very hungry for networking,” said Wise, a Novi resident, who considered the event a success.

Melissa Spickler, a 30-plus-year veteran of the financial services industry and managing director at the Spickler Group in Bloomfield Hills, said it was an honor to have her journey from an undercover law enforcement agent to being voted one of the top 100 Women Financial Advisors in the country by *Barron’s*.

“My message to them was the same advice that my own father gave to me: If at first you don’t succeed try and try again. You need to stick your neck out,” she said.

She continued, “I don’t take no for an answer and I try to be nice to everyone along the way to my destination.”

Motivator

Learning about the struggles of the top leaders at the event proved motivating for Stephanie Teitsma of Birmingham, a tax attorney with General Motors.

“It was a little humbling and very inspiring. Anytime someone climbs a mountain and ends up on top, you can’t help but think that you can do it if they were able to do it,” Teitsma said.

The event was one of five Inner Circle events that Inforum held across the state during April, part of a larger project aimed at providing a platform for

Please see **ADVICE, 14**

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Here comes the sun — and it's all right

By **Barbara Deyo**

Guest Columnist

In the words of my wonderful Aunt Kay, who is a 74-year-old beauty of a woman: "Getting old sucks." As I look in the mirror and notice a new crease in my forehead and a little "waddle" starting to form on my neck — I wholeheartedly agree! One culprit of this lovely process is the sun. We are trained to do everything we can to avoid it. The media is constantly warning us about the harmful damage UV rays cause. And yes, it's true — the majority of our visible signs of aging do come from sun damage, rather than chronological years, and excessive sun exposure can cause cancer. Key word: Excessive.



Barbara Deyo

However — and this is a big however — there is a downside to blocking the sun in its entirety. Vitamin D deficiency. A few years ago, I was having chronic fatigue, severe headaches, and constant "fog-giness" — I was convinced I had a brain tumor — and it turned out (along with an underactive thyroid) I was severely deficient in vitamin D. I was prescribed a weekly 50,000 IU supplement, which I still take. It took nearly a year for my levels to come up within range, and it wasn't until I consciously made sure I got some actual sun exposure that I saw real improvement. Vitamin D is actually a hormone, made naturally by the body from fat under the skin in response to sunlight. Key words: In response to sunlight.

Don't be D deficient

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than half of the general population is vitamin D deficient regardless of age. About 70 percent of elderly Americans and 90 percent of Americans of color are vitamin D deficient. It turns out not enough sun exposure can lead to more illness than too much exposure.

According to Dr. James E. Dowd, author of *The Vitamin D Cure*, "Vitamin D deficiency is linked to a number of illnesses that affect present-day Americans

in record numbers. Obesity, breast cancer, prostate cancer, autoimmune diseases, depression, heart disease, and hypertension have all been linked to vitamin D deficiency."

Adequate vitamin D increases bone health, boosts your immune system and substantially decreases your risk of illness, improves your mood, lessens pain, and boosts your energy. One important thing to know — your body does not produce vitamin D on its own.

Everything in moderation of course. I'm not saying go blast yourself at high noon every day. In fact, about 15 minutes in the summer sun during the peak hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. naturally provides your body with about 10,000 IUs of vitamin D. So during the summer months, it's possible to accumulate enough vitamin D for your body to store and draw from throughout the winter months, when the UV intensities are the lowest due to the sun's angle. So after those 15 minutes of exposure — go ahead and lather up with sunscreen.

Preventing burning is paramount — not only because that's what causes damage to the skin, but it burns off the vitamin D as well, so you would be defeating the purpose.

Ways to get your D

Other ways to get in your D — eat foods either naturally rich in or fortified with vitamin D, such as fortified cereals, dairy products and fatty fish, including salmon and tuna, reduce your intake of processed foods, and take a daily supplement.

So back to what I was saying — my Aunt Kay is beautiful. I can only hope I look as youthful as her when I am 74 — and from the looks of my grandmother and mother — I think I got this (that's a whole other topic — the power of genetics).

Barbara Deyo, a health, wellness, and beauty writer, and owner of Deyo Studio for face and body, is an internationally acclaimed makeup artist, having groomed the faces of Paul McCartney, Bob Seger, Kerrie Washington, Shaun Robinson and more. She has been named Best of the Best by Allure, Hour, Real Detroit and WDIV. Deyo Studio is located at 576 N. Old Woodward Ave., 2nd floor in Birmingham. Contact her at (248) 203-1222 or visit www.deyostudio.com.

Adjusting after divorce for financial stability

By Paula Swain
Guest Columnist

There's no doubt about it — going through a divorce can be an emotionally trying time. But it's important to be aware of how your financial position will be impacted. You will then be able to put the past behind you and set in place the building blocks that can be the foundation for your new financial future.



Paula Swain

Establish a budget

A good place to start is to establish a budget that reflects your current monthly income and expenses. In addition to your regular salary and wages, be sure to include other types of income, such as dividends and interest. If you will receive alimony and/or child support, you'll want to include those payments as well.

