

Tattered flags

Many residents are baffled by what to do with their old United States flags when they put up new ones. Too often the old flag just gets stored in a closet somewhere.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion provide a free service to appropriately handle worn -out U.S. flags with dignity and decorum. VFW Post 4012,

VFW Post 4012, located at 438 S. Main Street, in Northville, has a mailbox painted with the stars and stripes in front of the building. The box is not for mail, however, it is for anyone who wants to drop off their old U.S. flag. That box is available at all times. For more information, contact the VFW at 248-349-1490.

The American Legion Post 147 is located at 100 W. Dunlap at Center. It has no box outside, but flags can be dropped off inside the building from 4-10 p.m. on weekdays, and noon to 10 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, call 248-349-1060.

CITY REACHES NEW AGREEMENT WITH ITS TWO POLICE UNIONS

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

The City of Northville has reached a new contract with its police patrol (POAM) and command (COAM) unions. The new deal calls for a modest wage increase over the next three years, which is offset by significant health care savings for the city

city. "In order to meet the challenges of rising health care and legacy costs, the city and our police bargaining teams have been meeting in order to reach an agreement that would provide a modest wage increase, and significant health care savings," said Northville City Manager Pat Sullivan.

"This new agreement accomplishes that by incorporating many of the provisions negotiated in the previous AFSCME contract extension and MAPE (clerical employees) contract, which Council ratified in March and August."

On Monday, the City Council ratified the agreement by a 5-0 vote, which will be in effect until the end of 2016.

The last negotiated contracts between the city and POAM/ COAM personnel were set to expire in 2011. Sullivan said due to the city's challenged financial position in 2010, all four collective bargaining units in the city, including POAM and COAM, agreed to forego a wage increase which was scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2010 and extend the contracts with a wage freeze until June 30 of this year. Other concessions were also granted by the unions at that time.

See CONTRACT, Page A2



The Rev. Teodor Petrutiu proudly shows the certificates of naturalization after he and his wife Roxana took the oath of citizenship. TOM BEAUDOIN

Priest becomes U.S. citizen before congregation

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Taking the Oath of Allegiance to become an American citizen Sunday, the Rev. Teodor Petrutiu shared that milestone with his congregation at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church.

"Taking the oath in front of the parish

community, I think it was a special touch," said the Northville resident, who was joined by his wife Roxana in becoming U.S. citizens. "It was a tribute not just to me and my wife but to all the immigrants who built their homes and the church."

Parish priest at Sts. Constantine and Helen in Westland since 2007, Petrutiu and Roxana, whose has the title presbytera as the priest's wife, are both natives of Romania. The couple came to the United States in 1998 when Petrutiu served in a Romanian Orthodox parish in Cleveland.

In 2001, Petrutiu was accepted in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, where he served as deacon to the Metropolitan and

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Councilwoman: 'Safety before faucets'

Allen Terrace getting new fire alarms so residents can actually hear them

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

Allen Terrace was planning on using Community Development Block Grant funding on new bath fixtures, however a bigger need has arisen over the last several months and that's faulty emergency alarms.

"I am recommending that in lieu of renovating the showerheads, faucets, etc. that we upgrade the emergency alarm system," said Sherry Necelis, Northville's Housing Director.

According to Necelis, earlier this year Allen Terrace received approval from Wayne County's Community Development Block Grant program to upgrade its bath fixtures.

"However, on September 25, the building's water suppression system malfunctioned, activating the fire alarm," she said. "Since that time we have had three separate issues with the fourth floor west attic heat detectors that set the alarm off as well. Police and fire personnel responded and it was determined there was a malfunction and there was no danger to residents."

However, she added, "Afterward, staff was told that numerous residents never heard the alarm in their bedrooms."

The City Council approved her recommendation to reprogram the Wayne County CDBG allocation from the faucet/showerhead project to an enhanced alarm system, which is also eligible for this funding.

⁷Safety before faucets," said council member Nancy Darga on why this reprogramming is important.

It's not known yet what the

exact cost of the enhancement will be, but the city will redirect up to \$89,000 in funds from the years 2011-2014 toward it. The balance of the project would come from the Allen Terrace general fund.

In 2014, Northville is expected to receive \$45,736 from the Wayne County CDBG program and \$5,191 from Oakland County. It's scheduled to be used on local senior services, Allen Terrace renovations and general administration.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255 Twitter:@lhuhman



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Track Santa as he circles the globe

Have you ever wondered how Santa gets around the world in just one day? According to North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Santa doesn't feel time like regular people and in his reality, he's traveling for much longer than 24 hours. Children all over the world are fascinated by his journey and the folks at NORAD have graciously allowed us to share their tracking service

with our readers. Go to our website, Hometownlife.com on Dec. 24 to track Santa as he circles the globe. Children in these parts will want to know when he gets to North America so they can set out milk and cookies or whatever goodies are planned to welcome Santa. Just look to the right side of our site for the NORAD Santa Tracker, click on the link and be prepared for fun.

ORTHVILLE

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Woman's Club

The Northville Woman's Club will meet at 12:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 20 at the First Presbyterian Church in Northville. It is the group's annual Christmas program, and will be introduced by Judy Prain. Janice Rath-

CITIZEN

Continued from Page A1

Registrar of the Metropolis of Detroit. Petrutiu served in that role until being appointed to serve the Sts. Constantine and Helen parish.

"Most of the people here (Sts. Constantine and Helen) are immigrants or descendants of immigrant," said Petrutiu. "That determination is what this country was built on. It's a tribute to all those immigrants. People were extremely happy (about the citizenship ceremony)."

When a Romanian was appointed as parish priest for a Greek Orthodox church, Petrutiu said some parishoners might have wondered what the Metropolitan was thinking.

U.S. District Court Judge Sean Cox administered the oath to the Northville couple, whose daughters Nicole, 9, and Irene, 7, were both born

poser and musician, will perform "Creating Music". This day is also a guest day and the introduction of the group's new members. An executive board meeting will

man, who is a com-

follow at 1:30 p.m.

in the U.S. "We just had a green card for awhile. It's lets you be in the country but not full rights – you can't vote or serve on a jury," said Petrutiu, adding he was most looking forward to voting. "We thought it was time to apply (for citizenship). What's important about this country is that it embraces you."

Along with Cox, judges from the parish community attended the ceremony, including Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Gregory Bill, Family Court Judge Eric Cholak and Plymouth 35th District Court Judge James Plakas.

"I'm a very proud American citizen. It's the greatest country in the world," said Petrutiu. "It was built on Christian principles. It's where Christian ministry is needed and appreciated."

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Saturday: 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eagle Court of Honor in church; 5 p.m. rehearsal



Metropolitan Nichols of Detroit tells of how proud he is of the Petrutiu family, including daughters Nicole, 9, and Irene, 7, before the ceremony begins. PHOTO BY TOM BEAUDOIN

CONTRACT

Continued from Page A1

This new agreement will phase in higher employee contributions for health care, which would increase to 20 percent of costs for the Blue Care Network Plan (HMO) plan by 2016 and implement a high deductible/ Health Savings Account (HSA) plan with the employees sharing the cost of both premiums and HSA contribution.

In addition, it allows the city to switch insurance carriers if equal coverage can be provided for the same, out of pocket cost to the employees and reduces payments to employees who opt out of health insurance and caps the monthly payment at a fixed amount.

Finally, it also provides a contract "reopener" in 2016 to bargain the subject of retiree contributions toward health care.

City council members Ryan McKindles and Nancy Darga said this was a win-win for both sides.

The council thanked Sullivan for his work in getting the contracts worked out.

"I want to thank Pat for working so hard on protecting the benefits of our employees while keeping the costs down," said Darga.

The city council also approved a plan for nonunion employees increase their health insurance contributions consistent with the second year levels of the MAPE (clerical union) contract, and that a 1-percent wage adjustment be granted.

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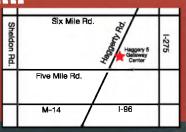
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Honing their skills

Developer lets firefighters train in homes planned for demolition

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

Through the help of a local builder, Northville City firefighters are getting the chance to train for real-life emergency situations.

Training is an essential to being a firefighter, so the Northville department was ecstatic when the opportunity came along to train in a home that was going to be torn down.

"By being able to use a structure where structure damage was not a concern, it gave our firefighters the opportunity to practice certain tactics they might need to use in a real emergency," said Fire Chief James Allen.

Mike Miller, whose company has built many homes in the community, has been doing this for some time with projects he's worked on, including homes in the Northville community.

"It just seemed like such an easy way to give back to the community," Miller said. "Allowing the fire department to come into the house, which is empty, lets them experience a real-life emergency in a controlled way. It's a chance to try new techniques and hone their skills so they are even better prepared when they get an actual call."

This allows the firefighters to practice a variety of measures, from search and rescue, ventilation, ladder use, hose line deployment and



Northville firefighters train at one of the homes developer Mike Miller demolished.

"It's a chance for our team to go in and fight fires and practice rescues in real homes instead of the training towers we normally use."

JAMES ALLEN

Northville City Fire Chief

advancement. In addition, they train for crew rehab and medical monitoring, salvage/overhaul, building construction and incident command system.

"This training covered a multitude of skills that are needed during an actual incident and how to put all these skills together for the best outcome," Allen said. One of the most recent

One of the most recent ones was at a home purchased by Northville resident and attorney Jason Waechter. Miller told him about the training and Waechter jumped at the idea of helping out in a big way.

"When Mike asked if I was willing to give them access to the house, I didn't hesitate. This could save somebody's life. How could I say no?" he said. The department is happy to know that Miller will continue to look to help them out whenever he gets a home that is

slotted for demolition. "It's a chance for our team to go in and fight fires and practice rescues in real homes instead of the training towers we normally use," Allen said. "It keeps us on our toes and helps us to develop new ways of dealing with surprises and obstacles we might encounter in one of the typical types of residential structures in the city we serve ... its great training."

lhuhman@hometownlife.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255, Twitter:@lhuhman



Local builder Mike Miller (left) and homeowner Jason Waechter teamed up to give the firefighters this training opportunity.





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KURT KUBAN, EDITOR KKUBAN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Ridge Wood Elementary going green

School taking steps to be friendlier to environment

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

Ridge Wood Elementary School is going green.

In an all out school effort to become more environmentally conscious and certified as a Michigan Green School, Ridge Wood has taken the initial steps in successfully completing its application to become a Green School.

'We've been doing a lot of these things already, so why not take it to the next level," said Ridge Wood teacher Heather Hooper, who along with a group of other teachers spearheaded the idea. "It's a good thing for the school and community, and it's a cool, exciting thing for the students to do.

Under county recognition, Ridge Wood must meet the standards set forth by the Wayne County Department of Public Services (DPS) and its partner Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (Wayne RESA), which has annually implemented this program and recognized schools that achieve 10 or more energy saving and environmental activities in an academic year.

This is the first year the school has done this. Other Northville schools, like Amerman Elementary, have also been

working toward being environmental stewards each year. For Ridge Wood, one of the bigger steps toward certification came with its decision to adopt an animal.

After a school-wide vote, Ridge Wood has "adopted" a meerkat at the Detroit Zoo as part of its Animals Depend on People program through the help of donations made by school families.

This initiative, along with daily recycling activities as well as habitat building with bird houses and yearly Earth Day events, will hopefully help get the school its deserved recognition.

Students couldn't be happier about the goal. For them it's an opportunity to help the community. "It feels good to help out the meer-

kat," said fourth-grader Lauren Molnar. "It's important to our school to do this."

All schools recognized as a Green School receive a large indoor/outdoor Michigan Green Schools banner and a certificate signed by the county CEO to proudly display. Hooper said they will know in the coming months if they succeed.

Considering how quickly the school has jumped on the idea, it's a good chance they will have that banner up before the year is over.

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Ridge Wood fourth grader Michael Chimienti does his part to help adopt an animal at the Detroit Zoo, as a step in the school's effort to be designated a Green School.



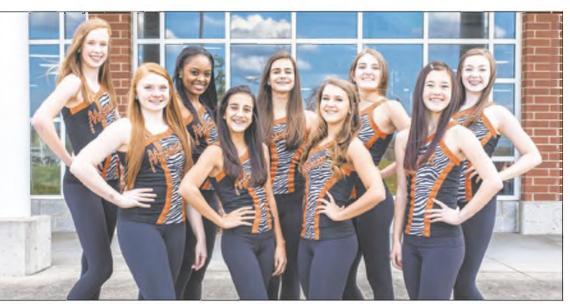
Fourth grader Sophie Catalona voted for the Meerkat, the winner of Ridge Wood's adopt an animal project.

Northville HS dance teams earn top honors at state

The Northville High School varsity and junior varsity competitive dance teams competed in the 2013 Michigan State Spirit Showdown on Dec. 14 and received top honors. The varsity team earned 1st place for their jazz performance in the High School Dance division and 2nd place in the High School Hip Hop category. The JV team earned 1st place honors for their jazz performance in the JV Dance division and 2nd place in JV Hip Hop.

The teams will host their second annual dance clinic for dancers age 8 through 13 on Jan. 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Performers Edge Dance Company in Northville. For more information about the clinic, visit the NHS Dance Team website at www.northvilledanceteam.com.

Also, on Jan. 17, there will be a showcase of performances by dance team members, dance clinic participants and special guests. The show-case begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Northville High School auditorium. The public is welcome to attend the show.



The Northville High School varsity competitive dance team

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* Cardiovascular teaching hospitals with residency programs.



Readers share special holiday traditions

By JIII Halpin Correspondent

Traditions – those special events and practices that bind us to one another, creating happy memories and something to cling to in times of trouble – can be as a simple as getting together to bake cookies every year or an elaborate gathering of family and friends complete with an ugly sweater contest.

New or old, these traditions centered around the holiday season hold a special place in both the hearts and minds of readers in the area.

Just ask Livonia's Judy Franco, who celebrates her Polish heritage with her family every year, a tradition built upon her studies of the subject as a college student years ago.

"Wigilia is the traditional Polish Christmas Eve dinner, and begins when the first evening star is sighted in sky," Franco said.

