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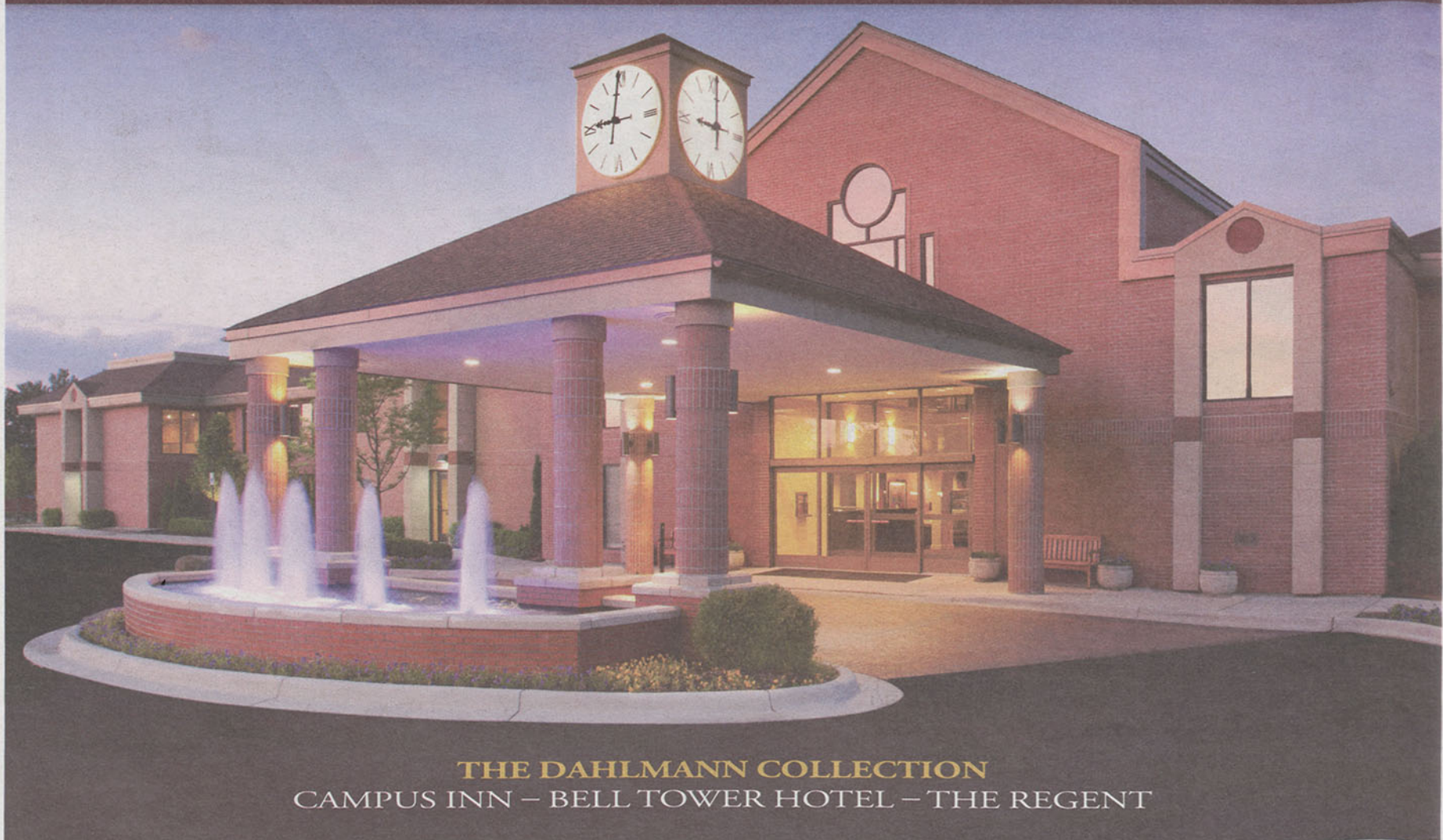
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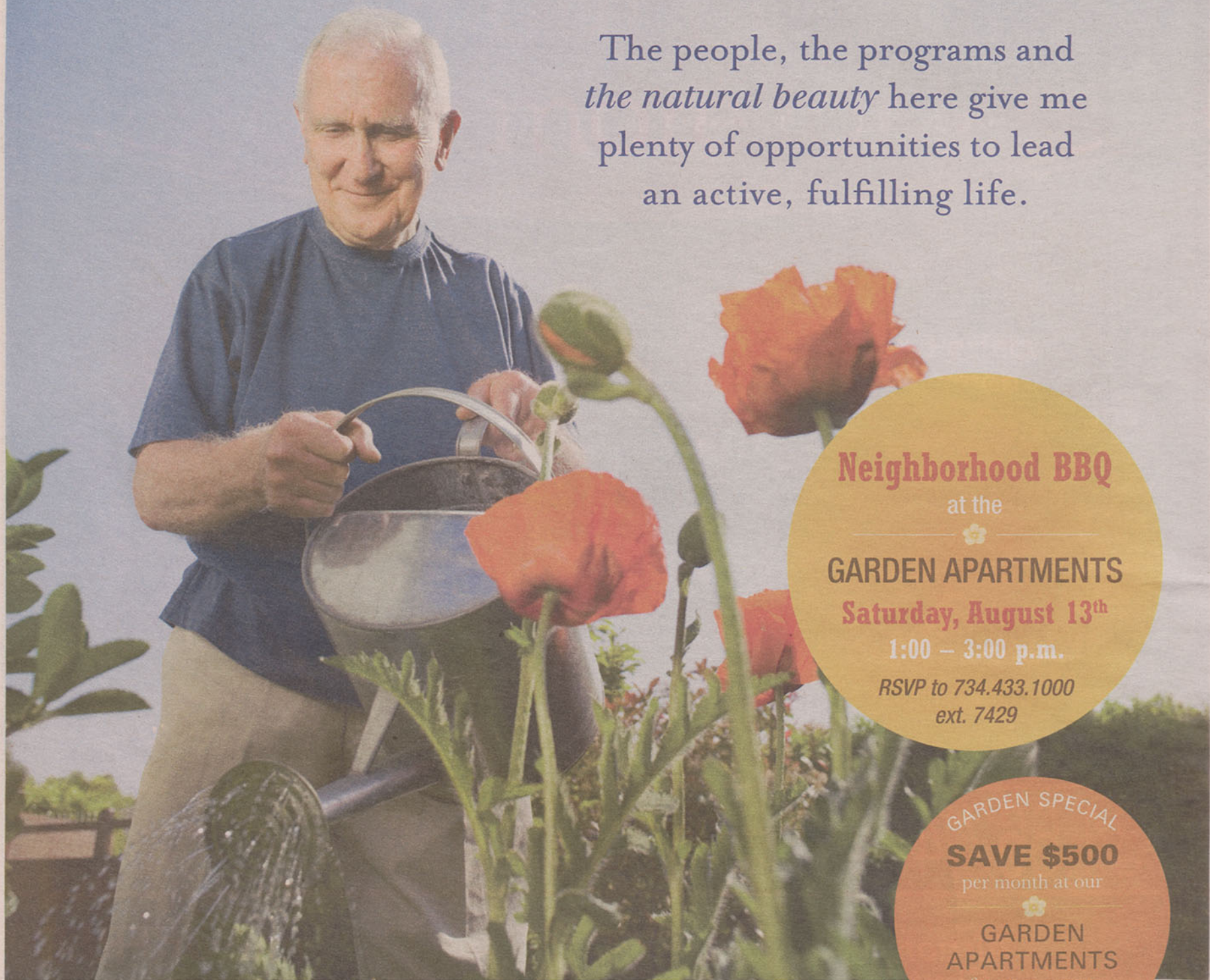
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Musical Pipes: “It’s just like a high-mileage car,” Scott Smith says of the Michigan Theater’s Barton organ. “It runs well but it needs constant attention.” At nearly eighty-four years old, the organ is played five times a week, fifty-two weeks a year, probably more than any other such instrument in Ann Arbor. Smith and his assistant, Joe Granger, of Scott Smith Pipe Organs in Lansing, are the ones who keep it running.

Fortunately, “it’s very easy to fix,” says Henry Aldridge, who has overseen all things related to the organ since 1970. “It has electrical wires, magnets, leather pouches, metal and wood pipes, an electric blower, and a wood console. For most of the basic things that go wrong, all you need is leather, glue, screws, electrical wire, and a soldering iron.”

Smith is passionate about “using the same types of materials that were used back in the day,” like leathers that are tanned specifically to function in organs. He scours garage sales for slotted screws, tries to find original replacement parts, and prefers hot hide glue because “it comes off more easily when you have to replace it. We don’t want the next guy cursing us out.”

That’s unlikely, at least as long as the current regime endures. “It hasn’t been modernized or fiddled with, on purpose,” says Aldridge. “It could be computerized. We could take everything out and stick a laptop in it. But it’s worked beautifully for more than eighty years. Why mess with that?” Besides, he says, a computer “would need new software in five years, anyway.”

Super Shelter: For the third time in four years, TheRide is changing its bus stop at Arborland. For many years, both Ann Arbor—and Ypsi-bound buses stopped in the shopping center’s parking lot—until they were evicted by the its owners in 2008. The inbound stop moved out onto the north side of Washtenaw, where it remains. The outbound stop moved to a

temporary location on Pittsfield Boulevard. When that proved a headache for the neighbors, it too moved onto Washtenaw, on the south side—but that created problems, as in- and outbound riders crossed mid-block to make transfers.