As for expenses, focus on dividing them into two categories: fixed and discretionary. Fixed expenses include things like housing, food, and transportation. Discretionary expenses include things like entertainment, vacations, etc. Keep in mind that you may need to cut back on some of your discretionary expenses until you adjust to living on less income. Ultimately, you may come to the realization that you're no longer able to live the lifestyle you were accustomed to before your divorce. However, it's important not to deprive yourself entirely of any enjoyment.

Re-evaluate/reprioritize financial goals

The next step should be to re-evaluate and prioritize your financial goals. Start out by making a list of the things that you would like to achieve. Do you need to put more money towards retirement? Are you interested in going back to school? Would you like to purchase a home?

Take control of debt

While you're adjusting to your new budget, be sure to take control of your debt and credit. Try to avoid the tempta-

tion to rely on credit cards to provide extras. And if you do have debt, try to put a plan in place to pay it off as quickly as possible.

Protect/establish credit

Since divorce can have a negative impact on your credit rating, consider taking steps to try to protect your credit record and/or establish credit in your own name. A positive credit history is important since it will allow you to obtain credit when you need it, and at a lower interest rate.

Review insurance needs

Typically, insurance coverage for one or both spouses is negotiated as part of a divorce settlement. However, you may have additional insurance needs that go beyond that which you were able to obtain through your divorce settlement.

- Make sure you have adequate health coverage.
- Make sure that your disability and life insurance coverage matches your current needs.
- Make sure that your property insurance coverage is updated.

Beneficiary designations

After a divorce, change the beneficiary designations on any life insurance policies, retirement accounts, and bank or credit union accounts you may have in place. Keep in mind that a divorce settlement may require you to keep a former spouse as a beneficiary on a policy, in which case you cannot change the beneficiary designation.

This is also a good time to make a will or update your existing one to reflect your new status.

Consider tax implications

In addition to your regular salary and wages, you may have new sources of income after your divorce, such as alimony and/or child support. Alimony will be considered taxable income to you. Child support, on the other hand, will not be considered taxable income.

Your tax filing status will also change. Filing status is determined as of the last day of the tax year. This means that even if you were divorced on Dec. 31,

Please see **DIVORCE**, 14

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Tips for protecting feet from heat this summer

Podiatrists of the Michigan Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA) have some advice to share that can help prevent harmful conditions to bare feet.

- **Limit walking barefoot** as it exposes feet to sunburn, as well as plantar warts, athlete's foot, ringworm, and other infections and also increases risk of injury to your feet.

- **Wear shoes or flip-flops** around the pool, to the beach, in the locker room and even on the carpeting or in the bathroom of your hotel room to prevent injuries and limit the likelihood of contracting any bacterial infections.

- **Remember to apply sunscreen** all over your feet, especially the tops and fronts of ankles, and don't forget to reapply after you've been in the water.

- **Stay hydrated** by drinking plenty of water throughout the day. This will not only help with overall health, but will also minimize any foot swelling caused by the heat.

- **Keep blood flowing** with periodic ankle flexes, toe wiggles, and calf stretches.

- **Some activities at the beach**, lake or river may require different types of footwear to be worn. To be safe, always pack an extra pair of sneakers or protective water shoes. If your shoes will be getting wet, they should be dried out completely before your next

wearing to prevent bacteria or fungus from growing.

- **If you injure your foot or ankle** while on vacation or during an outing, seek professional medical attention from a podiatric physician. Many often only contact a doctor when something is broken or sprained, but a podiatrist can begin treating your ailment immediately.

Be Prepared

In case of minor foot problems, be prepared with the following on-the-go foot gear:

- **Flip flops** – for the pool, spa, hotel room, and airport security check points.
- **Sterile bandages** – for covering minor cuts and scrapes.
- **Antibiotic cream** – to treat any skin injury
- **Emollient-enriched cream** – to hydrate feet
- **Blister pads or moleskin** – to protect against blisters.
- **Ibuprofen** (anti-inflammatory) – to ease tired, swollen feet.
- **Toenail clippers** – to keep toenails trimmed.

- **Emery board** – to smooth rough edges or broken nails.
- **Pumice stone** – to soften callused skin.
- **Sunscreen** – to protect against the scorching sun.
- **Aloe vera or silver sulfadiazine** (topical sulfonamide/silver antibacterial topical cream) to relieve sunburns.

Tips for wearing flip flops:

- Do not wear them when playing sports or running.
- Do not wear them while gardening or doing yard work.
- If you are diabetic, wearing flip flops puts you at greater risk for foot injuries.
- Wear sturdy, supportive shoes while walking for long periods of time.
- Don't forget to apply sunscreen on all areas of your foot while wearing open shoes.
- Use extra care while driving. Flip flops can impair a driver's control if they come off the foot and lodge under the brake or gas pedal.



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ADVICE

Continued from page 8

accomplished leaders to motivate and encourage female professionals.