The traditional menu is quite specific; however, Franco altered hers a bit on some advice from her mother.

"When I first started hosting this event, I told my mother that I wanted to have the traditional Polish menu. She said, 'I didn't like it when I was young girl and I am not going to like it now either," remembers Franco, laughing.

As one of six sisters, all of whom are accomplished cooks, Franco's meal is typically meatless and usually includes sautéed perch and other Polish delicacies, such as potato or sauerkraut pierogi, homemade potato soup flavored with sautéed onions, cucumbers and sour cream, coleslaw and Jell-O – "everyone loves Jell-O," Franco said.

Served on a white table tablecloth over hay



The Ugly Sweater Contest winners from 2012 were (from left) Tim Markham, Bruce Markham, Matt Markham, Tanaz Naterwala and Mallory Maxton, all of Novi.

to signify a manger, the meal is completed with a wide array of cookies and pastries prepared by Franco and her sisters.

A highlight of the meal is the passing of the Christmas wafer, or oplatki – thin, unleavened wafer embossed with writing or Christmas images.

"We pass them with a plate of honey to those surrounding us as a sign of peace and love," Franco said.

Making memories

For Novi's Elaine Maylen, tradition is not only about past memories but creating new ones to pass along to her daughters and friends.

Growing up as an only child, Maylen remembers quiet gatherings with her small family where often she was the only youngster.

"It wasn't like you see on television – these big celebrations with lots of people and lots going on," Maylen said.

It was these memories, she explains, that are behind the Christmas party that Maylen and her husband, also an only child, have been hosting for friends and neighbors the past nine years, complete with a fiercely competitive ugly sweater contest and a prize-filled bingo game.

"When you are just a small family, it can get

really lonely. We knew there were others in the same situation that we were, so we decided to do something about it," she said, adding, "People like to be social. They want to go out and do things with others on Christmas day – even if they are not Christian."

The celebration that began with "20 or so" has now taken on much larger proportions.

"We now have over 50 people – Christian, Jewish, Parsi and Hindu – from Novi, Northville, Livonia and Farmington Hills. We even have someone from Boston who attends with her brother, who lives nearby," Maylen said. The party, while cre-

The party, while creating happy, fun-filled memories for her two daughters ages 23 and 16, is a testimony to the need for people have social tradition in their lives, Maylen said.

"I think the party and the fact that it has grown – is a reflection of the need people have to connect and celebrate with each other," she said.

When Joe Legato of South Lyon and his family gather each holiday it is around a pile of themed-gifts, each handmade by family members, which are then handed out, white elephant style.

"The beauty of it is that we are not all craftsmen. Some of the gifts are just fantastic – and then some of them, well you kind of wonder how in the world they are staying together," he said with a laugh.

Legato, whose family own Bill and Rod's Appliance in Livonia, has been participating in the gift exchange "for as long as I can remember," he said.

Snowmen, boxes and clocks have all been some of the themes, but Legato is quite proud if his gift entry into this year's birdhouse-themed exchange, made of driftwood and stones personally culled from the shores of Lake Superior.

"It is a lot of fun, and has made for some great memories," he said.

Grandma's house is special

This Christmas morning, as it has been for the past 18 Christmas mornings, Maris Ryckman of Livonia will wake up in her grandmother's Grosse Ile home, surrounded by the warmth of her family.

It is a tradition that Ryckman, a freshman at Michigan State University, has shared with parents Bob and Carrie of Livonia and three siblings, ages 15, 21 and 24, since her birth 18 years ago. "I can't imagine not waking up on Christmas surrounded by my entire family. It just wouldn't seem like Christmas," said Ryckman of the family's holiday sojourn to Grandmother Georgiann McDonald's Downriver home.

Ryckman's family's traditions also include attending a special service at St. John Bosco in Redford, the same church where she and her three siblings participated in the annual Christmas pageant followed by an elaborate home-cooked polish feast at her parents' home.

"We have homemade pierogi, golumpki, kielbasa and other great Polish foods before we leave for my grandmother's," Ryckman said.

These traditions, Ryckman said, are what make the holidays special for her.

"It brings our family together and gives us something to look back on remember. It just wouldn't be the same without our traditions," she said.

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Groups offer comfort when holidays get tough

By Jill Halpin Co**rresponden**t

Despite the brightly colored lights, festive decorations and wishes of good cheer, the holidays are not always happy – especially for those experiencing some type of grief.

Glad tidings aside, the feelings of loss – of a loved one, a job, housing or other tragedy – are often intensified during this stressful season, leading to anything but a "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holiday."

"It is not always a joyful celebration - for many, it's a really tough time," said the Rev. Michael Horlocker of the **First Presbyterian** Church of South Lyon.

'Christmas can be a really tough time: in addition to your own personal issues, you now have the added stresses and expectations that traditionally surround the holidays. Whether you're are experiencing a



loss or dealing with addictions or even just feeling broken – this time of year can be very rough," Horlocker said.

Suicide rates are highest during the holidays, noted Horlocker, adding that he believes that feelings of grief and loss throughout the holidays may be more common than most people realize.

That is one reason that his church, along with others in the area, are offering special services designed to address the needs of those anticipating the holidays with dread. The First Presbyterian Church of South



"Anyone feeling broken is welcome," he said. "The holidays are not the same for everyone,' said the Rev. Ann Web-

ber, rector of Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Novi, whose church held its annual Blue Christmas service Dec. 14.

Acknowledging loss

Loss of any sort – jobs, health, income, the many losses that we feel that

cause grief - can be acknowledged and addressed with hope, Webber said.

"Our lives are always going to be changed and different - but that does not mean they are ended. We can look with hope for God's gracious love to be with us as we journey through our grief to a time of hope and resolution," Webber said.

Karen Laing, executive director of the Northville- based New Hope Center for Grief Support, knows firsthand the pain that can surround the holidays following the loss of a loved one.

"The holidays can be extremely difficult," acknowledges Laing, a Northville mother of two college-aged children who lost her husband, Keith, in 2009.

"Everyone is saying 'Joy to the World" and you feel anything but joyous. It presents a difficult situation. You miss the person and the traditions they created or were a part of, and the holidays themselves can be overwhelming. It just adds to the sense of loss it is exhausting," she said.

Attending special services that provide a quiet, special place to grieve can be very helpful in coping throughout the holidays, Laing said.

"It also helps to be able to talk about your loved one," Laing said, "Saying things like, 'I remember when ...' can be very healing.'

Taking time to memorialize your loved one by participating in special volunteer work of making a donation in their name can also be helpful, she said.

This year, we adopted a family for Christmas this year in honor of my husband," she said.

Laing said that often, the anticipation of the holiday is much worse than the holiday itself. Keep this is mind, and try to plan for the holiday in advance.

'Think about the things you are going to keep on doing, the things you are not going to do anymore and the things you may change," she advises, "For instance, instead of a sit-down family dinner, try it buffet-style. I have even heard of a family that barbecues."

Horlocker is looking

SERVICES SCHEDULED

Other local churches offering special services include

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A CANDLELIGHT SER-VICE OF SOLACE **AND HOPE** Where: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N.Territorial Road, Plymouth When: 4 p.m. Sunday,

Dec. 22

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Where: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church of Livonia, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia (just west of Inkster Road) When: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18

forward to the opportunity to offer comfort to those in spiritual need.

"We're all expected to be happy and celebrate and we feel like something is wrong with us when we can't," Horlocker said.

"People need to be lifted up and reassured they are OK, and that there is hope," he said.

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Seniors helping seniors



Many of the residents at Oakmont Northville participated in the senior living facility's recent Seniors Helping Seniors campaign. The group collected 15 large boxes of personal hygiene products to be distributed to local seniors. To celebrate, the group went to the 5ive restaurant at St. John's in Plymouth Township. "Our residents are always very generous with charitable organizations we support each holiday season," said Marie Rumbley, activity director at Oakmont Northville.



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Association offers tips for safe walking in snow, ice

Falls account for more than one million injuries in the U.S. annually. There are four types of walking accidents with the most common being the slip and fall. That's the type of fall that happens when you fall due a surface not cleared of snow or ice. "Every winter the hazards of driving in snow and icy conditions are noted, but rarely is walking on snow and ice addressed," stated Martin B. Tirado, CAE, executive director of the Snow & Ice Management Association. "Slipping and falling while walking accounts for a large number of winter-related injuries and can have an impact on the quality of life for the injured person."

SIMA, the national nonprofit organization representing the snow removal industry, has some tips on safe winter walking.

» Wear proper footwear. Proper footwear should place the entire foot on the surface of the ground and have visible treads. Avoid a smooth sole and opt for a heavy treaded shoe with a flat bottom.

» Accessorize to see



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sible
bothbright coat or scarf so
that drivers can easily
see you.eavy
and flat> Plan ahead. While
walking on snow or ice on
sidewalks or in parking
lots, walk consciously.
Instead of looking down,
look up and see where
your feet will move next
to anticipate ice or an
umove gwfrae.ESInstead of looking down,
look up and see where
your feet will move next
to anticipate ice or an
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look up and see where your feet will move next to anticipate ice or an uneven surface. Occasionally scan from left to right to ensure you are not in the way of vehicles or other hazards.

and be seen. Wear sun-

glasses so that you can

see in the reflective light

of the snow. Also, wear a

» Make sure you can hear. While seeing the environment is important, you also want to be sure you can hear approaching traffic and other noises. Avoid listening to music or engaging in conversation that may prevent you from hearing oncoming traffic or snow removal equipment.

» Anticipate ice. Be wary of thin sheets of ice that may appear as wet pavement (black ice). Often ice will appear in the morning, in shady spots or where the sun shines during the day and melted snow refreezes at night.

» Walk steps slowly. When walking down steps, be sure to grip handrails firmly and plant your feet securely on each step.

» Enter a building carefully. When you get to your destination such as school, work, shopping center, etc., be sure to look at the floor as you enter the building. The floor may be wet with melted snow and ice.

» Be careful when you shift your weight. When stepping off a curb or getting into a car, be careful since shifting your weight may cause an imbalance and result in a fall.

» Avoid taking shortcuts. Shortcuts are a good idea if you are in a hurry, but may be a bad idea if there is snow and ice on the ground. A shortcut path may be treacherous because it is likely to be located where snow and ice removal is not possible.

» Look up. Be careful about what you walk under. Injuries also can result from falling snow/ ice as it blows, melts, or breaks away from awnings, buildings, etc.

Following these tips will help ensure that you survive the snow and ice season safely. For more snow and ice removal tips, visit www.sima.org.

LIBRARY LINES

The Northville District Library is located at 212 W. Cady Street. For more information call 248-349-3020 or visit northvillelibrary.org.

The library will be closed Sunday, Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25 for Christmas, and Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Wednesday, Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday.

- Upcoming events include:
- Little Me Storytime Time/Date: 10:30-11:15

a.m., Friday, Dec. 20 **Details:** Little ones, from 10 months to 2 years, along with parents and caregivers, enjoy music, simple stories and playtime with miss Dorie. No registration required. Infants and older children are also welcome to attend.

Winter Break Movies & Munchies

Time/Date: Noon Friday, Dec. 27

Details: Kids, bring your lunch to the library and enjoy the movie "The Guardians". Snacks and beverages provided. All ages welcome, just drop in.

LO-000017117

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Scouts collect food for Civic Concern



The Boy Scouts in Northville's Pack 903 collected 305 bags of food during their recent Scouting for Food campaign. The boys, approximately 70, went door-to-door in several local subdivisions and collected the food, which was donated to Northville Civic Concern, which always has a greater demand during the holiday season. Great job boys!

Special time for the toddlers



Jennifer McBride pushes her son around the floor of the Northville Community Center gym on Dec. 10 during its weekly Toddler Time. The activity, every Wednesday at 10 a.m., features lots of things to scoot around on for kids, as well as other toys. The cost is \$3 a session. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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BUSINESS

KURT KUBAN, EDITOR

KKUBAN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 248-437-2011, EXT. 245 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Michigan-made holiday gifts boost economy, warm local hearts

Bv Julle Brown Staff Writer

Bob Benefiel of Plymouth Township was out shopping on a recent Tuesday evening for a gift for wife Lynn's birthday. He came to the Art Is In Market at Livonia's Laurel Park Place.

'Just something unique, something made by an individual, not mass-produced, something that reflects Michigan or Detroit," said Benefiel, a retired lawver. As he looked at artists' wares, Benefiel noted he had a brotherin-law, father to 12, who delivered Faygo pop.

Benefiel's attitude is music to the ears of Deb La Pratt of Walled Lake, owner of the Art Is In Markets with locations in Twelve Oaks in Novi and the newest at Partridge Creek in Clinton Township, as well as Laurel Park Place.

"I think it's great for the economy, it's great for Michigan," La Pratt said of the growing popularity of made in Michigan gifts. She eschews high-end box stores for shopping.

''I always say it's touched by the artist's hands," said La Pratt, an artist who uses old found



Lisa Diggs of Livonia shows off some Michigan-made products at Northville's State of Mind gallery. Diggs, who heads up the Buy Michigan Now festival in downtown Northville each summer, says the demand for products made in the state is growing. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'Artists and talent'

"We have such a

ent," La Pratt said. "I

work some 35 years.

A neighbor who

Place got La Pratt in

range of artists and tal-

love helping young art-

ists out." She's done this

worked for Laurel Park

there some eight years

ago. "She's so proud of

me," the business owner

said. "It's all because of

one person believing in

The Laurel Park store

was originally planned to

be a November and De-

cember holiday market.

"The customers kept

saying, 'No, you can't

me.

objects, focusing on Detroit, for such works as ceramic tiles and

mantel covers. A walk through the Laurel Park Place store reveals pencil drawings of scenes from Livonia, Plymouth, Northville and elsewhere.

There are such items as metal garden art pieces, organic spices, women's clothing, jewelry and pottery. Monte Nagler, a Farmington Hills photographer, has his work displayed for sale

There are also books by Michigan authors.

close," she said. "It has just blown up, which I'm so excited about.'

There are some 40-45 artists at Laurel Park Place's Art Is In Market and about 65 each at Twelve Oaks and Partridge Creek. "I look at it as a win-win situation for everybody," she said of the buy Michigan trend.