Construction starts this month on Plan C: a “Super Shelter” to be built on a strip of city-owned land directly in front of the Dollar Tree parking lot. Though only about 100 feet from the current stop on Washtenaw, it will allow easier connections and transfers, while also alleviating congestion at the Pittsfield stoplight.

Super Shelter is “a term we have been playing with,” says TheRide’s CEO, Michael Ford. But riders shouldn’t get their hopes up too high: it will basically be a bench inside a dark-tinted Plexiglas enclosure with a barrel roof—longer but otherwise very similar to other bus shelters throughout the city. Still, the off-street location will be safer and more convenient, and riders can cross Washtenaw at the less-used crosswalk at Yost. The Washtenaw route is among TheRide’s more popular; Route 4 buses are often overcrowded, carrying more than 2,300 passengers daily.

Theater Uprooted: Shortly after the New Theatre Project spent \$3,500 to remodel a space on Felch Street, the City of Ann Arbor discovered their performances were occurring in a building zoned as “light industrial” and sent TNTTP packing. This came as a shock to artistic director Keith Paul Medelis, who’d been putting on shows in Pot & Box in the same building for a year before creating a dedicated performance space. TNTTP could have applied for a zoning exception, but the city wanted \$1,000 just to evaluate its petition, and the group was out of money.

Putting his July production, *Posing*, on hold, Medelis resumed his search for a theater. TNTTP had previously done a series of play readings at Mix, an Ypsilanti store whose owners had been pushing clothes racks aside to accommodate evening readings, opera recitals, book signings, and other community events. And word came the store was expanding its space on Michigan Avenue at Washington to include Mix Studio Theatre.

In short order, TNTTP became the resident theater at Mix, and Medelis signed on to book other groups, too. In January 2012, ThreeFold Productions opens there, headed by Sarah Lucas, who directed last season’s stunning production of *Equus* at the Blackbird Theatre in Ann Arbor. In July, ThreeFold members painted and renovated the Mix space while Medelis rehearsed *Posing* (see Events, August 2). This time, the show really should go on: Mix’s zoning permits arts presentations.

Doggie Dream: Four years ago, Ralph Pasola bought a standard schnauzer puppy from Ackley Kennels in Northfield Township. He named him Petey. Petey goes everywhere with Ralph—he even follows him into the bathroom in the morning. Ralph calls Petey “my son.” He says, “We are very close.” When Pasola smiles, Petey’s teeny schnauzer tail wags.

Petey was lucky. In 2009, the Humane Society of Huron Valley rescued thirty-three dogs from Ackley Kennels. An HSHV investigator told the *Ann Arbor News* that the kennels were filled with waste and the dogs’ coats were “matted with their own feces.” One of the rescued dogs, a schnauzer, was later adopted by Stephanie Teasley, who lives on Linwood. She calls him Merlin.

Recently, Teasley and Merlin, out for a stroll in their neighborhood, met Petey, who was playing outside his home on Mark Hannah Place. The dogs began to play. And not just play, Pasola says; they seemed to connect as if they’d known each other forever.

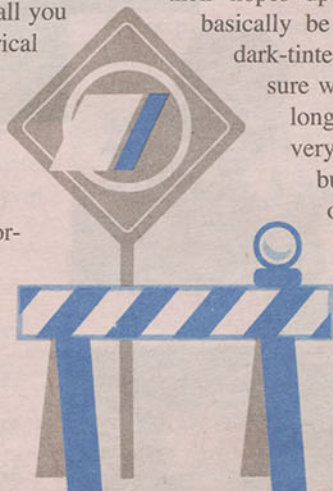
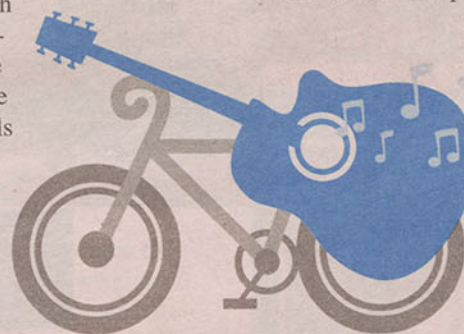
Merlin, it turns out, had been a “stud dog” at Ackley Kennels—and Pasola suspects that Petey is his son.



Two-Wheeled Tour: The Steel Wheels will be rolling out of Ann Arbor, quite literally, following their tour-opening concert at the Ark on August 4 (see Nightspots, p. 44). Members of the four-piece Americana string band are gearing up for their third annual bicycle tour. Two members have previously ridden a 300-mile tour through Virginia and a 500-mile tour through Michigan, but their jaunt through Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana is their first with all four members, and their first pulling an upright bass.

Lead singer Trent Wagler came up with the idea as a challenge to limit the band’s carbon footprint; he and mandolin player Jay Lapp made the first two bike trips as a duo. Lapp, an Ann Arbor resident, says highlights of the previous tours included riding over Afton Mountain in Virginia and the random kindnesses they received from strangers. The rest of the band hails from Harrisonburg, Virginia, and will be driving to Ann Arbor with instruments and bicycles to start the tour.

What will the ten-day, 550-mile ride from here to Goshen, Indiana, be like? Says Lapp: “Four guys with bicycles, instruments, and burning thighs.”



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Good News for Drivers

The AAPD is writing fewer parking and traffic tickets.

After averaging \$5.7 million a year for a decade, Ann Arbor's ticket revenue dropped by a third between 2008 and 2010. Parking ticket payments fell from \$2.5 million to \$1.9 million over the three-year period. Traffic ticket collections dropped even further, from \$3.1 million to \$1.9 million.

"There are two main reasons why parking ticket numbers fell," says AAPD Chief Barnett Jones. "First, we had some vacancies in community standards—the folks who do code and parking enforcement—and we ran with two or three instead of four people on [duty]. And at the same time, the city went with new, technologically advanced parking meters that made it easier for people to stay up to date on their parking."

Police chief Barnett Jones says the main reason traffic tickets are down is that his force has shrunk by a third in the last decade: "Less officers mean less tickets."

Tom Crawford, the city's chief financial officer and acting administrator, says the explanation for the decline in traffic tickets is a little more complicated. "The state has raised the speed limits on the major arteries into town. For example, it used to be thirty-five [mph] on Washtenaw, and it's forty-five now, and higher speed limits mean less speeding violations. Also we have anecdotal evidence that, like with parking tickets, there's more compliance from drivers, too."

Jones agrees compliance is a factor, but says the main reason traffic tickets are down is that his force has shrunk by a third over the past decade: "Less officers mean less tickets." According to the chief, traffic enforcers also are showing more mercy these days.

"The officers have discretion on when to write or not write tickets," says Jones. "Our officers are aware of the economic conditions, and these days we're doing more education than enforcing. I'm not telling my people to write more tickets, there's no pressure from the city to write more, and I don't see that changing."

"I don't see Michigan's economy getting better in the next two or three years, maybe five or six years," the chief says. "And we're not here to build revenues for the city on the backs of people in this economy!"



MARK BIALEK

City parking ticket revenue fell from \$2.5 million to \$1.9 million over the past three years—mainly because fewer parking enforcement officers like Jim Casabianca were on the streets.

Mr. Irwin Goes to Lansing

A lament and a prediction from Ann Arbor's state rep

Jeff Irwin was heading to an AATA event in June when a journalist stopped him on State Street. Asked how it felt to be out of Lansing for the day, the freshman Democrat replied, "Great! Because it means we're not in session so we can't do anything else stupid—like the emergency financial manager bill we just passed."

In a subsequent phone call, Irwin explained his beef with the bill. "The argument was that we should have objective triggers to govern when an emergency manager would be appointed. It was a good idea, because an emergency manager should be used only in extreme circumstances, and we should have objective triggers in place to say when."

"Instead we made it easier for the state to take over local governments and get rid of officials," continued the former county commissioner. "Because along with the objective triggers, we added a totally



COURTESY JEFF IRWIN

Irwin condemns the Republican-dominated legislature for "changing the tax structure so the old and the poor pay more and businesses pay less."

subjective trigger: the state treasurer—and that really means the governor—can appoint an emergency manager whenever he deems it appropriate.

"But of all the bad public policy we've passed this year, that's not the worst," Irwin continued. "The worst was the budget: cutting education funding and changing the tax structure so the old and the poor pay more and businesses pay less."

The GOP budget's biggest winners, Irwin said, will be "people who own

LLC and S corps, because their tax liabilities will be zero." Its biggest losers will be "schoolchildren and the people who teach them. The focus is on school kids and teachers. Because of political activities of the teachers' union, Republicans are taking it out on the entire educational system!"

Now that the GOP has pushed through its economic changes, Irwin says, "In the second half of the season, I predict they'll switch to a social agenda."

And Irwin believes we've seen only half of the Republicans' reinvention of Michigan. "In the first half of the season, they focused on ultra-conservative economic issues. In the second half of the season, I predict they'll switch to a social agenda: the environment, a woman's right to choose, domestic partner benefits, and stem cell research to start with."

Irwin wouldn't predict whether Republicans would succeed with their social agenda as they've succeeded with their

economic agenda. But he did predict that "the conservatives are going to lose, not in decades but in years."