Other female business leaders participating in the event included Tonya Allen of the Skillman Foundation; Eileen Ashley of Comerica Bank; Stephanie Bergeron of Walsh College; Janice Cosby Bridges of St. John Providence Health System; Joann Chavez of DTE Energy; Beth Gotthelf of Butzel Long; Rhonda Laurencelle, Right Management; Victoria McInnis, General Motors; Barbara Novak, Meritor; Elizabeth Parkinson, Detroit Lions; Sonya Sepahban, General Dynamics Land Systems and Pam Turkin, Just Baked.

"So many times, these leaders are asked by other young professionals, 'Can we get together for a cup of coffee so I can pick your brain?' This was an opportunity for them to do that," Wiggins said.

Inforum aims to help women achieve success

If you are looking for support and networking opportunities as you climb the career ladder, Inforum may be just what you are looking for.

With a membership of more than 1,800 across the state of Michigan, the group represents professions from a wide variety of fields ranging from government, health care and retail to the legal and nonprofit sectors. Inforum has offices in Detroit and Grand Rapids with operations in Kalamazoo, Lansing and Saginaw. Inforum was founded as the Women's Economic Club in 1962.

The mission of Inforum is clear — "Connect women through a network of thought leaders and best-in-class training and programming to help them optimize their personal and professional potential and achieve success."

Focused on creating strategic connections and accelerating careers for women throughout Michigan and the Midwest, Inforum combines professional development, original research to accelerate careers for women and networking such as the Inner Circle event, held annually in April in five locations throughout the state.

This year's event featured 13 top female leaders — all selected for their professional acumen — in a roundtable discussion setting that provided access for participants, young professionals and women breaking into senior leadership roles.

Studies indicate a critical networking gap for women that can slow their careers, said Terry Barclay, president and chief executive officer at Inforum, and the Inner Circle event was designed to address the issue.

"Women tend to network for friendship and not for career advancement. This event is aimed squarely at overcoming a networking and strategic connection gap," Barclay said.

Barclay said that she is hopeful that the personal atmosphere provides an opportunity for deeper connections.

"I always say if you can't see it, you can't be it. This event helps broaden horizons and provides an opportunity to learn about all the possibilities that exist professionally," she said.

-By Jill Halpin

DIVORCE

Continued from page 11

you would, for tax purposes, be considered divorced for that entire year.

Finally, if you have children, and depending on whether you are the custodial parent, you may be eligible to claim certain credits and deductions. These could include dependency exemptions, the child tax credit, and the credit for child and dependent care expenses, along with student loan interest and tuition deductions.

Although it can certainly be done on your own, you may want to consider consulting a financial professional to assist you in adjusting to your new financial life.

Paula Swain, CFP®, is a financial consultant at Swain Financial in Livonia. She can be reached at (734) 552-7610.



Top row: Christie Parker, Lynn Wheeler, Liz Sellers, Carol Kelly, Andrea Pawelkowski
Bottom row: Anne Zarzycki, Darlene Paul, Barb Smith, Melissa Wojtovlets

The women of Dean Sellers

Having more women working at Dean Sellers Ford than the typical car dealership didn't happen by design, it just happened naturally. From its General Manager Liz Sellers to its hard working Sales Manager of 19 years, Christie Parker, to long term and awarding winning sales consultant Andrea Pawelkowski, to Ford and Lincoln trained, Carol Kelly, and dedicated and long term salesperson, Darlene Paul, a pattern seemed to have successfully developed.

Women at Dean Sellers Ford aren't just visible in the Showroom. Dean Sellers is fortunate to have half of its service advisor staff female with Melissa Wojtovlets and Anne Zarzycki. Customers feel more comfortable talking to a woman regarding their vehicle service needs. Melissa and Anne are very attentive listeners, taking seriously customers' needs and providing constant communication throughout the service process. The dealership's technician team leader is Lynn Wheeler who has been overseeing the service department technicians for several years. The "bean counter" at the dealership is Comptroller, Barb Smith who's been with Dean Sellers since 1996.

"This isn't by design," comments Liz Sellers, "but we seem to hire and retain competent women at our dealership. We've been fortunate to create a friendly, trusting and warm atmosphere where women employees and women customers are comfortable." We appreciate this unique aspect of our dealership but we never discount the outstanding group of men who work here as well. We have an incredible core of men and women who treat our customers and each other with respect." With their assistance, Dean Sellers has won Ford's prestigious President's Award seven times; an award that is given only to the top one percent of all Ford dealerships in the nation. 2013 marks Dean Sellers Ford's 65th year and as a third generation family business, Liz and her brother Dean see a perfect balance of professionalism and sensitivity that comes with this unique staff of competent, professional women. Come see the softer side of Dean Sellers Ford.

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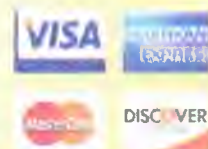
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I've lived in Canton, Northville and now Dearborn. I don't care how far I am from them, New Face New Body is my laser hair removal spot. The Brazilian wax is awesome, too. I think I'll laser that next. —Kimmie K.

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