"I think we're on a huge buy Michigan, buy local push," La Pratt added. "I think it's great. We're keeping it in our own country.

Lisa Diggs of Livonia is also a big advocate of Michigan-made gifts. Diggs heads up the Buy Michigan Now campaign, which includes the August festival in downtown Northville, set for Aug. 1-3, 2014.

Her effort started the day before Thanksgiving in 2007 with an emphasis on Michigan shopping. "We could really make an impact on our economy," Diggs said. "It's been very successful."

The Northville festival has grown and there are 7,400 people committed on the website BuyM ichiganNow.com to Michigan shopping. She has some 5,000 businesses on board of many types.

"That's growing all

the time. It's been great," Diggs said. This time of year, she helps smaller businesses with local TV appearances highlighting gifts.

She has a holiday gift guide in November and December, currently available online, focusing on Michigan gifts with about 100 and links to their websites for other gift ideas. A grocery guide is available through the website year-round.

Diggs cites Kelly's Karamels in Troy as having a great product. Poof-Slinky makes soft toy balls in Plymouth, while Walled Lake's American Plastic Toys produces beach toys to kitchen sets.

Diggs agreed local artists have much to offer. "A lot of times, it's a one-of-a-kind item, she said. "We've got a great blossoming art community and they deserve our support."

Diggs cited the Art Is In Markets, as well as the Yellow Door Art Market in Berkley and Rust Belt Market in Ferndale, for artists' gifts made in Michigan.

Food's local, too

Stella Delap, owner of **Basket Kreations in**

downtown Plymouth, said at least 80 percent of foodstuffs in her store are Michigan products. She finds many customers eager to buy Michigan gifts.

"Once they see all of it, that really gets them excited," said Canton resident Delap, whose 24-year business began in Canton and moved to Plymouth in 1999. "They like it very much."

She carries work by local artists, including Pewabic Pottery. "They love the idea that we do represent a lot of local artists," Delap said. Basket Kreations

carries recycled license plate artwork, including a Michigan cutout of a Florida plate ideal for snowbirds.

The store also carries mittens recycled from sweaters.

Basket Kreations carries books on the Daisy Air Rifle Co., based in Plymouth until its 1958 departure for Arkansas. "We just real-ly love our made in Michigan items," Delap said. "It really does help our state. I'm very pro-Michigan.'

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Game on: Dave and Buster's opens new location

By David Veselenak Staff Writer

It's been a long time coming, but area residents will be able to have their first chance at playing games and hanging out at one of the hotter

places to be.

Dave and Buster's, located at 19375 Victor Parkway (near Seven Mile and I-275 in Livonia), opened on Monday. The 40,000-square-foot combination sports bar, restaurant and arcade

can accommodate more than 1,800 patrons, including many who have waited for months for the business to open.

General manager David Rogan is excited at the opportunity to serve the area.

"We want to be a part of the community," he said.

Guests will be able to enjoy a wide array of entrees, including baconwrapped beef medallions, grilled shrimp, burgers and signature cocktails. The restaurant, the 66th in the United States for the Dallas-based company, also has a sports bar area complete with bigscreen televisions and a variety of alcoholic beverages, including some Michigan craft beers. The bar area has some touches of local flavor as well, with the names of Michigan-area sports teams printed on the wall, along with other images, such as Motown Records and the front end of a Ford Mustang. The restaurant also has several separate dining rooms that can be used for parties or other events.



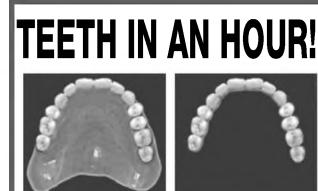
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Changing Lives

170 interactive games

Patrons have a wide array of arcade-style games to enjoy as well. About 170 interactive games will be available to play, including ones based on popular iPhone

Video screens are everywhere in the sports bar. BILL BRESLER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

and Android apps like Doodle Jump and Temple Run. Success in many of the arcade games can yield users tickets, which can be redeemed for prizes such as board games, tablets and other goodies.

Emily Profit, the senior manager at the restaurant and a Livonia resident, said she's been involved with two other major openings of Dave and Buster's locations in Kansas City and Orlando and said the hype surrounding the opening of the location in Livonia shows it will be a busy place.

"The buzz that surrounds this opening com-

pares to our Orlando opening," she said. "No matter what time of year, we're always very, very full and very busy. The restaurant will be

the second one in the Metro Detroit area and first in Wayne County. The other one is in Utica near Hall and the Van Dyke expressway.

Mike Gold, assistant general manager, said he worked at the Utica location for several years before coming to the Livonia restaurant. He said patrons used to the location in Macomb County will see some differences in decor, but the experience will remain the same.



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Amore

Northville man gets run over during filming project

By Beth Jachman Staff Writer

A filming project went terribly wrong when a 22-year-old Northville man was run over by a hit-and-run driver in the parking lot at the Redford Grill on the night of Dec. 8, according to police reports. The victim suffered a broken rib and contu-

sions and was transported to Botsford Hos-

pital, Redford Police Sgt. Duane Gregg said. He was later released and his injuries are non-life threatening.

Police were unable to locate the driver that night, but arrested him the next day, Gregg said. Four young men told

police they were in the process of making a film for a class which involved having one of the men lying face down in the driveway of the Red-

Monday, January 6, 2014

Monday, March 3, 2014

Monday, April 7, 2014

Monday, May 5, 2014

Monday, June 2, 2014

Monday, February 3, 2014

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Thursday January 16, 2014

Thursday, March 20, 2014

Thursday, April 17, 2014

Thursday, May 15, 2014

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Monday, January 13, 2014

Monday, January 27, 2014 Monday, February 10, 2014

Monday, February 24, 2014

Monday, March 10, 2014

Monday, March 24, 2014

Monday, April 14, 2014

Monday, April 28, 2014

Monday, May 12, 2014

Tuesday, May 27, 2014*

Monday, June 9, 2014

Monday, June 23, 2014

Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Monday, March 17, 2014

Monday, April 21, 2014

Monday, May 19, 2014

Monday, June 16, 2014

Tuesday, February 18, 2014*

January 1, 2014 - New Year's Day

April 18, 2014 - Good Friday

May 26, 2014 - Memorial Day

July 4, 2014 - Independence Day

February 17, 2014 - Presidents' Day

January 20, 2014 - Martin Luther King Day

Thursday, February 20, 2014

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

ford Grill restaurant. at around 11 p.m. Sunday, Gregg said.

A man in a silver Ford drove into the parking lot of the restaurant, located at Five Mile and Beech Daly, and ran over the man who was lying in the parking lot before his friends could stop the driver, according to reports.

The vehicle ran over the man's chest and leg area before stopping

Monday, July 7, 2014

Wednesday, August 6, 2014**

Tuesday, September 2, 2014*

Wednesday, November 5, 2014**

Monday, October 6, 2014

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Monday, December 1, 2014

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Thursday, August 21, 2014

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Thursday, September 18, 2014

Thursday, November 20, 2014

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Thursday, July 17, 2014

Monday, July 14, 2014 Monday, July 28, 2014

Monday, August 11, 2014

Monday, August 25, 2014

Monday, September 8, 2014

Monday, October 13, 2014

Monday, October 27, 2014

Monday, September 22, 2014

Monday, November 10, 2014

Monday, November 24, 2014

Monday, December 8, 2014

Monday, December 22, 2014

Monday, July 21, 2014

Monday, August 18, 2014

Monday, October 20, 2014

Monday, September 15, 2014

Monday, November 17, 2014

Monday, December 15, 2014

November 11, 2014 - Veterans Day

December 24, 2014 - Christmas Eve

December 25, 2014 - Christmas Day

December 31, 2014 - New Year's Eve

November 27, 2014 - Thanksgiving Day

December 26, 2014 - Day after Christmas

November 28, 2014 - Day after Thanksgiving

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LYON

2014 MEETING SCHEDULE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

PARK ADVISORY BOARD: Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

*Schedule Change Due to Holiday **Schedule Change Due to Election

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LYON

2014 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE - OFFICES ARE CLOSED

with the man underneath the vehicle, according to reports.

Multiple people from inside the restaurant came outside and attempted to lift the car off of the man.

The driver then backed up, drove through the parking lot and into the alley behind the restaurant. according to police reports.

A witness who was across the street at the gas station heard the commotion and saw the car and was able to get a partial license plate number, according to police.

Witnesses said they had seen the driver in the restaurant before and that he was a regular there, according to reports.

A 43-year-old Redford man was charged Tuesday with leaving the scene of an injury accident causing bodily impairment, a five-year felony, according to Gregg.

The manager of the restaurant told police he did not give anyone permission to film in the parking lot and did not see them filming until after the incident, according to reports.

The vehicle was impounded, according to reports.

POLICE BRIEFS

Tractor goes missing

An employee of the Bushwood Golf Club on Dun Rovin Drive called Northville Township Police on Dec. 13 to report someone had stole a John Deere tractor.

According to the police report, the theft took place sometime between 2 p.m. on Dec. 12 and 1:15 p.m. on Dec. 13. The tractor had been parked inside a fenced-in area behind the clubhouse.

The reporting police officer observed the fence had been torn away to allow the tractor to be driven off. The employee said he had the only two keys for the tractor.

Purse stolen

A Fenton woman eating at a restaurant in downtown Northville reported her purse was stolen from her parked car

The incident happened on Dec. 14 while the woman and a friend ate at Koji. There was no reported damage to the car, but the woman said she stored her purse in the center console of her car that was parked on Mary Alexander Court.

She noticed it missing after dropping her friend off in Brighton.

There are no suspects

at this time.

Asleep at the wheel

A 21-year-old Plymouth man was arrested for possessing a marijuana pipe after he had fallen asleep at the wheel and crashed his car near Six Mile and Haggerty.

According to reports, a Northville Township police officer was dispatched to the intersection around 5:45 p.m. on Dec. 10 after somebody called to report a driver asleep at the wheel. When the officer arrived, he found the man outside of his vehicle. The man told the officer he had fallen asleep while driving westbound on Six Mile and coasted through the Haggerty intersection and up onto the curb.

After a Northville Township Fire Department ambulance arrived on scene and paramedics determined the man was OK, the officer interviewed him and noted he showed no signs of intoxication. However, when the officer got into his car to help move it, he noticed a glass pipe used for smoking mariiuana in the cup holder on the center console.

The officer placed the man under arrest for possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

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September 1, 2014 - Labor Day Publish: December 19, 2013





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Church of the Holy Family

Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road

Contact: 248-349-8847 or visit holyfamilynovi.org

Mass Schedule

Time/Day: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Friday; 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday; 4:30 p.m. Saturday; 6:30 p.m. Saturday (Spanish)

Holy days: 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment

Priests: the Rev. Bob LaCroix, pastor, and the Rev. Beto Espinoza, associate pastor AA: 8 p.m. Wednesdays

Crosspointe **Meadows Church**

Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Contact: 248-669-9400, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or

visit www.crosspointemeadows.org Sunday worship: 11:15 a.m.

Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages

Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

Destiny Worship Center

Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 Six Mile, Northville Contact: DestinyW3C@Gmail.com or visit www.DW3C.org.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Location: 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia Web: www.emmanuel-livonia.org Contact: 248-442-8822 Sunday worship: 8 a.m., 9:30

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

Location: 200 F. Main Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.fpcnorthville.org Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Location: 205 F. Lake Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile), South Lvon Contact: 248-437-2875

First United Methodist Church of Northville

Location: 777 W. Eight Mile, Northville Contact: 248-349-1144 or www.fumcnorthville.org

Summer Sunday Worship (Memorial Day-Labor Day): 8:30 and 10 a.m.

Summer Sunday School (Memorial Day-Labor Day): 8:30 a.m. - Nursery; 10 a.m. -Nursery - sixth grade

Sunday Worship (September-May): 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m.

Sunday School (September-May): 8 a.m. Nursery; 9:15 a.m. Nursery 12th grade, 11 a.m. Nursery sixth grade

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Location: 41415 Nine Mile corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi

Contact: 248-349-0565 Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship

Holy Cross Episcopal Church

Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Contact: 248-427-1175 or holycrossnovi@gmail.com; visit holyCROSSnovi.org Sunday Worship: 7:45 and 10

a.m.

Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. Worship service Alzheimer's Support Group: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month.

Hope Lutheran Church

Location: 39200 W. 12 Mile (east of Haggerty), Farmington Hills

Lakes Baptist Church

Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake Livonia Church of Christ Location: 15431 Merriman, Livonia Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

Legacy Church (formerly First **Baptist Church and Orchard Hills Baptist** Church)

Location: 23455 Novi Road, Novi

Contact: Pastor Jon Hix 248-349-5665 or visit www.legacychurch.us

Sunday School/Small Groups for all ages: 9:45 a.m. Worship Services: 11 a.m. Bible Study/Prayer: Wednesday 7 p.m.

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile Contact: the Rev. Arthur P.

Ritter, senior minister, 248-348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org. Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Church School: 10-11 a.m.

Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m. Merry Widows Luncheon:

11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month

Pilgrim Fellowship: 6 p.m. Sundavs

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Story Service: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24

Details: The Meadowbrook Handchime Choir will be making its debut. Rev. Ritter's sermon title is "Fear Not". The service will end with "Silent Night" and candles. The 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service of candlelight, music and word will include guest violin and harp along with sopranos Stephanie Rose Kanak and Maren Ritter. The sermon title is "Godisnowhere". Nursery care is available at both services.

Northville Christian Assembly

Location: 41355 Six Mile Contact: 248-348-9030; ncalife.org Sundays: 9-10 a.m. Sunday School for adults / youth / children; 9 a.m. Contemporary service in multipurpose gymnasium; 1015 a.m.: Contemporary service in worship center; children's super church on the second level (208/210) Wednesday Family Night: 7

p.m.; Adult elective classes; junior and senior high ministries; children's programs, Nursery and Preschool Program on Sundays and Wednesdays Home of Northville Christian School (day

care; preschool through eighth grade); call 248-348-9031.