"Fear is a weapon for short-term success," Irwin concluded. "Conservatives leverage people's fear, but over successive generations, hatred grows weaker and weaker. People today aren't being brought up to hate blacks, and the same thing is going to happen with sexuality. Maybe I'm naive, but I believe love wins."

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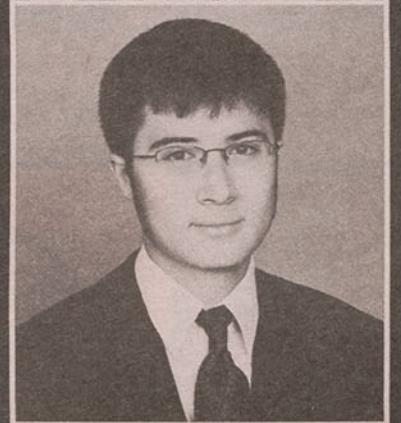


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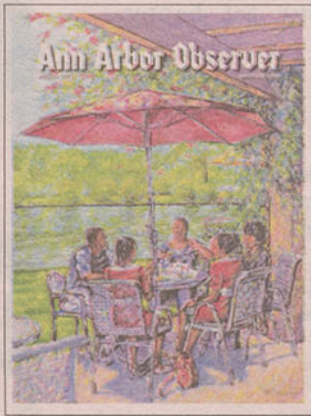
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Inside Ann Arbor

Downstream

The Battle of Argo Pond heads toward a tranquil resolution.

Unusually high water levels kept paddlers off sections of the Huron River this spring. But regardless of rainfall, canoeists can look forward to an easier river trip next spring. By then, the city should have completed its reconstruction of the Argo Dam headrace and embankment. Rather than hoisting canoes on their shoulders for the portage down a flight of concrete steps, paddlers will be able to stay seated as they leave Argo Pond and navigate a series of eight gentle drops and pools that brings them back to the river downstream of the dam.

Impetus for the project was not compassion for overburdened paddlers; it came in the form of an order from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. MDEQ inspections dating back to 2001 cited problems with Argo's headrace, the long, straight channel that once carried water from the dam to a Detroit Edison powerhouse on Broadway. The reports ignited a years-long public debate about the future of Argo Dam: whether to repair the headrace, which the state believed was in danger of catastrophic failure, or to remove the dam altogether.

Molly Wade, the city's water treatment services manager, hopes to have the MDEQ permit necessary to begin work before the end of August.

Environmentalists, led by the Huron River Watershed Council, wanted the dam removed. Rowers and other groups wanted it to stay. Finally, last October, the city's Park Advisory Commission (PAC) voted to allocate \$1,168,170 for changes in the headrace and embankment and the addition of recreational features. The plan accomplishes two things: it remedies the structural problems cited by the MDEQ and, because the dam stays put, makes life easier for paddlers.

Molly Wade, the city's water treatment services manager, hopes to have the MDEQ permit necessary to begin work before the end of August, and city workers are clearing vegetation on the embankment in anticipation of the earth moving to come. Wade estimates the project will take six months to complete. In July, the headrace was a muddy expanse dotted by a few small pools.

But Cheryl Saam, facility supervisor of the city's canoe liveries at Argo and Gallup parks, was already excited about the changes. "It will make the river much more accessible to everyone," she predicts. Not only will paddlers be able to stay in their boats while going around Argo, but there also will be a couple of "whitewater features" built into the



COURTESY CITY OF ANN ARBOR

Rather than hoisting canoes on their shoulders for the portage down a flight of concrete steps, paddlers will navigate a series of pools that brings them back to the river downstream of the dam.

river—chutes that create the kind of waves that play boaters enjoy. One, placed where all boats will pass it after rejoining the river, will create mild waves appropriate for novice paddlers. The other one is optional, and will create somewhat larger waves. To reach it, paddlers must head back upriver as they leave the headrace.

Cyclists and joggers will appreciate another aspect of the project: it includes a ten-foot-wide paved path between the river and headrace. The path will offer easier transit for travelers on the county's Border to Border trail—not least by pushing back the narrow current path's lush border of poison ivy.

Two other groups will appreciate the changes, but they may be in conflict. The drop-and-pool headrace will be gentle enough that fish will finally be able to travel from below the dam up into Argo Pond and beyond. They ought to like that. Fishermen surely will.



MARK BIALEK

Jessie Mellish took over the Main Street Auto Wash after her father's death last year. She believes she's one of only two or three female car wash owners in Michigan.

Car Wash Woman

Frank Wilhelm had never before seen a woman in charge of a car wash.

Though we like to think of Ann Arbor as a Lake Wobegon, where all the women are strong, Observer reader and emeritus U-M prof Wilhelm thought it was unusual enough that he stopped to ask the woman who seemed to be in command of a sudsy crew at the Main Street Auto Wash whether she was the owner, and if so, how that came to pass.

Of course, there's no reason why a woman shouldn't own a car wash—"It's not the higher end of the business food chain," as Wilhelm put it when passing on the story—but Jessie Mellish confirms that it's rare. Mellish, twenty-five, says she inherited the car wash when her father died suddenly last July, and she believes she's one of only

"Things always break in car washes," says Mellish. "I've learned how to fix everything."

two or three female car wash owners in Michigan. (Her brother Matt is a co-owner, but he lives and works in Detroit.)

It's rough, dirty work. "Things always break in car washes. I've learned how to fix everything. C'mon, I'll show you!" says Mellish, who wears, not surprisingly, torn jeans (tight, sassy sub-variety) and sneakers to work and also, less predictably, full eye makeup, black nail polish, and a Mudflap Girl belt buckle. Her long black hair is pulled into a high ponytail. "I'd like to wear it down, but I have to bend over machinery a lot," she

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Inside Ann Arbor

says, pointing to a roller on the line. "This front part gets loose, wiggles, and makes the chain twist, which makes the rollers pop up when they're not supposed to. So you have to hit Stop and unjam it. Every month or two I have to grease all these gears. I ruined a perfectly good shirt the other day."

Occasionally, when she runs into a problem she can't fix, she calls "a company called PECO that sells car wash equipment. But when they fix something, I watch them very carefully, so I can do it myself the next time."

Custom detailing (intensive interior cleaning) is a large part of the business.

People get cars detailed for all kinds of reasons, Mellish says. "Some people trash their cars, some people are neat freaks." And then there's the perennial auto detailer's friend: dog pee.

"Where is the dog pee? On the seat? On the floor?" she says to a customer dropping off his car.

"It's on the back of the seat, where it folds down. Is that better?"

"It's the worst!" Mellish says, with professional dispatch. "But we'll get it out."

calls & letters

question corner

Q. What is that odd little building on Miller that abuts the eastern side of the train tracks, right before Knight's Market? I remember walking past it twenty years ago, and it still looks the same, though a little worse for wear.

A. A century ago, 410 Miller was Cornwell's coal yard. It went vacant in the 1960s, reopened as Calvert's Landscaping, was vacated again in the early 1980s, and then briefly revived as Highers Pottery.

In 1986, a recordkeeping snafu enabled Pete Shefman to capture a substantial block of railroad property between Miller and Felch streets for back taxes. After three years of negotiations with Peter Allen, then owner of the adjacent office building on Miller, Shefman emerged with a deed to the again-dilapidated shack.

It has become more dilapidated each year since. The property is on the city's monitoring list, which means it's checked about four times a year. Shefman was sent a correction notice after the most recent inspection, in May, when it was found to be unsecured against entry.

Whose marijuana law?

To the editor:

In the [July Marketplace Changes] article about Garden Connections, the writer states, "But although medical marijuana is legal in Michigan, Callanan explains that most of his suppliers prefer that he follow federal laws..."

This statement is not correct. Marijuana is, by federal law, not legal anywhere, and federal law trumps state or local law in such matters. What IS true is that the federal government has elected to turn a blind eye in certain cases of possession/use of the substance.

Whether or not this blind eye extends to dispensaries, co-ops, etc. has not been determined.

Sincerely,
Steve Hendel

Judge, not Sizemore

Barbara Bergman called to say that our recent piece on changes on the county commission ("Disappearing Districts," July) "was perfectly lovely—except you named the wrong commissioner." Kristin Judge, not Rolland Sizemore, should have been identified as one of the two commissioners who represent communities with their own police departments, yet who vote with rural commissioners to subsidize the county sheriff's police services.

Tim Athan

Life in Ann Arbor



August Horoscopes

Leo



Sagittarius



Pisces

nd weather
ou will drive
Friday after
eavy traffic.

If weekend weather
is good, you will drive
Up North on Friday after
work in heavy traffic.

If weekend weather
is good, you will drive
Up North on Friday after
work in heavy traffic.

Scorpio



Cancer



Libra

weather
u will drive
Friday after
heavy traffic.

If weekend weather
is good, you will drive
Up North on Friday after
work in heavy traffic.

If weekend weather
is good, you will drive
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Monthly Auto Tip To Keep You Safe:

It's time for those last minute vacations before the children return to school. To make the most of your time and money, stop by to have your tires checked. A low tire pressure situation can cause a loss in gas mileage, which means an increase in needed gas. A complimentary tire pressure check can be completed while you wait.

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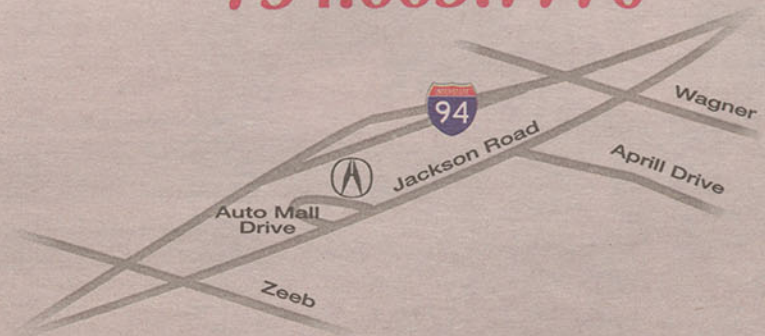
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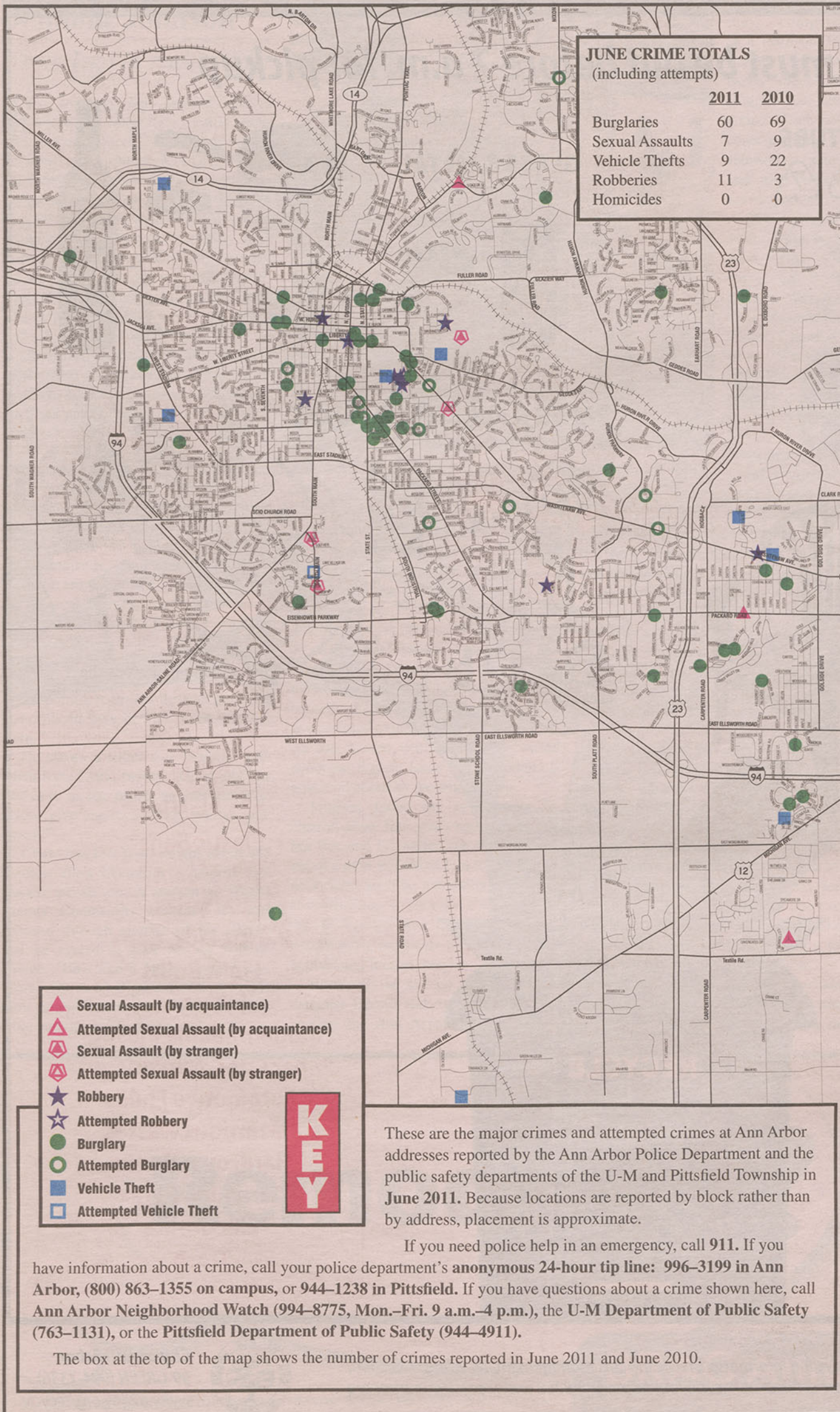
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These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in June 2011. Because locations are reported by block rather than by address, placement is approximate.

If you need police help in an emergency, call 911. If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996-3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863-1355 on campus, or 944-1238 in Pittsfield.** If you have questions about a crime shown here, call Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994-8775, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.), the U-M Department of Public Safety (763-1131), or the Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944-4911).

The box at the top of the map shows the number of crimes reported in June 2011 and June 2010.

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Ann Arborites

Demond Johnson

From Iraq to reality TV

Five years ago, Sgt. Demond Johnson was told he could choose either Michigan or California as the next stop in his army career. Sunny San Diego beckoned, but after Johnson finished catching his breath at the cost of homes there, he decided to build his own outside Ypsilanti. As it happens, though, he flies fairly often to southern California these days, not for the army, but for his second career as a fitness coach. He's thrice appeared with clients on NBC's popular weight-loss reality show *The Biggest Loser*.

Being on TV didn't faze him—but then he'd already experienced the ultimate reality show: combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. "It gives you perspective," says Johnson, thirty-six.

Johnson's studio, A2 Professionals, is a monochrome room on Eisenhower lined with mats and shiny exercise equipment. He stands six feet three and weighs a trim 193 pounds; his black T-shirt commands, "Shut Up and Sweat."

In the army, Johnson is responsible for the physical fitness of reservists on seven Michigan bases, from Livonia to Bay City. In person, he's so polite that it's hard to imagine him saying "Shut up" to anyone, even out-of-shape part-time soldiers. When putting reservists through push-ups and drills, he says, he tries "to be calm but stern."

He shows a softer side working with client Kyra Clark, twenty. "Good job!" he exclaims, as she pedals an exercise bike. "Now give me everything you've got. Sweat!"

Clark, five feet four, weighs about 485 pounds; she's obviously struggling, but gamely pedals on. A student at Wayne County Community College, she met Johnson through another of his clients, and he agreed to take her on without charge. "He's like a father figure," says Clark, who as a kid gained a lot of weight after steroid treatments for asthma. "He's a big part of my life right now."



Johnson says matter-of-factly that his identity as a soldier extends to fighting America's "war on obesity."

Johnson's own complicated life currently includes housing and working out with twenty-five-year-old Mike McGinn, a contestant on *The Biggest Loser*, who at intervals has been flying to California with Johnson for filming. The footage will air on the show's twelfth season starting in September. McGinn's wife is also living at the house, along with Johnson's family—his wife, Berkis, who works at the studio as a personal trainer, and their fifteen-year-old son, Ahmad, who was initially excited about the *Biggest Loser* connection but is now a bit bored by the whole thing.

Johnson found his new career by chance: about four years ago, an Ann Arbor Rec and Ed staffer saw him working out at a gym and asked him to teach a fitness class. Soon he was doing everything from teaching a "Warrior Challenge" at the Washtenaw Rec Center to running conditioning programs for Pioneer High softball and football players.

Eventually he met up with father and daughter Darrell and Andrea Hough, becoming the Ann Arborites' head coach

last year when they competed as a team on *The Biggest Loser*. Between them, the Houghs lost 268 pounds. Both now coach part time for Johnson's studio and give motivational speeches.

The Biggest Loser gets flack from critics who charge that it exploits the raw emotions of competing teams of morbidly obese people, and Johnson acknowledges the show plays up the rivalries and the occasional emotional outbursts. "I don't agree with it 110 percent," he

admits, adding he's even heard complaints that he's "too calm" during filming. He also acknowledges "some jealousy" on the part of a few local trainers about his TV exposure. His answer, in essence, is that there's business enough for everyone. He's currently working with seventeen clients, ranging from a couple of young teens whose parents think they need more exercise to an eighty-two-year-old man.

Johnson plans to retire from the army next year to work full time on his fitness career. He says matter-of-factly that his identity as a soldier extends to fighting America's "war on obesity." He is particularly concerned about children who spend all day indoors, glued to phones and computer screens. Though he knows there are kids in his neighborhood, "I don't see them riding bikes any more," and none has ever knocked on his door seeking a job mowing the lawn or shoveling snow.

Johnson's fitness soldiering includes volunteering with walkers in a summer Saturday program sponsored by the

Packard Health clinics. Earlier he helped launch a U-M program, "Men on the Move." He says the essence of any weight loss program is discipline: the refusal to eat that longed-for chocolate cupcake, the willingness to grind away on that boring treadmill.

Raised in New Orleans, Johnson got a head start in the discipline department: his father was a career military officer who regularly inspected the rooms of Demond and his older brother and insisted that they complete their household chores before they could play. "We joke that our upbringing was like being in boot camp," says Johnson.

A state high school wrestling star, he joined the army right after graduation, later earning an education/political science degree at Methodist College (now Methodist University) in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He went to school evenings while training soldiers at Fort Bragg during the day.

From 2001 to 2005, he spent much of his time serving overseas, narrowly escaping with his life when an explosion just missed his tank in Iraq. "It was a huge adrenaline rush," he says, with characteristic understatement. Johnson credits counseling and exercise with helping him to deal with the post-traumatic stress of combat. Long bike rides, he says, help keep painful memories at bay.