Novi-Northville **Center for Jewish** Life

Details: Events, programs and activities for all ages throughout the year - children's programs, Sunday school, adult Jewish classes, youth clubs, holiday services and programs, community social events. Contact: Rabbi Avrohhom & Leah Susskind at 248-790-6075 or rabbi@novijewishcenter.com;

www.novijewishcenter.com Novi United **Methodist Church**

Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile

Contact: 248-349-2652 or visit umcnovi.com Facebook: https://www.face-

book.com/pages/Novi-United-Methodist-Church/59782031433 Sunday Worship: 9:45 a.m. Healing Service and Holy Communion: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month Peace Vigil: noon, first Sunday of every month in front of the church. Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.

Oak Pointe Church

Location: 50200 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi. Contact: 248-912-0043 Web: www.oakpointe. org/lifegroups Worship Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday: 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m. Sunday **ReNew Life Group Ministries:** 7-9 p.m. Monday (groups meet weekly)

Women's Life Groups Ministries: 7 p.m. Tuesday; 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Men's Life Groups Ministries:

6 a.m. Friday; at the church and various locations

Orchard Grove Community Church

Location: 850 Ladd Road, Building C, Walled Lake Web: www.orchardgrove.org Contact: Amanda Rehm at 248-926-6584 or amanda.rehm@orchardgrove.org.

Our Saviour Apostolic Lutheran Church

Location: 54899 Eight Mile, Northville Contact: 248-374-2268 Children (5-10) & Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Orchard Grove Community Church

Location: 850 Ladd Road, Walled Lake Contact: 248-926-6584; www.orchardgrove.org

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

Location: 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth Township Contact: 734-453-0326, Ext. 221

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

Location: 770 Thayer, Northville Contact: 248-349-2621 or olvnorthville.org Saturday Worship: 5 p.m. Sunday Worship: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Our Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Location: 1200 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth Contact: pastor Bill Burke at

734-927-0891 Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. with fellowship and food after service

Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church

Location: 54899 Eight Mile, Northville

Pentecostals of Novi

Location: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Contact: 248-697-8158 or visit www.thepentecostalsofnovi.org

Plymouth St. John's Episcopal Church

Location: 574 S. Sheldon in Plymouth

Contact: 734-453-0190, Ext. 16, or visit www.stjohnsplymouth-.orq

Praise Baptist Church

Location: 45000 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth Contact: 734-748-3898

St. James Catholic Church

Location: 46325 10 Mile, Novi Contact: 248-347-7778 Pastor: Monsignor John Kasza Mass Schedule: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday; 7 p.m. Wednesday; 5 p.m. Saturday

St. John Lutheran Church

Location: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills Contact: 248-474-0584 or visit stjohn-lutheran.com Saturday Worship: 5:30 p.m. Sunday Worship: 9, 11:15 a.m. Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Location: 201 Elm St., Northville

Unity of Farmington

Contact: 248-737-9191; Adminis-

Location: 32500 W. 13 Mile,

trativeDirector@unityfh.com

Universalist Church

Location: 25301 Halsted Road,

Youth Interfaith Journey: 9:30

Details: This religious education

program is open to the public

and currently enrolling new

students. Classes are grouped

into grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12

with age-specific education

Contact: Jennifer Teed at

248-478-7272 or dre@uufar-

Lifelong Learning Forum:

Details: Six weeks exploring

different topics like religion,

philosophy, science, health,

in and pick the class that in-

Contact: 248-478-7272 or

uufarmington.org/uucf/re-

social and political issues. No

advance registration necessary; a

terests you most at the Unitarian

Universalist Church of Farming

Multi-Generational Services:

Details: Family members of all

ages can gather for drumming,

chanting, and meditation fol-

lowed by a brief participatory

include stories, songs and shar-

ing. A religious education activ-

worship service which could

ity will follow, such as an art

project, music, dance, game or

theater. The evening will close

with a light snack and a short

time to socialize, ending at 8:30

\$5 donation is suggested. Drop

7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays

Contact: www.uufarming-

of Farmington

Contact: 248-349-3140

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a.m. and 11 a.m.

Adult special needs worship: 9:30 a.m.

Youth group: 7 p.m. Wednesdays

Women's Coffee Break Bible Study Advent Stuedy: 10-11: 30 a.m. Mondays; "Advent Reflections, Making All Things New"

Christmas Eve: worship, candle lighting and holy communion at 5 (family worship), 7 and 11 p.m. Sunday Dec 29: one service at 10 a.m.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church

Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Contact: 248-349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study: 9:15-10:30 a.m. Saturdays

First Baptist Church of Northville

Location: 217 N. Wing Contact: 248-348-1020

Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays

Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month

First Church of the Nazarene

Location: 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile Contact: 248-348-7600 or visit

dfcnazarene.org Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Classic worship service, Adult Bible Fellowship classes and Children's Sunday School; 11 a.m.

Contemporary worship service with Kids Church, Teen Worship Service and Adult Bible Fellow ship classes. Cafe is open from 9:15-11 a.m. Refreshments at 10:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. Evening Traditional Service

Tuesday: 9:25 a.m. Women's Bible Study (Women of the Word) studying Luke

Thursday schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group and Bible Study

Friday: 9:30 a.m.; Sweet Fridays on the second and fourth Fridays -- A Ministry for Moms of All Ages



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Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper

BERCHEM. VIOLET M.

Age 83, formerly a 35+ year Northville resident, passed away December 13, 2013. She was born on September 1, 1930, in Detroit, daughter of the late August and Margaret Kunz. She is survived by her children: Susan (Stephen) Ackman and Jeffrey Berchem; six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and her sister Emily (Buck) Marriott. She was preceded in death by her husband Jack in 1992 and her son Daniel in 2011. Visitation was held on Monday, December 16, from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. A Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, December 17, at 11:00 a.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Interment followed at Rural Hill Cemetery. Online guestbook at: www.phillipsfuneral.com



BUSSELL, PHYLLIS Age 93, of Farmington Hills,

passed away Dec. 11, 2013. Full obit and online condolences at www.casterlinefuneralhome.com



FREELAND, MARILYN **ELIZABETH (BRUCE)** Of Beulah and Bonita Springs, Florida, passed away on Friday, December 6, 2013 at Okemos Health and Rehabilitation Center. Marilyn was born on December 19, 1927, in Frankfort, Michigan, the daughter of Helen (Dougherty) and Guy Bruce. Nothing was more important to Marilyn than her family and she

was its heart. She is survived by her daughters, Mary (Joseph) Thompson and Patricia (Jay) Trost, both of DeWitt; sons, Thomas (Catherine) Freeland of Coopersville and Michael (Ronna) Freeland of Milford; grandchildren, Sara (Jared) Bennett, Joel (Shanna) Trost, Jared Trost, Heather Freeland, Joshua Hailey Freeland, Freeland, Freeland, Dayna Devon great-grandchildren, Freeland; Kenyth Schultz and Jack Trost; and niece Susan (Dale) Westcott, who she loved like a daughter. She is also survived by her sisters-in-law Evelyn (Don) Kirby, Delores Smith and Evon Freeland; many nieces, nephews, lifelong friends; and loyal companion, her dog Max. Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband, Ken; her parents; and sisters Helen Mary Gifford and Bonnie Bohnow. A Memorial Service was held at the Frankfort United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 14, where family and friends celebrated her life.



HEGLE, DONELDA

HEGLE, DONELDA Age 89, died December 10th, surrounded by her family. Beloved wife of Carl Hegle of 73 years. Mother to Carlene Moule, Sandy Suttle, Greg Hegle, Kim Pence and pre-ceded in death by son Phil Hegle. Grandmother to 34 grand-children and great-grandchildren children and great-grandchildren. Forever in our hearts. Private memorial for family only.



JENKINSON KENNETH DEE

age 69 of Milford, passed away peacefully at his home on December 11, 2013. Ken was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Adrian College from which he graduated in 1966. Ken was a teacher of the Huron Valley School System 1967-1997, primarily at Milford High in the English Department and taught Driver's Education and was the Student Activities Director. Ken also coached 9th grade girls' softball and basketball. In addition to Marcia Lee Jenkinson, his beloved wife of 47 years, Ken is survived by his sons Paul Dee (Sheila) Jenkinson and David Lord (Valerie) Jenkinson; granddaughters Han-nah Jenkinson and Hope Jenkinson; grandson David Kenneth Jenkinson; mother Irene Jenkinson; sister Mary Dee (J.R.) Polio and nieces Julie Haapala and Lisa Lemieux. Funeral Service was held at Oak Pointe Church Milford on December 16th, 2013. For further information, phone Lynch & Sons at 248.684.6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirec tors.com

McCURDY AMY M. (PRIEST)

Died suddenly Dec. 13 2013, age ____43 of Livonia. Beloved wife of Jerome McCurdy. Loving daughter of Brenda Priest and Michael (Diane) Priest. Dear sister of William (Debby) Priest. Cherished granddaughter of Mary Miller. Proud aunt of Kaylee and Ryley Priest. Loved by aunts, uncles and cousins. Gathering Thursday December 19, 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Memorial Service at Praise Baptist Church, 45000 N. Territorial Rd, Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to Michigan Humane Society, 30300 Telegraph Rd. Suite 220 Bingham Farms, Mi 48025

REGAN, RENE

Age 50, of Salem Twp., passed away December 13, 2013. She was born on November 15, 1963, in Jackson, daughter of Toni and the late Martin Galvin. On June 7, 1997, Rene' married the love of her life, George Regan. Rene' touched the heart of anyone she met. She was known for her genuine, loving, caring nature and for her random acts of kindness. Her passion in life was her husband, George, her grandchildren and her family. Rene' enjoyed arts and crafts and was an excellent cook. She loved spontaneous adventures and was a huge fan of the movie Toy Story. Rene' will always be remembered for her great sense of humor and for her ability to make anyone laugh. She is survived by her beloved husband, George; her mother and best friend, Toni (Mike Barnes) Overmyer; her children: Raymond Conklin, Dustin (Fiancee Jacqui Leonard) Conklin, Jon (Linzee) Conklin, Joshua (Yuko) Regan and Joelle (Joey) Bialas; her grandchildren: Samantha, Alexander and another grandson expected in May. Rene' is also survived by her sisters: Marti (Tim) Overmyer, Tonia (Rob) Bearden and Robin Ross; her uncle, Mike Goethe; her mother-inlaw, Jean Regan and many nieces, nephews and loving friends. She was preceded in death by her fathers: Martin Galvin and Jeri A. Ross. Visitation was held on Tuesday, December 17, from 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. with Rosary at 7:00 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, December 18, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

May you find comfort in family and friends

SEDORE, MARILYN C.

Age 88, passed away December 14, 2013. She was born on July 2, 1925, in Detroit, daughter of the late Harry and Mabel Rich. She is survived by her children: Janet (Gary) Knight and Mark Sedore; two grandsons, two granddaughters, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She is also survived by many nieces and neph-ews. Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband, Richard in 1986 and her sister, Marcia Bishop in 2012. Visitation was held on Tuesday, December 17, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. with an Eastern Star Service at 7:00 p.m. A Funeral Service was held on Wednesday, December 18, at 11:00 a.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. Online guestbook at: www.phillipsfuneral.com



TUCK, PAUL

Age 69, of Honor, passed away on December 10, 2013. No services have been planned at this time. Arrangements have been entrusted to Covell Funeral Home of Traverse City.



Bill would spur sale of old DeHoCo site

Heise introduces legislation that would force state to clean up, sell former prison site

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, announced the introduction of House Bill 5179 that will transfer the state-owned Detroit House of Corrections prison site in Plymouth Township to the Michigan Land Bank Author-

ity. "It's time for this eyesore to go. Our residents deserve to see it developed and the state has a duty to make it happen," Heise said. "The DeHoCo site is the heart of the Five Mile corridor between Plymouth and Northville townships and the Michigan Land Bank is the proper agency to see that it's cleaned up and marketed for jobs and economic development."

Heise has worked with leadership from Plymouth and Northville townships and Wayne County since 2011 on the development of the Five Mile corridor from Napier to Sheldon roads.

Heise successfully led the legislative effort to sell the former Scott Prison site at Five Mile and Beck to Northville Township, which now plans to develop the vacant site.

The DeHoCo site,

formerly owned by the city of Detroit as a jail facility, was purchased by the state of Michigan in 1979 as part of a regional prison reform effort.

The state built additional prison buildings on the site, which was eventually closed by the state in 1986.

Studies done in 2004 confirmed that substantial environmental contamination is prevalent at the site, which will

need to be cleaned up as part of a sale to a private developer or prior to a sale taking place.

"The Michigan Land Bank Authority are the experts at turning around old, contaminated sites like DeHoCo," Heise said.

"They know how to leverage grants, tax incentives and market these sites for development and jobs. While the property will not be turned around as quickly

as Robert Scott Prison, it's critical that we get started and get the right people on board now."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said he strongly supports the bill.

"Plymouth Township has been asking the state for years to clean up and market this site as part of our Five Mile development efforts," Reaume said.

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Milford

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH reschool, Pre-K & Kdg. - Mo. Synd 620 General Motors Rd., Milford Church office: (248) 684-0895

Sunday Services: 8:30 am & 11am Bible Study & Sunday School @ 9:45 an Rev. Martin Dressler

FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD VISITORS WELCOME VISITURS WELCOVIE: 133 Detroit St., Milford • 248-684-5695 Pastor Stave Suvayze unday School (al aged 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Young Adults Dimen Bible Study, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 p.m. ana beginning Sept. 11, 3 yrs old thru 6th grade and Youth Group for 7th grade and older Website: milfordbaptist.org

MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Pastor Bryant Anderson 238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-2805 Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. School age 3 thru 5th grade @ outh Group 10 am - Grades 6-A heritage of area worship since 1836

Milford United 1200 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48381 Sunday Worship: 8:30 am and 10:30 am, 6 pm Children's Church: 10:30 am



FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 44400 W. 10 Mile., Novi, 248-349-2345 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. www.faithcommunity-novi.org WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10 AN "Children, Youth and Adult Ministries"

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 21355 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 ½ Mile 248-348-7757 . www.mbcc.org Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister

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holycrossnovi@gmail.com

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Forgotten Harvest's work benefits from donated office space

By Pamela A. Zinkosky Correspondent

'Tis the season to remember that gifts come in all forms. Forgotten Harvest, our region's only food rescue organization, received an early holiday gift last month in the form of 8,000 square feet of fully furnished office space.