He exudes the satisfaction of someone who has found his calling. And thanks to his *Biggest Loser* connection, he's gotten off to a quick start in his second career. Last year, he was invited to Texas to work with a high school fitness program. While he was there, he also worked with former contestant David Griffin ("Season Four. I was 'Cowboy'"). "It was a great experience for me to learn from Demond and sharpen my toolbox, so to speak," says Griffin, who is also now a personal trainer. Johnson, he says, "was able to teach me how to tap into your client's 'inner warrior.'" Besides, Griffin says with awe, "He can do more 'one-up' push-ups than anyone I've ever known."

—Eve Silberman

Remodeling?

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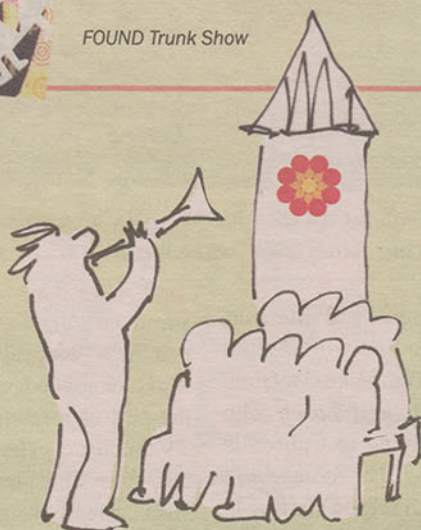
16 Hands Gallery

EVENTS IN THE DISTRICT

5th Annual NASHBASH

Thursday, August 18th, 5pm-8:30pm in the Farmers Market

Country artist Paul Burch headlines, who has a tradition of showcasing the music of Nashville. Set in the Farmers Market, the festival features a roster of first-class national and local performers in an intimate neighborhood atmosphere, making Kerrytown the place to be during the dog days of summer. Whit Hill and the Postcards join the Nashbash roster, and returning favorites Pam Kennedy Boylan and Steve Mitchell (Nashville), as well as local acts to be announced. FREE!



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AUGUST 7TH

Courtyard Concert

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AUGUST 14TH

Deep Fried Pickle Project

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AUGUST 21ST

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AUGUST 28TH

Gari Stein

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Eco-Hero or Menace?

Digging into red wigglers at the MRF

On a sunny Saturday last winter, my friend Roberta and I headed out to the city's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) on Platt for a workshop on using earthworms to turn household garbage into garden compost. The setting was perfect: a classroom that overlooked the mostly automated process of recycling the city's paper, glass, plastic, and metal trash.

The City of Ann Arbor sponsored the workshop, and staffers were on hand to oversee registration and payment. Our \$25 bought a worm bin, a spray bottle, a couple cups of compost, a spatula, and a squirming mass of *Eisenia fetida*, commonly known as red wigglers, or compost worms. Our instructor was Sarah Archer, CEO of Iris Waste Diversion Specialists, LLC.

Archer showed us how to make bedding from strips of newspaper, dampen it, then place a clump of worm-filled compost on top of the bedding and close the bin. Back home, we'd add fruit and vegetable scraps and eggshells, which our worms would then "vermicompost." What could be more ecologically correct?

Yet a shadow hung over the day. When I had invited another friend, Pat, to join us, she declined for lack of time, adding, "You know that earthworms are an invasive species, don't you?"

No, I didn't know, and I almost didn't believe her. But Pat is a news writer and wouldn't be wrong about a fact. Curious, I researched it myself.

Thanks to my employer, the University of Michigan, I had instant access to two e-books: *Biological Invasions Belowground* and *Earthworm Invasion*, collections of scholarly papers published in 2006. With horror I read about the devastation earthworms have caused in the Carpathian Mountains of Romania, other parts of northern Europe, Russia, South Amer-



HONGKONGWILLIE

ica, Puerto Rico, and Taiwan—all safely remote.

I started to relax, but too soon. The next paper outlined earthworm-induced "forest decline syndrome" in Minnesota. At the University of Minnesota Duluth, professor Cindy Hale and her colleagues have documented dramatic changes in native hardwood forest ecosystems due to earthworms. Victims include native understory plant species—including varieties of fern, trillium, uvularia, and viola—and tree seedlings themselves. These losses open the way for invasive species such as buckthorn and garlic mustard.

Both buckthorn and garlic mustard are officially classified as invasive in Ann Arbor. Major avenues for the introduction of invasive earthworms, I learned, are the fish-bait and horticultural industries—and vermicomposting.

But how could earthworms be "invasive"?

Briefly put, the Wisconsin Glaciations some 21,000 years ago covered the upper Midwest and northeastern United States, killing all native earthworms and leaving those areas completely earthworm-free for millennia. The north woods adapted to life without earthworms; then settlers reintroduced them.

Worms harm forests that evolved without them in several ways. Those that hang out in the forest duff eat the layers of leaves and needles covering the ground, creating bare soil and removing nutrients needed by native plants, including tree seedlings, that would otherwise grow there. The worms that tunnel downward disturb and mix the natural layers of soil; those that tunnel horizontally change the flow of moisture. Together, they render hostile the conditions formerly friendly to native woodland plants.

I had always thought the plentiful *Lumbricus terrestris* (night crawlers) squiggling in my soil were a sign of my gardening skill. Earthworms were my friends, loosening clay and leaving behind nutritious droppings. Yet Minnesota has designated earthworms (along with the emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, and mute swan) as invasive, and has an active "Contain those crawlers!" program.

The only published study of Michigan earthworms I could find was done in the western Upper Peninsula, in the Ottawa National Forest, which is dominated by sugar maples. That study compared earthworm communities in wilderness and non-wilderness sites within the ONF. It found that all the non-wilderness sites contained one to five species of exotic earthworms, while only half the wilderness sites had exotic earthworms, all of them a single species.

I got in touch with Cindy Hale in Duluth and asked whether the same problems she identified in Minnesota—drastic declines in native hardwood forests—were likely to occur in Michigan. She said: "The short answer is that the same issues that are going on in Minnesota are going on elsewhere."

Seeking an expert closer to home, I found Jasmine Crumsey, a U-M grad stu-

dent in ecology and evolutionary biology. Crumsey has researched earthworms at the U-M Biological Station in Pellston—they're less abundant there than in Minnesota, she told me, because Michigan's sandier soil is less hospitable—but she was not aware of any studies of earthworms closer to Ann Arbor.

So what does all this mean for Ann Arborites? Using red wigglers to compost garbage probably won't hurt the local ecosystem, especially if they are not let loose outdoors. And there seems no need to remove the earthworms in your yard and garden (were that even possible) unless your property abuts a pristine hardwood forest. However, to the extent that local stands of hardwoods are adversely affected by earthworms, the conditions for invasives like buckthorn and garlic mustard improve, making it easier for invasives to spread to your yard and our parks.

I waited until near the end of the vermicomposting workshop to ask Archer whether earthworms are a harmful invasive species. Her answer: Yes, they are, but only in Minnesota. And anyway, the red wigglers in our worm bins are not known to survive cold winters outside a compost pile.

Unlike Minnesota, the city of Ann Arbor does not list earthworms as an invasive species. I asked Dave Borneman, Natural Area Preservation Manager for the city, if that is likely to change. "We have recently been trying to figure out how to deal with the problem here in Ann Arbor, but as of yet have no official policy on earthworms," he said.

Though skeptical, I brought my red wigglers home. I fed them. I went on a couple of trips and forgot about them. When I finally went to the basement to check them, alas, they were dead on the concrete floor.

Apparently I had put too much moisture in the bedding, causing my arguably invasive worms to flee. When I found them they were odor free, crispy, and easy to vacuum up.

—Margaret A. Leary

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The Good, the Bad, and the MRF

Single-stream recycling one year later



by James Leonard

Last July, Ann Arborites switched from sorting recyclables into two plastic totes to using a single ginormous wheeled cart. Since then, the city's overall household recycling rate has risen 21 percent—from 8,857 tons in the twelve months before the change to 10,718 tons in the year just ended.

At the current rate, the average single-family household will recycle 721 pounds this year, an all-time high. Yet the more efficient automated system has allowed Recycle Ann Arbor, the nonprofit that handles curbside collection for the city, to eliminate one collection route, with matching financial savings. And because more recycling means less trash, the city has also been able to cut one of its eight garbage collection routes.



"In any contract, if the data is inaccurate, the contract should be reopened," says Recycle Ann Arbor CEO Melinda Uerling.

Then there are the amazing numbers coming from the city's recently expanded Materials Recycling Facility. In the past year, the MRF has tripled the amount of recyclables it handles (see story, below). Though it's operated by a private contractor, ReCommunity, the city gets a cut when the materials are sold—and that revenue also has tripled, to \$1.3 million a year. At that rate, the city in just three years could recoup the \$3.6 million it spent to expand the MRF.

It all sounds good. So why is Recycle Ann Arbor facing a \$338,000 revenue shortfall? And why is it asking for a contract revision that would raise by its compensation by \$107,000 this year?

Blame big promises, based in part on bad projections.

First off, Recycle Ann Arbor's payments from the city are based partly on the number of carts "tipped." When the contract was negotiated, the city's consultants were projecting that about 33,000 carts would be deployed—but only 30,000 were.

But being 10 percent under projections for carts was nothing compared with being 40 percent under in predicting the amount of materials collected. Based on numbers provided by Recyclebank, the private company that the city hired to create a recycling incentive program, a consultant estimated that with single stream Ann Arbor's household recycling would more than double, to 18,400 tons annually. The 10,718 tons actually collected through June, while up 21 percent from



"People love their carts!"

Riding with Gerald Rush

To understand how single stream has changed city recycling, ride on a recycling truck and talk with the man who drives it.

Allen Kennedy, Recycle Ann Arbor's curbside manager, sets up the ride. He tells me he's pleased with the new system. "When it was dual stream, a driver could do 600 to 800 stops a day. Now with single stream and the automated trucks, it's more like 950 to 1,050. Those efficiencies have let Recycle Ann Arbor consolidate seven routes to six.

"You'll be riding with Gerald Rush," Kennedy says. "He's been here twelve years, and he really takes pride in his job and his truck." A big man with wrap-around sunglasses and a black Recycle Ann Arbor cap, Rush has a strong grip and a ready smile as I climb aboard the big green-and-white recycling truck.

He smoothly stops the truck at the next cart and moves the hydraulic arm with the joystick in his left hand. As the twelve-foot arm deftly picks up, dumps, and replaces the cart, the truck shakes violently.

"The rocking's not that bad," Rush laughs over the roar of the engine. "These trucks are the Cadillacs of the industry. It's so high tech, it's like mission control."

Each of the four new trucks cost \$289,000. They "were already scheduled for replacement," explains city solid waste coordinator Tom McMurtrie in an email, "so the only additional cost was the automated arms (\$45,000 each). Four additional



Gerald Rush says more people on his route are recycling with the changeover. But the best thing for him, he says, is that "single stream saves your body."

automated trucks will be purchased over the next three years."

Rush says the new program is working. "We've got 90 percent participation today. That's up from 80 to 85 percent before. And it's because people love their carts!" But the best thing for him, he says, is that "single stream saves your body. I've had my injuries over the years: both knees and a rotator cuff. What with the lift and repetitive motion, [a driver's work] life expectancy before single stream was about five to seven years. Now, who knows?"

After finishing his route, Rush wheels the big truck up to the Materials Recovery Facility off Platt. He weighs it on the vast

scale, then pulls around the other side of the building and dumps everything he's collected.

On the building's east side an enormous inclined conveyor belt hauls the raw material up to a series of smaller conveyor belts ranged across the middle of the building, where workers on catwalks and high-tech machines sort the recyclables. The west wall is stacked with bales of sorted materials to be delivered to plants that buy recyclables.

Since the switch to single stream, the city's share of those sales has more than tripled, from \$365,000 to \$1.3 million. With Ann Arbor's recycling up only about 20 percent, most of the added volume has come from Toledo and Lansing and two dozen other communities that now send their recyclables here for processing. Income would be even higher were it not for a 10 percent contamination rate, up from just 2 percent under the dual-stream system.

McMurtrie says the reason it's so high is that "materials coming from other sources had a high percentage of contamination—particularly Toledo. But because Ohio has no bottle return law, Toledo's recyclables include a huge number of aluminum cans, making their material particularly valuable. The material from Toledo has already started to get better, says McMurtrie. "We're hoping for 5 percent."

—J.L.



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The Good, the Bad, and the MRF

the preceding year, is 40 percent short of the projection.

So who screwed up? The cart estimate "came from city sources [household counts] and Recycle Ann Arbor [cart counts]," explains Tom McMurtrie, the city's solid waste coordinator. "There was some overlap when the numbers were combined, [and] some were double counted."

But the number was off mostly because the city decided not to deploy all 33,000 carts, says Jim Frey of Resources Recycling Systems, the consultant who predicted that recycling would double. "A lot of duplexes received one cart instead of two, triplexes got one cart instead of three, and four- to twelve-plex multi-families still have just two carts," Frey explains. "This decision had a significant impact on cart count." And, he adds, "all this effort to keep cart counts down impacts RAA on its compensation."

To encourage maximum use of its carts, the city contracted with Recyclebank. For \$149,000 a year, the company digitally tracks which carts are tipped each week, awarding the households "points" that can be redeemed for discount coupons. But while Recyclebank projected that half of the city's households would have signed up for its reward system by now, the actual number is just 41 percent.

Atul Nanada, Midwest vice-president for Recyclebank, disclaims responsibility for the city's optimistic planning. "We didn't do any of the projections in terms of overall tonnage," Nanda explains. "We provided the amount of recycling that occurs in other cities in terms of pounds per household." But the two Michigan examples the company provided, Westland and Rochester Hills, both have much higher percentages of single-family homes than does Ann Arbor, which is roughly split between single- and multi-family units. Single-family units produce more recyclables, and this skewed the projection upward.

Since Recycle Ann Arbor's compensation is based upon both the number of carts tipped and the tons of materials collected, it overestimated its revenue under the contract—creating this year's \$338,000 shortfall.

The nonprofit's loss, of course, is the city's gain—that's \$338,000 it doesn't have to pay. This month, council will decide whether to pay some of it anyway.

The city spent \$1.4 million on the single-stream carts, and another \$1.2 million to buy four new recycling trucks—though McMurtrie doesn't consider the trucks part of the conversion expense, since the old ones were already scheduled for replacement (see box, p. 23). The city planned to get its investment back through lower trash collection and landfill costs, and by paying Recycle Ann Arbor less per ton of material collected. Collecting fewer recyclables than projected wasn't part of the plan.

Why Recyclebank's incentives haven't delivered is debatable. "The program's not



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reaching as many people as it could," suggests consultant Jim Frey. "I'm not quite sure what's going on there, but I think more awareness, more communication, is needed."

Tom McMurtrie rolls his eyes when he hears that. "We've worked hard on this. We've sent out notices, done multiple mailings, done phone calls. And we'll continue to send mailings out. But it might not go up past 50 percent" participation—the level McMurtrie calls sustainable.

"We try to get above 50 percent in every community," says Recyclebank's Nanada, "but every community is different. Ann Arbor is around 41 percent, while other communities are at 70 percent ... Ann Arbor

"I certainly am in favor of Recycle Ann Arbor," says councilmember Sabra Briere, "but I am not in favor of Recyclebank."

is the first large community we've worked with a high student population, and for our first foray to be at 41 percent is not totally upsetting. [The incentive program is] not in any multi-family units yet, and that was part of the original plan. We've done that in other cities successfully. It was put on hold in Ann Arbor, but we're able to do it once they give the okay."

McMurtrie says the program won't be in the multi-family units for at least a couple more years, "due to budget issues and to allow us more time to evaluate. They've done real well in other communities, and we think the program will work here."

And if it doesn't? "We cut the funding," he says.

Despite the shortfall and shortcomings, mayor John Hieftje supports amending Recycle Ann Arbor's contract, even though it was renewed only last year.

"It's really pretty simple," says the mayor. "The [volume] estimates were too high, so their contract [price] was too low and they lost money. They knew they were going to [lose revenue] when they agreed to move to single stream, and they knew it would take a few years to get it back up. We're just helping them until they get there." The proposed amendment would raise the tipping fee by 10 percent, increasing the city's payments by \$107,000 per year.

In Hieftje's view, Recycle Ann Arbor has done a good job, and single stream has been successful. "They've done ... what they were supposed to do," says the mayor, who twenty years ago chaired the group's board of directors. "It's a good showing overall, but we need to do more ... particularly with students. So we're going to focus more of our attention on education.

"Single stream has clearly been successful," agrees council member Sabra

Briere. "A 20 percent increase wasn't what they projected, but it's still pretty good." During initial consideration, however, she opposed what some were calling a bailout.

"I certainly am in favor of Recycle Ann Arbor," says Briere, "but I am not in favor of Recyclebank. We were told the program relied on a combination of going to single stream and Recyclebank, that it was something we had to do as one. Recycle Ann Arbor was overly optimistic when they came up with their numbers because they believed Recyclebank's numbers ... It didn't happen because here in Ann Arbor, we already recycle heavily."

Melinda Uerling, CEO of Recycle Ann Arbor, says the group didn't come up with the numbers; the city did. "We weren't allowed any input into how the numbers were created."

"We provided information on the business carts and locations that were in place under the old system," she elaborates in a follow-up email. "This information was used in the model developed by Resource Recycling Systems, which predicted the volume of material to be collected under the new single-stream collection system based on performance data from other Recyclebank cities, including ones that started with high-performing programs like Ann Arbor's. Only the number of cart lifts and the volume of material to be collected over a five-year period were shared with Recycle Ann Arbor."

For this reason, Uerling believes amending the contract is the right thing to do. "In any contract, if the data is inaccurate, the contract should be reopened. And it should be noted that we're not asking for [the full \$338,000] but only for \$107,000, because we've already made significant cuts to the organization, including to administration, and we've renegotiated [employee] health care and benefits."

Mike Garfield, longtime director of the Ecology Center and a Recycle Ann Arbor board member, says there's still room to increase recycling by single-family households, but adds that "there's a lot more room in multi-family. Multi-family is half the population, and it's been our biggest problem for twenty years ... Theoretically, Recyclebank should be able to help. God knows nothing [else has] worked well yet!"

Garfield says amending a signed contract is not unusual. There is no "reopener clause in this contract, but I think they want to deal in good faith because Recycle Ann Arbor has provided good service over the years."

Mayor Hieftje concurs. "They've always been an asset to the city. But we still treat it as a business because they are a business: they're a contractor with the city, and last year, we extended their contract to 2018."