The gift-giver was Grant Thornton LLP, an audit, tax and advisory firm with offices in the Southfield American Center building on Franklin Road. Grant Thornton consolidated its offices and wound up with an entire floor of unused space, so the company subleased half of it and gave the other half to Forgotten Harvest for use through November 2017.

The nonprofit company runs lean, with 80 employees responsible for collecting 875,000 pounds of unused food each week from manufacturers, grocery stores, restaurants and other sources, and distributing it to emergency food agencies throughout metro Detroit. Nevertheless, Forgotten Harvest's staff had far outgrown the available space in its Oak Park warehouse and distribution center.

"We were bursting at the seams," says Forgotten Harvest President and CEO Susan Goodell, a resident of Birmingham. "There were so many people crammed into a small space. We couldn't even think. There were often literally several meetings going on at once in the same room.

"We have individual work spaces now. Having this space is really allowing us to work more efficiently."

What's more, Goodell says, it's a luxury for a nonprofit to have such nice offices. "It's absolutely beautiful," she says. "There's even art-



Susan Goodell is leading the way to help feed the needy as CEO of Forgotten Harvest. MANDI WRIGHT | GANNETT MICHIGAN



John Owens, communications director at Forgotten Harvest, settles into his new office on the ninth floor in the Charter One Building. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

work on the walls."

Generous donation

Since the offices are so beautiful, and since Forgotten Harvest is so committed to efficiency — 96 cents of every dollar donated to the organization goes directly toward food rescue — Goodell felt the need to let visitors know where the office space came from. The Forgotten Harvest sign includes an "offices generously donated by Grant Thornton" note.

Goodell says she met a former Grant Thornton partner a few years ago, and since then the organization has provided continued support in the form of volunteers. "Grant Thornton really wrapped their arms around us," she says.

Jim Trouba a partner at Grant Thornton and Forgotten Harvest board member, says his organization chose to get involved with Forgotten Harvest through its GT Cares program.

"We were impressed by not only the mission of Forgotten Harvest, but with the commitment of its people and the significant number of people in our community that they help,"he said.

The donation, Trouba says, just made sense, especially in light of Forgotten Harvest's mission to reduce waste.

The Southfield office frees up a good deal of space in the Oak Park warehouse, which provides food storage, houses the organization's fleet of 35 refrigerated trucks and provides work space for logistics staff.

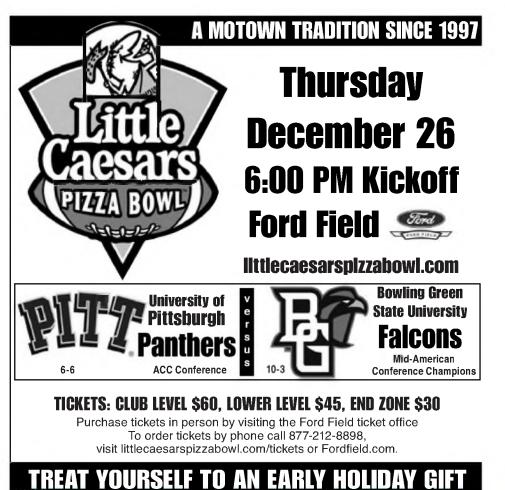
From the warehouse, Goodell explains, local



The development and finance committee gather in the Superior room of the new Forgotten Harvest offices. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

trucks depart with some of the food on hand in storage such as repackaged items that were cast-offs from manufacturers and donated nonperishable goods. The truck then picks up donated food from 10 to 12 businesses and then drops off food at three different emergency food providers.

To donate or volunteer, visit www.forgottenharvest.org and join the fight against hunger in metro Detroit.



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A16 (NR) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

OPINION

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS

Remember the true meaning of **Christmas** season

Christmas is a time to celebrate humanity. As you can tell by the bitterly cold weather this week, the first major snowstorm last weekend, the increased traffic on the roads and the crowds at your favorite mall, the Christmas season is upon us.

But those are the tangible - to some, distasteful — trappings of the seasons.

For people of the Christian faith, it is one of the most significant times of the year. It marks the coming of the Messiah — the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians all over the world celebrate this great milestone with prayer and reverence.

But this time of year is also important to the followers of other religions. Jews, for example, recently finished celebrating Hanukkah, the eight-day "Festival of Lights," which ended Dec. 5. The season is marked by the candles of the menorah, and Jews celebrate their ancient heroes and the survival of their culture with festive foods, games and blessings.

Although Hanukkah is considered to be a mi-nor holiday on the Jewish calendar, it has taken on more significance, especially in America, because of its proximity to Christmas.

It is also at this time of year that many African Americans begin to celebrate Kwanzaa. Although not a religious holiday, Kwanzaa, which runs from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1, is a time when followers come together and celebrate family, community and tradition.

So in reality, the Christmas season means different things to different people, especially in America, where so many different cultures have been thrown together. The common denominator seems to be that it is a time of celebration, to hold dear the things that we might take for granted the rest of the year.

In recent years, some people have complained that there has been a war on Christmas. A debate has raged about whether the meaning of Christmas has been watered down by huge department stores or the political correctness police.

It's an unfortunate debate, particularly at this time of year, because it seems to run counter to all the virtues that are celebrated during Christmas.

It is supposed to be a time of rejoicing, and a time to reflect on the common bond of humanity. There are so many people around the globe, including right here in our own back yard, who are not as fortunate. Many are dealing with poverty, hunger or war.

In America, we are fortunate to have the freedom to celebrate Christmas or Hanukkan or Kwanzaa. That in itself is reason enough to celebrate this holiday season. So whatever Christmas means for you, please take a few moments during this wonderful season to think of those in the world who are not as fortunate. And give thanks for all that we are blessed with here in America.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What's the one thing you really want for Christmas?

This question was asked in downtown Northville.



"For everybody to get along and to enjoy each others company.'

Santa Northville (visited town square on Dec. 14-15)



"To see all the soldiers brought home from war." **Isabelle Rios** Northville



"For people to be happy."

Olivia Boisineau Northville



"For someone in my family to win the lottery." **Christina Zitkus** Northville

LETTERS

Stop sign needed

As somebody who drives into downtown Northville everyday, I would say yes, there definitely needs to be a stop sign at Main and Wing streets. Every time I go south on Wing I can't see past the parked cars on Main and just "guess" when to go. It's not a safe situation. For that matter, there also needs to be a 4- way stop at Wing and Dunlap. People stop when they don't have a sign and don't know why those who have a stop are waiting for them. Ugh! These sites. been changed years ago. Barb Hayes

Northville Township

Remove parking spaces

I'm writing in response to the article regarding the Main and Wing intersection.

I think removing a few parking spaces on Main Street east of Wing would improve the situation. Vehicles parked close to Wing block the view of oncoming traffic to drivers on Wing. This makes it difficult for drivers trying to enter or cross Main to determine when it is safe to do so, except for northbound vehicles turning right.

The vehicles parked on the north side also block the view of of the intersection for westbound drivers on Main Street. Those going westbound who are not familiar with the intersec tion may not be able to see if there is a stop sign until they reach the intersection. I suspect that many of the stops by westbound drivers may not simply be as a result of an assumption that they should stop, but because they can't see if there is a stop sign and may not be able to see cross traffic and pedestrians until they are near the intersection. Both these situations are particularly true if the vehicle (s) are trucks or SUVs. The downhill slope toward Center Street can result in the Main Street traffic being lower than the vehicles on Wing making the vision obstruction worse when larger vehicles are parked. Over the years, I've noticed more "confused driver" stops by westbound vehicles than eastbound vehicles. I attribute that to the clear view of the intersection that eastbound drivers have, but westbound drivers lack due to parked vehicles Simply making the intersection a four-way stop, without removing parking, may not improve the situation at least in terms of westbound traffic as the stop sign may not be easily visible to drivers, depending on its location and the size and location of parked vehicles. It should be noted that the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code prohibits parking within 30 feet of a stop or yield sign. The traffic volume standard for a four-way stop in the Michigan Manual of Traffic Control Devices is 300 vehicles per hour for any eight hours on an average day and 200 vehicles and/or pedestrians per hour for the same eight hours. Another criteria is five or more crashes in a 12-month period, if the crash situation is susceptible to correction by the multi-stop installation. Does the intersection meet either the volume or crash standard? An engineering study may consider other factors, such as a vision obstruction in determining whether a multi-way stop is appropriate. In my opinion, if the problem is a vision obstruction and it can be removed, then the first step is to remove the

vision obstruction.

James Petres Northville

Wonderful evening

Recently a wonderful thing happened in downtown Northville. Families and children gathered at Genitti's Restaurant for a very special event. It started out as a fundraiser for a NPS program called Sprouts K-5, but it turned into so much more. It was the perfect example of what a community can do when we all come together.

Genitti's donated its entire restaurant and theater (plus delicious cocoa and treats), volunteer Nate Mansfield, an 8th grader from Meads Mill Middle School, played Christmas carols in the vestibule. Other volunteers from Thornton Creek Elementary School served as "elfs" and helped children get their photo with Santa and served cocoa and cookies. A dynamic youth theater "Spotlight on Youth" contrib-uted their time and talent to perform a holiday show, and Santa Claus himself took photos with children before and after the show. Another Sprouts parent, Ewa Omanen, echoed my feelings:

Genitti's delivered again by embracing our kids and opening their doors and generous hearts to the Sprouts families. The treats, cocoa, and Santa brou smiles to the kids faces. The Christmas carols and heartwarming performance by the local theater troupe, Spotlight on Youth, added to the joyous celebration and helped us feel more connected, Omanen said. The children's joy and excitement was a powerful reminder of how much they share in common, regardless of whether they are typical or have the diagnosis of autism. The event helped us feel more connected to the community and each other and reminded us of the simple joys of sharing, giving, caring and belonging. Please, share my appreciation and many thanks with Genitti's, Spotlight on Youth and the wonderful volunteers for their generosity, time, and community spirit.' Thank you, to the Northville community for supporting Sprouts Autism K-5. Recently, Sprouts extraordinarily gifted teacher, Kate Colaluca, sent me a text message. It said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Laurie Kondek Sprouts parent

WHAT DO YOU **THINK?**

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters should be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com Mail: Letters to the Editor, Northville Record, 101 N. Lafayette Street, South Lyon, MI 48178

confining their role to testing does not make sense to me. I am suspicious of theories removing the art from the artisan. Certainly teachers in elementary levels get the worst of this unlike the less tethered educators at higher levels. This appears a grab bag loser program discounting most critical days for young children

Maybe this is to muddle and squash all hope of evaluations in education as a human right to test the emerging improvement and opportunity to excel through vouchers to improve it as market choices inevitably tend to do. Motivation in education is ignited in family cultures or those pushers of kids toward serious interest to acquire and sharpen talents. Their personal environment must setup the need to seek that goal

Merry Christmas.



Northville resident Bob Sochacki played St. Nicholas during a recent Christmas event at Mill Race Village. St. Nicholas, who died in AD 343, was known for his generosity to those in need, as well as his love of children.



Rick Callaway gets a photo of his kids Archer, 4, and Sienna, 7, right as they pose with Santa in his sleigh at Northville Township's Thayer's Corner Park on Dec. 7. While Christmas is the time to welcome Santa, it's also a time of rejoicing, and a time to reflect on the common bond of man for not only Christians, but people of all faiths. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Kurt Kuban, Community Editor Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor

Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

Squashing education

The hospital and education systems in America were founded by the church. Most public education systems were usurped by unions. Many now facing abandonment by systems that have demonstrated few hopeful results. Still remaining a financial generator for one powerful bureaucracy and a tool for political maneuvering of the public. While our general education systems slipped, hospitals grew unhampered in a mission to care for body and spirit.

Are hospitals being teed up for confiscation and takeover by "Obamacare" planners following a purposeful destruction of health care that worked to progressively dangle out the critical need to the public?

How about Common Core as micro management of teachers tension with that elusive and maybe futile "race to the top" dumped on go. It takes outstanding teaching ability to assess the potential needs of students and

Another reworking of curricula by the Harvard theorists reminds me of the same rework by them of formerly thriving business models not long ago. Methods are needed to grow interactive communication between children, parents and teacher. Coordinated efforts may be much better than recitations for testing purposes which may not prove much.

Jim Nowka Northville Township

Disclose contributions

Two thumbs up to Secretary of State Ruth Johnson for her efforts to require public disclosure of campaign contributions. If there is ever any hope of returning integrity to elections, campaign contribution must become open and transparent.

Anonymous spending on all political ads should be outlawed and if not, citizens will become even more skeptical of the election process.

Bob Hoffman

Oakland County commissioner, District 2

Vote down House Bill 5551

Michigan House Bill 5551 recently moved out of committee and is expected to be acted on by the legislature as a whole. This bill states that third-grade students who do not score "proficient" on the reading MEAP test will not be able to advance to the third grade.

While on the surface it seems reasonable or logical to retain students who have trouble with reading, there are unintended consequences that must be considered with this bill. We must consider the emotional and social consequences that can result in keeping students back from their peers. Additionally, do we really want to base a child's academic future on a single test they take as a third grader?

My answer is no. I encourage Lansing to vote down this bill and instead begin the more difficult work of investing and improving our schools.

Dan Centers Livonia

hometownlife.com



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Y0076_ALL 2014197 T65 CMS ACCEPTED 12/08/2013

Cure cabin fever with outdoor adventure, fun

By Diane Gale Andreassi Staff Writer

There's plenty to do when the weather is frigid and cabin fever gets dangerously unbearable. But, cold, snowy weather doesn't mean you have to hibernate on your sofa, in front of the television with a blanket until spring.

Check-out the Wild Lights show at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak as you take in the holiday entertainment, from arts and crafts, storytelling, ice carving and a Lego holiday train display. The Wild Adventure Zone is also featuring *The Polar Express 4-D Experience*, a 14-minute film starring Tom Hanks.