That renewal speaks of the faith the city had in Recycle Ann Arbor before the switch to single stream. That relationship has been shaken by rosy estimates that didn't come true and an incentive program that, so far at least, hasn't accomplished much. But the good news is that recycling volume is up and expenses are down—and if council decides to bail out Recycle Ann Arbor, it can tap the moneymaking machine called the MRF. ■

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corn mah

how zingerman's chef alex young found meaning in mac 'n' cheese—and an organic farm in dexter

by Eve Silberman

When Alex Young was seventeen, his mom dropped him off at the San Francisco airport with a ticket to New York. One way.

The teenager got a job as a busboy at “a cool little restaurant” that did a lot of catering to film sets. Alan Alda, he soon learned, liked spicy pasta. One day the chef called in sick. “I went in the kitchen,” says Young, “and never came out.”

Young is now forty-six, and the head chef and co-owner of Zingerman’s Roadhouse. Last spring, he became the first Ann Arbor chef to win the prestigious James Beard Foundation’s “Best Chef” award for the Great Lakes region. He, his wife, Kelly; and children Ethan, Emma, and Lucy piled into a motor home, drove east, and parked in New Jersey. Young changed into a tux and Kelly into a formal gown in the camper, then caught a cab to the ceremony at Lincoln Center. In a lighthearted allusion to the Roadhouse’s authentic but casual American food, he told the crowd, “I would like to thank the James Beard Foundation for recognizing mac ‘n’ cheese and fried chicken.”

Young’s “office” at the Roadhouse is a cubbyhole in the basement. Dressed in cutoffs and a T-shirt advertising Grillin’, Food Gatherers’ annual fund-raiser, he sports boyish good looks and a lean physique, the result of hard physical labor in the kitchen and in his

home garden. He laughs easily and says “sweet!” a lot. But though he’s no temperamental, pot-throwing kitchen martinet, the self-taught chef is demanding of the Roadhouse’s 120-some employees. “If he tells you to do something,” says Mark Baerwolf, one of the restaurant’s twenty cooks, “he’ll remember.”

Young’s quiet manner and faint English accent—he says “toMAHto”—give off a whiff of British refinement. He was born in England, but the family moved to the United States when he was two years old. His father, a painter who taught at San Francisco State, left the family when Alex was seven. He “never made any money,”

In a lighthearted allusion to the Roadhouse’s authentic but casual American food, he told the black-tie crowd, “I would like to thank the James Beard Foundation for recognizing mac ‘n’ cheese and fried chicken.”

Young says, except when painting portraits of rich women, some of whom became girlfriends.

After his parents split up, his mother married a lawyer who worked in San Francisco. During the week, she lived with her new husband there while Alex and his sister Bethany, two years older, stayed in their mother’s home in Bolinas, a small town thirty miles north of the city. Although a neighbor looked in, the two grade-school-age siblings lived independently. “It was a funny situation,” Young says offhandedly. He cooked for his sister and himself, de-

veloping his own barbecue sauce when he was nine. After years of refinement, it is now served at the Roadhouse as “Alex’s Red Rage Barbeque Sauce.”

Although Young got good grades in elementary school (and enhanced his popularity by bringing in homemade desserts), in high school he drifted, engaging in what he describes as “bad boy” activities. His mother, Young says, promised to pay his tuition at Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in Paris, but the money disappeared into her drug habit. When he was old enough to go, all she could afford was the one-way ticket to New York—a reminder, if he’d needed one, that he was on his own.

Instead of going to the Cordon Bleu, Young learned to cook at various New York restaurants, most memorably Jeffrey Chodorow’s original China Grill. One chef was “very kind” and taught him a lot about making sauces, Young says. Another was “unrelenting”—he’d poke at a dish with chopsticks, and “if he didn’t like it, he’d flip it at you.” Once, “he threw a five-pound cooked duck covered with oil at me. It burned my face.”

Around 1990 he moved back to California, taking a job at a restaurant in Half Moon Bay, south of San Francisco. “It

was a pretty romantic setting,” he recalls. “There was a back door on the beach.” There he met Kelly, a native of Dexter, who was waiting tables. They married in 1993.

Young job-hopped around the country, working mostly at hotel restaurants. He became known as a rising star who significantly improved previously undistinguished kitchens. Kelly was thrilled when he took a job in Long Beach—only to discover, she says succinctly, that it was “hell on earth.” Out walking with their first child, Ethan, Young, a self-described “friendly Midwesterner,” would say hello to people, only to be ignored. Their house was robbed. “There was no community because all of us were living behind bars,” she says.

Their next stop was Pittsburgh, where Young developed a successful seafood restaurant for the DoubleTree hotel. DoubleTree’s corporate parent, Hilton, then sent him around the country to clone it. Though well paid, the work was difficult—Young discovered how hard it was to reproduce the talented staff that made the original successful. (It’s “pretty much a struggle” to find good cooks who can also take on management responsibilities, Young says—he’s been looking for a second sous chef at the Roadhouse for a year and has yet to find someone with the requisite cooking and leadership skills.)

Though they liked Pittsburgh, by then the Youngs had their eyes on a much smaller town—Dexter, where Kelly’s family had lived and farmed for more than 100 years. Young got in touch with Zingerman’s founders, Paul Saginaw and Ari Weinzweig, and showed them a business plan for a restaurant he wanted to open. It turned out to be just the starting point of an extended conversation.

“We spent a year talking about different ideas,” recalls Weinzweig. Young took a job at a Hilton in Cleveland so he’d have a shorter drive to Ann Arbor for their weekend meetings. At one point, it looked as though the restaurant might feature Tuscan food. As Young recalls it, that changed overnight when, while looking over the former Bill Knapp’s restaurant in Westgate shopping center at Jackson and Maple, Weinzweig announced that he wanted it to be a regional American restaurant.

In putting together the menu, Young refused to trust the Internet as a resource. “Anyone can post a ‘corn bread recipe from Missouri,’” he says. “That doesn’t mean it’s authentic.” Instead, he consulted with Ann Arbor culinary historian Jan Longone, famous for her collections of American cooking books. “He is one of the hardest-working people I’ve ever met,” says Longone, a Roadhouse regular.

Taking a steep pay cut, Young quit the corporate world for Zingerman’s, running the kitchen at the Deli for a year while the Roadhouse was under development. Of their relationship, Weinzweig says, “We may disagree over other things, but we rarely disagree over the food.”

The Roadhouse opened in September 2003 to eager crowds and enthusiastic reviews. The one big complaint was



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Corn man

about the prices. A \$15 pasta at a Tuscan restaurant was one thing; a \$15 mac 'n' cheese took some getting used to. Cheerful, hand-drawn posters now call attention to the food's artisanal ingredients—which are so expensive, Young says, that the Roadhouse's markup is just half a typical restaurant's.

Young continues to diversify and expand the Roadhouse menu—Weinzweig points out that he totally reworked the barbecue pit last year, under the guidance of a pit master from Raleigh. But not long after the restaurant opened, a casual incident focused his passions in a new direction. He and the kids had planted a small garden, and one day Young scooped up a few vegetables—potatoes, leeks, and tomatoes—and brought them to the Roadhouse. He used them in preparing a meal, which he served himself. The diners, he says, were so enthusiastic that “I actually got goose bumps up my arms.”

Cornman Farms, off a country road just north of Dexter, looks like a cheery illustration in a children's picture book. It's hard to tell where the big farmhouse ends and the gardens begin. Chickens hide under a spruce tree by a hoop house filled with red and green pepper plants. There's a homemade wooden swing set for the two younger kids—Lucy, six, and Emma, twelve. Ethan, sixteen, is into lacrosse.

Wearing cutoffs, a T-shirt, and a jaunty straw hat, Young leads a tour. It's late June, and Mark Baerwolf, who in addition to cooking at the Roadhouse manages the

garden, is driving a small tractor. Scooping up a bucketful of steaming compost, he drives carefully to the end of a long row of Czech's Bush tomato plants. He and Wendy Caldwell, a tanned former professional mountain biker, use shovels to tuck the compost around the growing plants.