The show runs Dec. 20-23, 26-30 and Jan. 2-5, 5:30-9 p.m. staying open until 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$8 per person in advance and \$10 at the gate for ages 2 and older. Parking is \$5.

Or, head outdoors to some place like Kensington Metropark where there's plenty to keep you busy.

Up North feel

The wooded, rural setting off Interstate 96

offers the perfect scenery for Dave Hardin of Royal Oak, who uses the park to the fullest all year. He usually meets friends, because it's a halfway point from where everyone lives. He was out recently to hike with buddies in 28-degree weather, and he also uses the trails to snowshoe, bike and cross country ski.

Ben Buyawe of Farmington Hills walks the trails around Kensington for close to three hours two or three times weekly depending on the temperatures.

Bruce Darr rode his horse, Hammer, from his Milford home to Kensington recently. Hammer prefers colder weather to warm, said Darr, who dresses in layers, wears winter riding boots to keep warm.

Kim Jarvis, Kensington Metropark superintendent, said there are five miles of hike/bike trails that are plowed from the East Boat Launch to the Bay Woods Picnic area. Two ice rinks are available at the boat rental — one for free skating and other designated for hockey use. There are no skate rentals available.

The park also offers 12 miles of cross country ski trails. Cross country skis are available at the golf course club house, which is opened weekends and holidays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., when snow conditions permit. Snowshoeing is available on the nature trails, too. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, if there is enough snow, are available on the weekends at the Farm Center. The cost for adults is \$5 and children and senior citizens are \$3. The Nature Center is also open during the winter.

Sledding, tobogganing and a beginners snow boarding hill are available at the Orchard Picnic area, which is also dubbed the winter sports area, Jarvis said.

Huron Meadows Metropark in Green Oak Township offers, both classic and skate skiing. Metroparks makes snow for a 1-K cross country ski trail, Jarvis said. Both classic and skate skis are available for rental at the Huron Meadows club house 2-7 p.m. Friday, as well as 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday



Cindy Stanndard heads off on a cross country ski trip at Northville's Maybury State Park in this file photo. JOHN HEIDER

and and Sunday.

The metroparks require a vehicle entry

pass, which is \$5 daily. Flying down hills

Thrill seekers love the rush of mounting their sleds and flying down the hills at Edward Hines Drive between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Northville or between Middlebelt and Inkster roads in Westland. The lines can get daunting, but it gives the adventurous time to catch their breath.

Sledders also test their speed at St. Andrew's Church in Rochester Hills; at Beverly Park in Beverly Hills; and Shiawassee Park and

Publish: December 19, 2013

Heritage Park, both in Farmington.

Grab your hiking boots for outdoor fun at Maybury State Park in Northville, which is open all year round for hikers and runners. Trails are plowed, and during the winter paths are groomed for cross country skiing. Snowshoes are available for rental by calling Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to make arrangements for weekday and weekend outings. Adult snow shoes are \$10 to rent and children's sizes are \$7. Call 248-349-8390

experience with snow in the woods and wildlife," said Nikki Van Bloem, Maybury supervisor. "You can walk five minutes into the woods and have no idea you're so close to a huge metropolitan area that we're right on the edge of. It's convenient."

The backdrop at Maybury is a whole lot of woodpeckers along with all kinds of other birds, as well as deer and fox if you're lucky to spot them, but you are more likely to come across a flock of turkeys.

dandreassi@hometownlife.com 248-437-2011, Ext. 262

"Maybury provides an 2 easily accessible outdoor

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

The Charter Township of Northville Administrative Offices will be closed on the following days:

Tuesday, December 24, 2013 Holiday Wednesday, December 25, 2013 Holiday Wednesday, January 01, 2014 Holiday

Residents wishing to pay their taxes before the year-end can do so up until closing at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 31, 2013.

POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE.

Sue A.	Hillebrand,	Clerk
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LO-0000171548 3x2

Independent and Assisted Living

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on a variance requested by the property owner at 483 Grace Street, Northville, Michigan. The applicant is seeking a variance to construct a home and garage in the front yard setbacks on premises zoned R-2, Second Density Residential District, parcel number 48-001-02-0009-000. The City's Building Official has determined that a front-yard variance of seven feet five inches (7'-5") is needed along Grace Street and a front-yard variance of thirteen feet (13') is needed along Lake Avenue from Section 15.01 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow construction of a new home and garage in the two front yards.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday January 8, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. (please note the meeting date change due to the New Years Holiday) at City of Northville Municipal Building - Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902, as part of the regular City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals meeting.

The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public input on the variance requests. A copy of the variance application is available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during regular office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Due to the holidays, City Hall will be closed on: December 24, December 25, December 31, and January 1. Written comments regarding the variance request should be directed to the City of Northville at the above address.

The City of Northville will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with special needs at the meeting upon seven days notice to the City of Northville.

ROLLAND STAPLETON BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS CHAIRPERSON	DIANNE MASSA CITY CLERK
Publish: December 19, 2013	LO-0000172232 3x3.

SHOP MØRE

this holiday season with these extended hours:

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SUN.	DEC. 22	10 AM - 8 PM
MON.	DEC. 23	8 AM - 10 PM
TUES.	DEC. 24	7 AM - 6 PM
WED.	DEC. 25	CLOSED

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SECTION B (NR)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

INSIDE: REAL ESTATE, B5 • CLASSIFIED, B6-8 B (NR) 19, 2013 C MEDIA IFE.COM **CAL STONE, EDITOR** CSTONE@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 248-437-2011 EXT. 237

Lady Mustangs take home two triumphs

Northville records victories over Western, Central

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

The Northville girls basketball team started off the season exactly as it hoped with wins.

The squad, coached by Todd Gudith, picked up a 51-25 victory over Walled Lake Western Dec. 10 before earning an equally-impressive win over Walled Lake Central, 59-31, just three days later.

"For our first game, we came away very pleased," Gudith said of the victory over the Warriors. "Western came into the game 0-2, being outscored 121-18 in those two games, so trying to keep our girls focused was important."

Northville followed the lead of senior Heather Randall, who scored 14 points. Scoring 10 was freshman Jessica Moorman.

The Mustangs outrebounded the Warriors, 45-19, and were led by Emily Maresh, a junior, who picked up seven.

Despite the dominance overall on the boards, the Mustangs struggled to put up quality shots in close to start the game.

'We didn't finish around the rim very well early on and only led 9-5 after the first quarter, but we found our groove after that," Gudith said. "Part of that I'm sure was nerves being our first game and for many their first varsity game. We were

See BASKETBALL, Page B2

ON TAP

Northville will be back in action at 7 p.m. today at



Mustangs net three more victories on ice

Team improves record to 6-1-1 on season

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

Three more games and three more wins helped keep December rolling right along for the Northville hockey team.

The squad, coached by Clint Robert, picked up wins over South Lyon, 6-1, Can-ton, 2-1, and Grand Haven, 4-0, to keep their season flowing in a very positive direction. The wins pushed the team's record to 6-1-1 on the season.

"We, as a team, have stressed defense and I thought we had a good week in that regard," Robert said. "Right now, guys are em-bracing team 'D' and are proud of the fact we have only allowed six goals in eight games, including four shutouts."

The team's most recent shutout came against Grand Haven as the Mustangs skated to a 1-0 lead in the first period with a goal by Jack Meacham that would prove to be the game-winner. Assisting on the goal were Alec Melucci and Alec Morgan.

In the second period, Nick Stegmeyer took assists from Meacham and Morgan and found the back of the net for a 2-0 lead, which was added to when Morgan scored a goal of his own for

See HOCKEY, Page B2

ON TAP

The Northville hockey team will be back on the ice when its plays at 7 p.m.

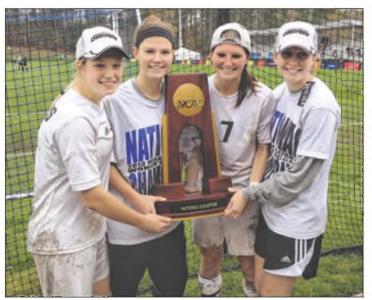
home against Churchill. The team will then play next weekend in the Northville Holiday Tournament.



Friday at Hartland before taking on East Kentwood at home at 8 p.m. Saturday.

NHS grads lead Lakers to NCAA soccer title

PHOTOGRAPHER



The Grand Valley State University women's soccer team won the NCAA Division II championship Dec. 7 in Evans, Ga. Four Northville High graduates are on the team, which finished the season with a 24-0-1 record. They are (from left) Gabbie Guibord, Emily Bush, Kelsey Fiscus and Alexis Mencotti. All of them are 2013 grads, except Fiscus who graduated from NHS in 2010. The team went to the final four in each of the four years Fiscus has been on the team. Her senior class never lost a game at home and finished their career with an 86-4-10 record. The team beat West Florida, 2-0, in the championship game.

Gymnastics team has young lineup

Mustangs looking to stay competitive as newcomers to the squad mature

> **By Sam Eggleston** Correspondent

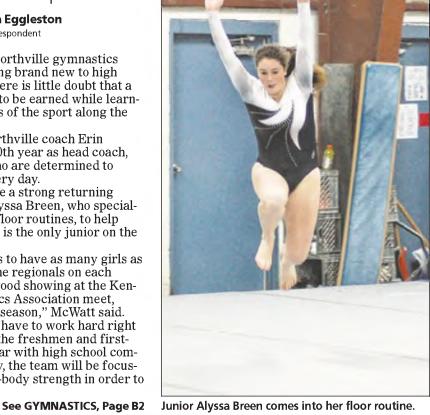
With eight of the Northville gymnastics team's 13 athletes being brand new to high school gymnastics, there is little doubt that a lot of experience has to be earned while learning all the ins and outs of the sport along the

Thankfully for Northville coach Erin McWatt, now in her 10th year as head coach, she has 13 athletes who are determined to improve each and every day.

It also helps to have a strong returning captain like junior Alyssa Breen, who specializes on the vault and floor routines, to help lead the squad. Breen is the only junior on the team this season.

"The goal is always to have as many girls as possible qualify for the regionals on each event and to make a good showing at the Kensington Lakes Athletics Association meet, which begins the postseason," McWatt said.

The Mustangs will have to work hard right out of the gate to get the freshmen and firstyear gymnasts familiar with high school competitions. Additionally, the team will be focusing on building upper-body strength in order to







Gymnastics team bows to Plymouth

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

There is still a lot of work to be done in the very young season, so the Northville gymnastics team knows there is no reason to get riled up over the rough start to the 2013-14 schedule

Last week, the squad, coached by Erin McWatt, took a 135.175-119.1 loss against Plymouth. Of course, that loss, like the first of the season, came without several gymnasts competing for Northville.

We are still feeling the effects of not having four of our new freshmen in the lineup, but they will officially begin their season with us next week for our final dual of 2013," McWatt said of the match against Livonia Red, which took place Tuesday (after the sports section went to print). "We are already at a disadvantage this month with an injury sidelining one of our sophomores and mono taking out another. However, the girls are in great spirits and have fantastic attitudes.'

ON TAP

Northville will be back in action at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at Milford.

On top of those spirits and attitudes being displayed, some strong performances were on show against the Wildcats. Alyssa Long earned herself an 8.25 with her floor routine, while Alyssa Breen picked up an 8.25 on the beam. Earning an 8.2 was Emma Cemalovic on the vault, while Emilie Statetzny picked up a 7.0 on the bars.

"I am happy that our bar scores improved significantly this week and floor continues to be a bright spot for us," McWatt said. "We improved our team all-around by three points in just four short days from the first dual meet to the second. As long as we keep progressing steadily, I think we will peak at the right time.'

The Mustangs fell to 0-2 on the season with the loss to Plymouth.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer covering sports for the Northville Record and Novi News.



GYMNASTICS

Continued from Page B1

compete on the bars, which is the squad's weakest event currently.

Northville returns just five gymnasts from last year and all of them, with the exception of Breen, are sophomores with one year experience. McWatt said that while her team is young - it won't graduate a single senior this year - it is very talented.

"They will make an immediate impact and will likely compete all-around," she said. "Our floor will be the source of

strength for us this year."

The team showcased that with a strong 8.4 from Alyssa Long, a sopho-

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

a 3-0 advantage. Assists on the second goal came from Cam LaBurn and Meacham.

In the third period, Northville added nails to the coffin as Kyle Dann scored to cap the game at 4-0. Henry Chang and Randy Stoever were credited with assists.

Chance Boutin earned the shutout in goal and faced just 10 shots thanks to Northville's stifling defensive pressure.

Northville climbed to 6-1-1 on the season with the victory.

Northville 6, South Lyon 1

Against the Lions, the Mustangs earned a convincing Central Division win as Stegmeyer and Meacham each scored in the first period, followed by goals from Kyle Abraham, LaBurn and Morgan in the second and another by Abraham in the third to secure the victory.

Earning assists on the goals were Morgan (three), Alex Shuart (two), Connor Brown, Stoever, Meacham, Melucci, Stegmeyer and Buster White.

BASKETBALL

Continued from Page B1

able to get significant playing time to all 12 of our players which, hopefully, will continue to benefit us in the long run."

Against Walled Lake Central three days later, the Mustangs followed the lead of senior Gabby Mencotti as she put up 18 points to lead her team to victory. Randall added 13 in the win while Maresh put in 10 of her own.

"We came out a little more aggressive defensively than Tuesday night and finished a lot better around the rim to break the game open early," Gudith said

more, in the first meet of the season. While Northville didn't win with the 116.325 points they picked up from the judges, they did give Brighton (138.925) and Howell (139.875) notice that there are plenty of talented gymnasts on the Mustangs' squad this season.

Breen turned in an 8.65 on the vault, while sophomore Katie Bederka earned an 8.75 on the beam.

"It was a bit of a rough start for us because we were missing five new competitors at this meet," McWatt said. "However, the girls' attitudes were phenomenal and very mature, especially for a team with no seniors and eight out of 13 brand new high school competitors."

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer covering sports for the Northville Record and Novi News.

South Lyon's lone goal came with just seven seconds left in the second period.

Earning the win in goal for Northville was Boutin, who faced 24 shots and stopped 23.

Northville 2, Canton 1

In the closest game of the week, the Mustangs found themselves trailing in the first period as the Chiefs put the opening tally on the board. Led by Kurt Snow on a power play, the Chiefs skated down the ice and found the back of the net past Northville's Jeremy Onofrio. Snow scored the goal with assistance from Hunter Schlampp.

Northville wouldn't let the lead stand too long, however, scoring before the end of the period on a shot from Stegmeyer that was assisted by Meacham and P.J. Schnepp.

In the second period, the Mustangs scored the game-winner off the stick of White, who was assisted by Morgan and Schnepp for the 2-1 lead and eventual victory

Earning the win in goal was Onofrio, who stopped 19-of-20 shots.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer covering sports for the Northville Record and Novi News.

of his team, which led 18-7 after the first quarter and 33-15 after the first half. "We played with more composure offensively and picked them apart in the half court. Their trapping didn't rattle us much. We looked like we took a step forward tonight, which what you want to be doing each game as the season goes."

While the Vikings matched up height-wise with Northville better than Western did, Northville still dominated the boards by pulling down 42 rebounds to Central's 17

Northville is now 2-0 on the season.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer covering sports for the Northville Record and Novi News



Jeffrey R. Sirabian, PT, MHS, OCS, Cert. MDT, CSCS Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist, Owner



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Fifth-grader places third in Oklahoma tourney

Thornton Creek Elementary fifth-grader Camden Trupp, 10, competed in the elite 17th annual Suplay Kickoff Classic Wrestling Tournament earlier this month in Tulsa, Okla., which featured more than 1,800 wrestlers from more than 35 states. He took home the prestigious Eagle award and medal for placing third in the 10 and under 76-pound division. He wrestled and won against nationally ranked opponents from Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. He also recently participated in the Border Wars National Championships in Battle Creek and was crowned the 10 and under, 80-pound division national champion. Camden, who is a member of Team Donahoe Wrestling Club in Davison, is the son of C.J. and Jennifer Trupp of Novi.



Bowlers have tough week

Team drops matches to South Lyon, Walled Lake Central

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

It wasn't the week the Northville girls and boys bowling teams were hoping to have, but sometimes the most important lessons are learned in tough losses.

The two squads, both coached by Jerry Harris, took losses to South Lyon and Walled Lake Central last week.

The boys team fell to South Lyon, 22-8, and Walled Lake Central, 27-3, while the girls fell to South Lyon, 24-6, and to Walled Lake, 23-7.

We ran into some lane conditions that we could not adjust to," Harris said about the match against South Lyon. "We had some trouble with spare shooting and we're working on that.

Against South Lyon, the boys were led by Adam Gleichman, who had a high game of 207, while Collin Fowler shot a 199.

Simon Long won his first two points in varsity competition against the Lions and Fowler won his first varsity point.

The boys had another tough day three days after falling to South Lyon, when they lost to

ON TAP

Northville will be back on the lanes Jan. 7 against Novi.

Walled Lake Central. Leading the team that day was Fowler, who shot a 233, and Gleichman, who had a 218 high game. Fowler averaged 213

over the day. The boys team fell to 0-2 on the season.

Girls bowling

The girls team was led by Ashley Schiffer in the match against South Lyon as she threw games of 187 and 176 in the losing effort.

We are still working on spare shooting as one of our need-to-improve areas," Harris said. "We'll be working at it when we get back to practice.

Spares. Spares. Spares." The Mustangs also took a loss against Walled Lake Central and in that match Schiffer led her team with a high game of 168, followed closely by Rachel Kemp, who bowled a 163

The team fell to 0-2 with the two losses.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer covering sports for the Northville Record and Novi News.

Novi native Kristock honored with NCAA national award

Oakland University defender Nick Kristock, a graduate of Novi High School, has been selected as the 2013 Senior CLASS Award winner in NCAA Division I men's soccer.

The award, chosen by a nationwide vote of Division I men's soccer coaches, national soccer media and fans, is given annually to the most outstanding senior studentathlete in Division I men's soccer. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence - classroom, community, character and competition.

An acronym for Celebrat-

for Staying in School, the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

'First, I would like to say thank you to the Senior CLASS Award committee for selecting me to represent this award from among the many other extremely deserving candidates," Kristock said. "Next, I want to say thank you to all of the Oakland University family, as well as many other amazing groups I have been connected with that helped me throughout the voting. Their support was relentless, and I could never thank them adequately.

express how grateful I am for the many people close to me that helped me during my entire soccer career," Kristock added.

A human resources major who graduated last spring and is currently working on his masters in business administration, Kristock was named the Oakland University Student Leader of the Year and was the recipient of the Human Relations Award, exemplifying superior academic and co-curricular achievement by a graduating senior. He is the president and founder of the nonprofit organization Gigs for Good.

Kristock was named to the all-Horizon League team following a season in which the



Northville's Andrew Stevens tries to make a move around Walled Lake Central's Justin Nafso. JOHN HEIDER

fourth at CCCAM invite

Cheerleaders finish

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

It was a day of stiff competition that showed both Northville's impressive strides since the first days of tryouts as well as the flaws where there is still work to be done.

But that's the beauty of the first meet of the season.

The Mustangs competitive cheer team, coached by Mindy Gentz, scored 575.56 points in the Division I competition of the CCCAM Scholarship Invitational, which was held last weekend at Trenton High School. The score gave the Mustangs a fourth-place finish as Stevenson, Novi and Plymouth took first, second and third, respectively.

"This was our first meet of the season and the team accomplished the goals they set for each round," Gentz said. "As a young, inexperienced team, the girls exceeded all expectations."

The Mustangs had an exceptional first round, finishing with 211 points, which was the second-best score of any Division I school and put the team right behind Stevenson in the standings. Unfortunately, that position wouldn't hold as the team slipped to fourth place after round two, with a score of 155.96 points, and fell behind Novi and Plymouth.

"We have a lot of work to do in round two in order to increase the difficulty level of the skills we are performing in the tumbling category," Gentz said. "With a young group, we are using a different strategy than what we have used in the past when selecting our round two skills in order to get the best possible performance from our athletes and ultimately the highest scores from each skill.'

The team's third round, which Gentz said is a "work in progress," earned a score of 208.6.

"We competed today with only about a quarter of the

ON TAP

Northville will be back in action Jan. 8 at Salem.

round complete," Gentz said. "What we were able to perform scored very well. The team earned execution bonus points for their outstanding performance. Once the round is completed, it will ultimately score 100 points higher than it did today.

Gentz said the team, overall, is happy with the performance, though she said the coaches will still be working on several aspects for upcoming competi-

Helping keep the team fo-cused and heading in the right direction are captains Suzie Gutowski (senior), Ashten Tucker (senior), Alyssa Corn (junior) and Shayla Croteau (junior).

'We only have six girls with experience competing at the varsity level," Gentz said. "The four captains, along with Anna Mayer (sophomore) and Tricia Cox (sophomore), are all stepping up to provide leadership to the new girls and serve as the core of our team in all three rounds.'

Earning special honors at the CCCAM meet were Tucker and sophomore Jenna Garbacik.

"Tucker turned in rock-solid performances in all three rounds, stepped up through a new tumbling skill in round three and took the lead on helping a teammate," Gentz said. "Garbacik did an outstanding job for her first time competing as a varsity athlete. She overcame several mental blocks, fixed errors she had been making in practice and stayed mentally tough when we had a small error in round two, avoiding a penalty situation for the round."

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer covering sports for the Northville Record and Novi News.

ROUGH STAR

Boys hoops team drops two games to start season

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

The opening game of any season is always potentially a tough one and that was the case for the Northville boys basketball team last week. Unfortunately, that tough start extended into the second game of the season as well.

In the season opener Dec. 10, the Mustangs took a 52-46 loss against Hartland. Three days later, they suffered a 61-56 loss against Walled Lake Central.

Opening games are a test for everyone," Northville coach Todd Sander said. "It is hard to know what to expect."

In a game that saw six lead changes and was tied three times, Northville appeared to be a pretty even match with the Eagles. The Mustangs led 5-4 after the first quarter and carried a 21-17 lead into the locker room.

The Eagles made some adjustments, however, and scored 13 points in the third quarter while Northville scored 14 to make it 35-30.

In the fourth quarter, Northville couldn't seem to catch a break and, with four minutes remaining, the Mustangs' Andrew Meacham fouled out.

Meacham, who led the team in scoring with 22, had a team-high five rebounds at that point and his departure was felt as the Eagles put up 22 points in the fourth and held the Mustangs to just 11 to come from behind and take the win.

"Our guys fought through a lot of difficult circumstances and we certainly learned a lot," Sander said. "This was a great learning experience for us.'

Northville's Malik Bazzi had seven points in the losing effort.

Against Walled Lake Central, the Mustangs looked as though they were going to be the come-from-behind victors. When they went into the half, Northville trailed by 10 points, 29-19, but they came out with a fervor in the third quarter and outscored the Vikings, 20-8, to lead by two at the end of the quarter.

The fourth quarter found the two teams trading leads several times, setting up a scenario that felt as though the game could have come down to the absolute final seconds

Walled Lake Central took a 57--56 lead with just 46 seconds left on two free throws. Those two shots would lead to Northville's undoing as the team was forced to foul following a bad pass that went in the Vikings' favor. The Mus-



Walled Lake Central's Justin Nafson is surrounded by a trio of Mustangs, including Nathan Kellum (left). John Heider | Staff Photographer

ON TAP

Northville will be back in action at 7 p.m. today at Churchill. The team will then play next weekend in the Northville Holiday Tournament.

tangs fouled on the final two possessions, leading to four points for Walled Lake Central and the 61-56 win.

Bazzi led all scorers with 28 points, even hitting two 3-pointers on the night.

'Malik was outstanding tonight," Sander said. "He kept us in the game early and kept it rolling throughout the rest of the game. That is a great sign for our team."

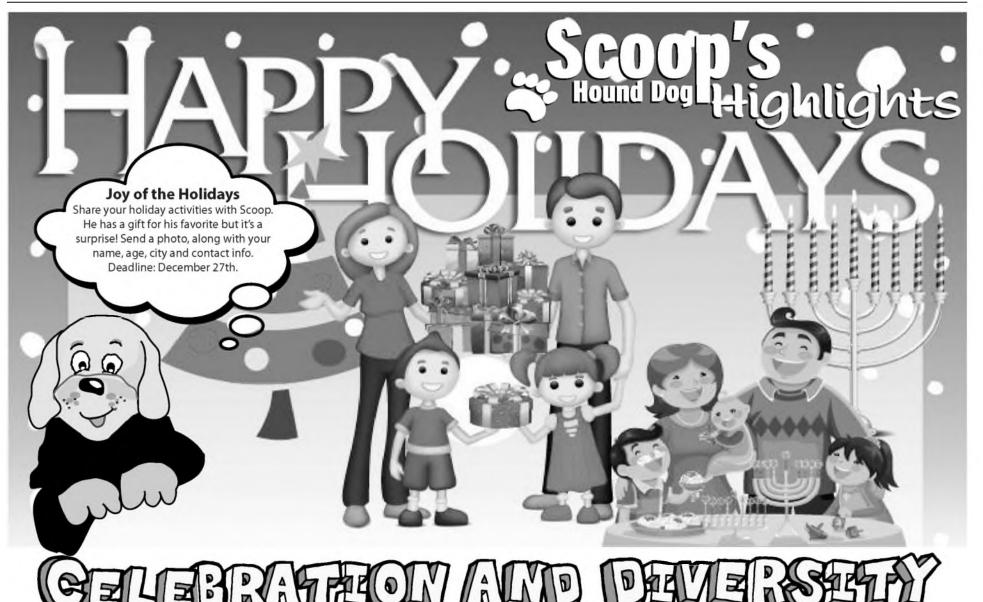
Meacham added 18 points and Joey Hewlett added nine.

The Mustangs hope to not be in a similar situation anytime soon, but Sander said he was happy with the way his team came out in the third quarter.

"I'm really proud of the way we responded in the second half," he said. "We had to adjust to a different style of play and our guys reacted appropriately. We can really build on the effort tonight."

Northville is now 0-2 on the season.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer covering sports for the Northville Record and Novi News.





Name:	
Address:	
City:	Zip:
Date of Birth:	14
Boy or Girl:	
Email:	
Phone:	
*Parent's Printeo	Name:
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* Required for Birthday Club

There are many celebrations in the month of December.

Hanukkah known as the Festival of Lights and Feast of Dedication, is an eight-day Jewish holiday celebrate.

Winter Solstice marks the first day of winter and is the shortest day of the year.



NO ONE IS QUITE SURE WHERE THE TRADITION OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE BEGAN. IT IS THOUGHT TO HAVE **BEGUN IN NORTHERN** EUROPE.

Christmas is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus.

Kwanzaa is a non-religious holiday that celebrates African-American heritage.

New Year's Eve is the last day of the year filled with celebration.

Create a GIFT: 3D Hand Imprint





WISHES

Carly	Greifenbergs	Farmington Hills	12/19
Kamar	Taylor	inkster	12/19
Antonio	Biggs	Livonia	12/22
Michael	Brooks	Detroit	12/25
Damien	Dailide	Canton	12/27

SHARE YOUR TALEN

Do you write, draw, make crafts, take photographs, or do something else that you would like others to know about?



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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

NAMWONE SAUWANA





Preston Bognear, 3 years old of Wayne

To keep himself active, Preston hunts for bugs. He received a \$20 Gift Card to Community Bowling Center to share with his family.

Here is cool craft that you could give as a gift. Just trace your hand. Add some curves. Use markers to color it. Place it in a picture frame. A one of a kind piece of art.

November's **Sea Making an Onigiri**

by Sabriana D'Water 6th Grader at Adams Upper Elementary Schoo

An onigiri is an easy-to-make riceball. This is a recipe to craft the Japanese dish.

Ingredients:

A nice amount of rice

As much filling as you want (tuna is a good filling)

Seaweed (you can try lettuce if you want)



Cook the rice. Let it sit until the rice feels sticky. Grab a hand full of rice. Sharp it into a triangular-type shape. This is the base of your riceball! Put a dent in the middle of the rice. Put filling in the dent. After this, take a small amount of rice and completely hide the filling. Reshape it into a rounded triangle shape. Finally, put seaweed on the bottom of the riceball. This

Sabriana D'Wate is to hold it without having to touch the rice.

Enjoy your onigiri!



Winning submissions will be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.



B5 (NR)

B5 (NR) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

JULIE BROWN, EDITOR JCBROWN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-6755

FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Realtor group chief urges change in mortgage market

As lawmakers debate how best to reform the secondary mortgage finance market, they must ensure that any new system retains access to safe, secure and affordable sources of mortgage capital for creditworthy consumers in all market conditions or risk a major disruption to the economy, warned the National Association of Realtors recently in testimony before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

On behalf of the leading advocate for homeownership and housing issues, NAR President Gary Thomas recommended essential reforms to the current housing finance structure that will benefit consumers.

"Realtors support a stable secondary mortgage market with strong, reasonable lending standards and access to

credit. We believe that the current system can be transitioned into a marketplace that is bound by an explicit government guarantee and a sustained flow of private capital while protecting taxpayers from unnecessary risk," said Thomas, broker-owner of Evergreen Realty, in Villa Park, Calif. "We fear that without the government's backing, the only mortgage products available in the secondary market for the average homebuyer would not be aligned with their best interests."

NAR supports the bipartisan "Housing Finance Reform and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2013," which provides for an explicit government guarantee and includes many of the elements outlined in the association's principles for secondary mortgage finance reform that NAR presented to the administration in early 2011.

During his testimony, Thomas expressed concern about emerging barriers to homeownership facing middle class and first-time buyers that could potentially derail the housing recovery. "Apprehensive bankers are leery about issuing new loans as a result of proposed risk retention rules and ability-to-repay requirements that are set to go into effect next year. At the same time, rising interest rates and growing student loan debt is limiting consumers' access to credit and contributing to an already tight lending environment.

Realtors urged policymakers to prioritize strong underwriting standards over high down payment requirements that would put homeownership out of reach for otherwise creditworthy buyers.

Rather than adopt a complex Qualified Residential Mortgage rule, NAR believes the agencies should follow the strong standards set by the **Consumer Financial Protec**tion Bureau for the related Qualified Mortgage Rule.

Thomas warned against other proposals that would restrict lending, such as lowering loan limits and putting private capital in a 10 percent first-loss position, which could inhibit private investors from participating in the secondary mortgage market, especially during periods of economic distress.

"Our goal is to help Congress, and our industry, design a secondary mortgage market model that will serve America's best interests today and into the future. and ensure a strong housing market and economic recovery," said Thomas



NAR President Gary Thomas appears before the U.S. Senate committee.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 12-16, 2013, at the Oakland

7268 Glengrove Dr 2393 Heronwood Dr 1167 Hill Line Trl

\$275,000 33634 Heritage Hills Dr \$860,000 35124 Knollwood Ln \$575,000 28707 Lake Park Dr

24408 Cavendish Ave E \$261,000 \$178.000 28385 Declaration Rd \$210,000 21894 Dunnabeck Ct

\$451,000

\$87,000

\$330,000

\$200,000

\$198,000

\$269,000

\$285,000

\$576,000

\$225,000

\$290,000

\$251,000

\$277,000

\$283,000

\$241,000

\$96,000

\$273,000

\$190,000

\$70,000

\$345,000

\$331,000

\$396,000

\$269,000

\$285,000

\$40,000

\$138,000

\$37,000

\$60,000

\$142,000

\$100,000

\$190,000

\$83,000

\$140,000

\$338,000

\$190,000

\$46,000

\$200,000

\$2,000



Keep up-to-date on flood legislation

Q: Could you give me some basic information about the Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW Act)?

A: The BW Act requires that most properties insured through the National Flood Insurance Program be charged rates reflecting the full risk of flood loss. The premium increases apply immediately to flood insurance policies covering businesses and when residential properties are sold or a lapsed policy is renewed. Additionally, the BW Act requires that flood insurance rate maps be updated on an expedited schedule. Apparently, due to BW Act reforms, many homeowners are facing significant increases in their flood insurance premiums. It may be that these increases are so substantial that owners can no longer afford to maintain flood insurance coverage. Obviously, this is a substantial problem for homeowners in areas where flood insurance coverage is required by federal law for mortgaged properties. To help Congress better understand the impact of BW Act reforms, the law required that FEMA determined how flood insurance rate hikes would affect homeowners living in areas where flood insurance coverage is mandatory. The BW Act additionally required that FEMA study how substantial increases in flood insurance premiums would affect overall participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. There is new legislation that has been submitted in an effort to set aside substantial flood insurance rate hikes, but you are best advised to consult with your local congressperson or senator as to how it may impact on you.

Robert M. Melsner is a lawyer and the author of " Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling, and Operating a Condominium " It is available for \$24.95 plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling. " Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes. Amazon.com. and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of " Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staving on the Right Track," second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2.20 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

County Register of Deeds office.
Listed below are cities, addresses,
and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

16905 Buckingham Ave 20250 Corvell Dr 17010 Dunblaine Ave 20024 Ronsdale Dr 31146 Sunset Ct **BINGHAM FARMS** 30215 Oakview Way 23615 Overlook Cir BIRMINGHAM 1494 E Melton Rd 809 Henrietta St 680 Landon St 975 Mohegan St 928 N Adams Rd Unit 1 508 Oakland Ave 455 Smith Ave 1674 Webster St **BLOOMFIELD HILLS** 1050 Frankel Ln 4366 Risdon Ct 2536 Robindale Ln 3017 Anthony Ln 486 Dunston Ct 2049 E Hammond Lake Dr 494 Fox Hills Dr N # 7 3922 Mount Vernon Dr 3104 Quarton Rd 684 Rudgate Rd **BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP** 2536 Alveston Dr 1526 Ardmoor Dr 3721 Darlington Rd S 5965 Darramoor Rd

1671 Hoit Tower Dr 2696 Kentmoor Rd 566 Lahser Rd 545 Newburne Pointe 4572 Ranch Ln 2854 Rossmoor Cir \$158,000 \$285,000 4506 Walden Dr \$245,000 5356 Woodlands Estates \$338,000 Dr S \$343,000 5138 Woodlands Ln 42536 Woodward Ave \$290,000 **COMMERCE TOWNSHIP** \$259,000 4235 Bluebird Dr 2287 Calibouge \$212,000 3364 Circle Dr \$415,000 1446 Commerce Shrs \$425,000 710 Devon Ct \$778,000 8339 Dickert St \$86,000 2931 Gabriel Dr 2041 Golfcrest Dr \$319,000 \$273,000 3100 Greenlawn Ave 2760 Orenda St \$205,000 FARMINGTON \$243,000 36648 Heatherton Dr \$538,000 34515 Oakland St \$190,000 35988 Smithfield Rd \$725,000 **FARMINGTON HILLS** \$605,000 23443 Barfield St \$30,000 28840 Bella Vista Dr 31805 Bond Blvd \$61,000 38400 Chessington \$230,000 21933 Crescent Ct \$1,040,000 21945 Crescent Ct \$950,000 28953 E King William Dr 21663 Flanders St 30379 Fox Club Dr \$222,000 \$331,000 22975 Fox Crk \$430,000 35523 Fredericksburg Rd \$240,000 37394 Glengrove Dr \$179,000 37618 Glengrove Dr

\$333,000 29333 Medburn Ct \$380,000 30973 Oak Valley Ct \$275,000 29521 Pine Ridge Cir 26766 Plumgrove Ln \$459,000 \$875,000 25300 Ridgewood Dr \$205,000 29537 S Meadowridge \$455.000 30445 Springland St \$1,325,000 31094 Sudbury St 33195 Tulipwood Rd \$350,000 32900 W 10 Mile Rd \$82,000 28841 W King William Dr FRANKLIN \$515,000 31074 Oakleaf Ln \$254,000 32455 Susanne Dr \$70,000 LATHRUP VILLAGE \$179,000 18160 Cambridge Blvd \$340,000 18100 Coral Gables Ave \$300,000 18225 Coral Gables Ave \$130,000 MILFORD \$375,000 3105 Central Blvd \$150,000 237 Dorchester Ct \$155,000 440 Hickory Ridge Ct 696 Oak View Ln \$240,000 619 Olivia Dr \$243,000 1134 Riverstone Cir \$219,000 629 Summit Ridge Dr 1148 Tennyson Dr \$127,000 NORTHVILLE \$140,000 332 Debra Ln \$178,000 21274 Eastfarm Ln \$138,000 52311 Ferndale Dr \$230,000 43764 Galway Dr \$221,000 21605 Parkwood Ln \$340,000 1100 Washington Cir 21153 Woodfarm Dr \$160,000 \$325,000 NOVI \$218,000 30780 Ardmore Ct \$270,000 27524 Belgrave Pl \$280,000 22633 Bertram Dr \$290,000 22824 Braydon Ct

44659 Ellery Ln \$200,000 \$262,000 44661 Ellery Ln \$130,000 42709 Faulkner Dr \$168,000 24709 Jamestowne Rd \$383,000 50502 Langley Dr \$175,000 27065 Maxwell Ct \$250,000 27089 Maxwell Ct \$279,000 51218 Mavfair Ter \$172,000 22264 Meridian Ln \$285,000 42675 Sandstone Dr \$330,000 47194 Scarlet Dr S 23739 Stonehenge Blvd \$624,000 42545 Wimbleton Way \$444,000 SOUTH LYON 61343 Dean Dr \$111.000 61210 Greenwood Dr \$120,000 51980 Red Cedar \$220,000 52107 Red Cedar 23288 Shinnecock Dr \$69,000 52258 Trailwood Dr \$280,000 873 Westhills Dr \$63,000 941 Wood Run \$238,000 SOUTHFIELD \$405,000 21826 Eight 1/2 Mile Rd \$288,000 30230 Canterbury Dr \$165,000 19661 Filmore St \$380,000 20270 Mada Ave 27655 Pierce St \$266,000 30039 Pleasant Trl \$225,000 23902 Plumbrooke Dr \$50,000 15564 Shelley St \$250,000 WHITE LAKE \$298,000 9381 Beechcrest St \$130,000 8080 High Point Trl \$205,000 9375 Mandon Rd 44 Myrick St \$150,000 8884 Sussex St \$307,000 \$380,000 \$375,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 3-6, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

122 Eileen Dr

42674 Beechwood Dr 44160 Brandywyne Rd 3810 Brighton Ln 4245 Brookstone Dr 147 Cherry Hill Pointe Dr 8747 Columbia Cir 50753 Federal Blvd 45658 Fountain View Dr 43578 Fredericksburg St 50213 Jefferson St 4164 Kristine Ct 49016 Manhattan Cir 45475 Muirfield Dr 45499 Muirfield Dr 4729 Pond Run 1534 Rand Rd 49074 Rockefeller Dr

1700 S Sheldon Rd 45166 Saltz Rd 44195 Sheridan St 717 Stonehenge Dr 4275 Strathmore Ln 7270 Wadebridge Dr 42023 Woodbridge Dr 46495 Woodside Dr \$178,000 **GARDEN CITY** \$189,000 32176 Dover St 30003 Maplewood St \$209,000 \$220,000 LIVONIA \$157,000 9654 Arcola St \$212,000 15405 Brookfield St \$77,000 37170 Curtis Rd \$418,000 38958 Donald St \$139,000 39295 Donald St \$260,000 9951 E Clements Cir \$206,000 9290 Florida St \$325,000 34315 Haldane Dr \$330,000 9040 Hanlon St \$325,000 14109 Harrison St \$245,000 14055 Hix St \$225,000 11027 Ingram St \$368,000 14148 Ingram St

\$58,000 35450 Joy Rd \$130,000 32611 Lyndon St \$240,000 19269 Norwich Rd \$222,000 9627 Shadyside St \$185,000 34257 Wadsworth St \$425,000 16410 Wayne Rd \$155,000 18526 Westbrook Dr \$365,000 28912 Westfield St 30025 Westfield St \$73,000 NORTHVILLE \$112,000 46528 Seven Mile Rd 19409 Althea Ct \$144,000 20180 E Whipple Dr \$150,000 42287 Ludlow Ct \$365,000 39551 Muirfield Ln \$156,000 41296 Rayburn Dr \$152,000 16481 White Haven Dr \$85,000 **PLYMOUTH** \$140,000 1020 Cherry \$310,000 11798 Deer Creek Run \$95,000 41461 E Ann Arbor Trl \$125,000 41339 lvywood Ln \$148,000 14169 Meadow Hill Ln \$150,000 730 Penniman Ave \$150,000 42955 River Bend Dr

\$260,000	41770 Schoolcraft Rd	\$185,000
\$190,000	REDFORD	
\$257,000	25301 Five Mile Rd	\$15,000
\$125,000	9217 Columbia	\$62,000
\$75,000	8900 Dixie	\$56,000
\$253,000	20531 Lennane	\$45,000
\$172,000	9952 Nathaline	\$33,000
\$155,000	9651 Seminole	\$57,000
\$140,000	9159 Tecumseh	\$79,000
	10132 Tecumseh	\$66,000
\$313,000	WAYNE	
\$129,000	33751 Forest St	\$59,000
\$330,000	WESTLAND	
\$21 8, 000	37543 Colonial Dr	\$66,000
\$315,000	6785 Moccasin St	\$109,000
\$325,000	1650 N Berry St	\$97,000
\$270,000	34424 Parkgrove Dr	\$195,000
	7860 Rivergate Dr	\$80,000
\$350,000	8639 Shari Dr	\$95,000
\$402,000	6391 W Morgan Cir	\$103,000
\$8 5,000	33630 Warren Rd	\$88, 000
\$189, 000	7380 Woodview St # 1	\$37,000
\$138, 000		
\$260,000		
\$215,000		

BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures. Organizers will discuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m Thursdays at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Additional parking across the street in back. Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information

Seminar on Tuesdays, **Thursdays**

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 2 p.m., held at various locations. **RSVP** with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.