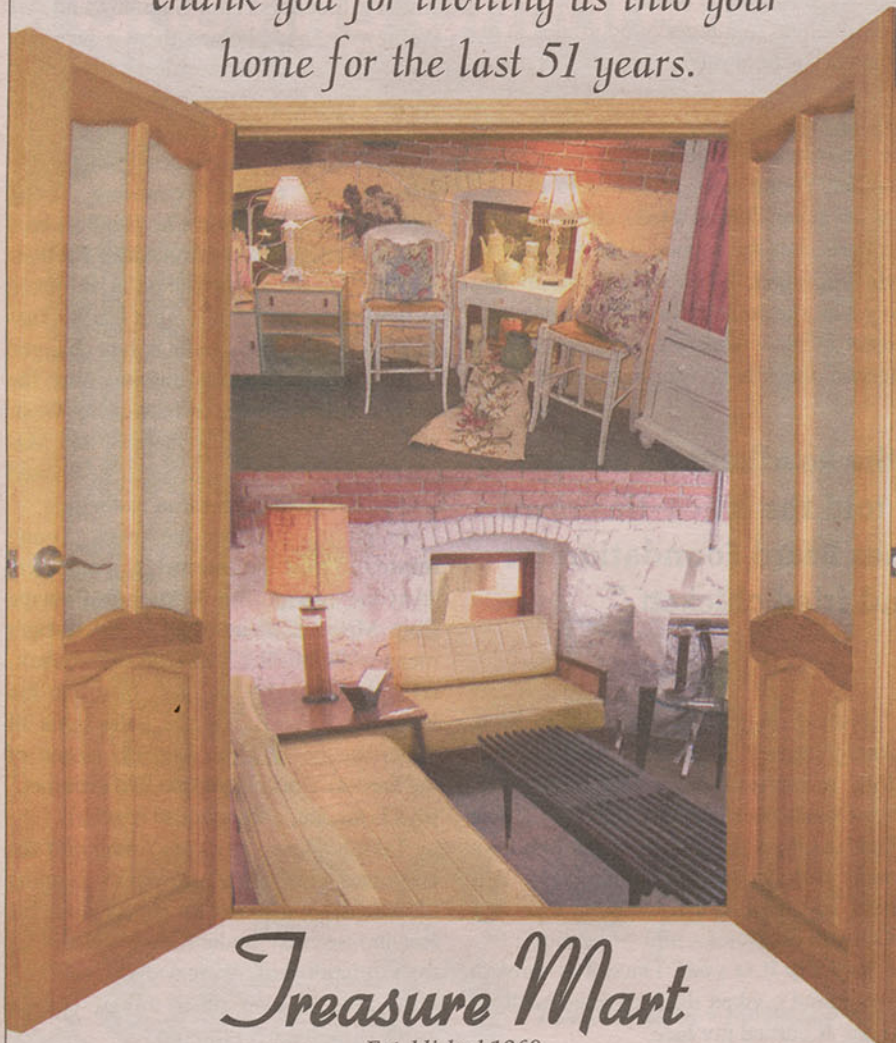
This “side composting” is a lot of work, but Young is hoping it will keep down weeds as well as the black plastic he's been using to surround the plants—“it bothered me that we were throwing out all that plastic,” he says. If it works, he might buy a machine to do the composting from an Amish outfit in Pennsylvania.

Caldwell, who also works at Zingerman's Creamery, rode her bike nine miles to work this morning, arriving at 7:30 a.m. When I ask when she'll be done, Young answers for her: “When the work is done.” Baerwolf, he says, puts in 100-hour weeks during the growing season.

“Where the pony is now will be winter carrots,” says Young, pointing over a fence. “If you put down eighteen inches of straw the ground won't freeze, and you can still harvest them in December.” On the other side of the tomato field, the free-range pigs have beaten a trail along the fence; though none are visible at the moment, Young assures me that eight of them are out there somewhere.

What started as a family garden is now an official Zingerman's business. “This is Sea Island flint corn,” says Young, pointing to some knee-high plants. He describes how the species was taken south to the Caribbean, then across the Atlantic to Italy, before returning to America with Italian immigrants. Corn, the archetypal American food plant, is a Roadhouse motif, so it seemed natural for him to name the

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Young has made his living in restaurants ever since he was seventeen, when his mother gave him a one-way ticket to New York City. He walked away from a well-paid corporate job to help create Zingerman's Roadhouse.

business Cornman Farms: it's where the "corn man"—Young—farms.

On just five and a half acres, Young is growing, among other things, 4,000 pounds of potatoes, 11,000 pepper plants, and 6,500 tomato plants. Two summers ago, he says, the tomato crop was a poor one; though he'd gone from watering with a garden hose to a high-efficiency drip irrigation system fed by its own well, he thought they hadn't been watered enough. Last year, he watered more often—and every other time, he used water that had steeped in compost. Hoping to get five pounds of tomatoes per plant, he harvested six pounds. All went to the Roadhouse, which now gets about 15 percent of its produce from Cornman Farms.

Though the farm is a Zingerman's business, the Youngs own the land. For years Alex has had his eye on the twelve-acre wheat field next door. Finally, he says, the owners agreed to sell—if he could meet their price. "It was done on a land contract, all on a handshake," Young says. He'll move the produce over to the new field and use the existing gardens closer to the house for the livestock. "In a way, it's almost like old-time farming," says Baerwolf.

Within a few years Young has gone from gardener to serious farmer to a crusader for locally grown food. He's started giving talks to 4-H clubs and his kids' schools about organic farming and healthy eating and buys prize-winning pigs and cows from local 4-H shows.

Young's newfound passion as a locavore proved to be good timing. The recession, which spanned Michigan especially hard, made Michiganders more interested both in growing their own food and in helping local farmers. "It took gas going over four dollars a gallon and half of Michigan being unemployed before everyone started to realize that 'Oh, my gosh, let's pay more attention to where everything comes from!'"

Like many people who were raised with no one watching their backs, Young takes nothing for granted. The most he will say about his moment of fame is that being a cook means that "I can be dropped from a plane in Alaska and always find a job."

And like many people who grew up without much parenting, he wrestles with how best to raise his own kids. He wants them to embrace the work ethic that helped him come so far, and they all help out on the farm—but he admits, "It can be hard. I enjoy spoiling them."

Young had been nominated four times previously for the James Beard award, so his triumph had a special sweetness. But he has no intention of trying to parlay his moment of fame into, say, stardom on the Food Network. "I don't think I'm great on camera," he shrugs. He mentions with a quiet smile that he and his youngest daughter "do what we call the 'Emma and Daddy' cooking show" for an audience of one: Kelly.

"Emma makes breakfast or bakes a cake, talking in an exaggerated Julia Child accent," Kelly explains. "She makes Alex her sous chef."

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CITY OF ANN ARBOR

Some real characters make their livings on the streets of Ann Arbor

BY VICKIE ELMER

Street Walkers

MARK BIALEK

The sidewalks along Main Street are overflowing again, with restaurant staffers wiping off tabletops and restocking silverware, student types strolling along looking for coffee or something stronger—and some colorful characters showing up for a little commerce, a little friendship, and a little fresh air.

There's Arthur Fillbrun, with his one crutch and his constant requests for "fifty cents or a dollar so I can get something to eat." Earl Uomoto, who works down the block at the Fleetwood, has already spent an hour savoring the sun and the street scene as he sits outside Starbucks on Main Street, one of the primo gathering places. A guy with a dog is hanging around too, but Lisa Bell, the painter who sometimes sings old tunes, hasn't been seen for a quite a while.

Soon it will be time for Spooner to turn up and lean his long frame against the black lamppost at the corner of Main and Liberty. With his fuzzy gray beard, his crocheted coat of many colors, and his colorful yarn hats for sale, Spooner is perhaps the most colorful of the colorful, quaint, and cheesy characters who frequent Main Street.

"Artists maintain a level of mystery," he says, but within five minutes he acknowledges that he's sixty-four, "a hideous old age. I'm not real happy about it." He watches passers-by with mild blue eyes under expressive eyebrows, hoping someone will stop to purchase a hat, a bag, or even the coat off his back—the crocheted masterpiece he wears when the temperatures are cooler. "I'm not a museum," he says. "I'm a store."

When the weather is decent, a collection of assorted individuals can be found on Main Street, Fourth Avenue, or Liberty. Some make their way to the Farmers Market or the plaza near the People's Food Co-op; some head up closer to the Diag. A

few are passing through—modern-day hobos with dogs, signs, guitars, or ukuleles. A few are homeless, living at the shelter or "out" in vacant lots. Many more live in rundown apartments or senior housing.

"They may look scary, but they're the

streetwalker!"

Downtown is a lively place, but police say that prostitutes are more likely to be found in seedy hotels, truck stops, or online. It does occasionally draw other criminals—thieves, pickpockets, and con artists

whose stories of desperate need for a bus ticket home or diapers for a baby are as fictional as anything John Steinbeck ever wrote.

pending on the location, and some use it for rent and other necessities, according to a Street Outreach Task Force report from April. Some even see panhandling as a job, with set hours and locations—a highway off-ramp or a particular street corner.

Still, it's an uncertain life, and people can disappear without explanation. Last summer, Lisa Bell, aka LisaBelle, would show up on Main Street with her palette or her guitar, painting portraits or singing old songs. "This city has a lot of opportunity and possibilities," she said then. She hasn't been seen this year, and other street types think she may have died. But her website



MARK BIALEK



"One thing about Ann Arbor—you will never go hungry," says Arthur Fillbrun (top). Zachary Storey (left) quit his job to try to make a living on the streets as "ViolinMonster." Spooner (above) sells crocheted clothing—even the coat off his back.

sweetest characters," says Lily Demiri, a waitress at the Fleetwood Diner, where many of them gather at the outdoor dining tables. Adds Earl Uomoto, who works at the Fleet as a dishwasher: "There are some actual streetwalkers. There's Holly ... she's in jail half the time and Sofia ..."

Demiri interjects: "You don't give names, Earl. Plus Sofia's not a

Some do work the streets for money, but mostly as street musicians with their open cases or panhandlers with their open palms. Some sell *Groundcover News* (a nonprofit homeless newspaper), used books, or CDs of their music; others earn cash by taking on odd chores downtown or at the Farmers Market. Panhandlers can earn \$100 to \$300 a day, de-

shows her painting as recently as June, so it seems she's just taking a break from the scene.

And newcomers show up every year, seeing opportunities in the abundance of people who wander downtown on summer evenings after a movie, play, or dinner. One such recent arrival is Zachary Storey, who calls himself ViolinMonster and

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Street Walkers

wears a werewolf mask as he plays classical music and fiddle tunes.

Storey says he's been playing violin since he was six. He recently left a not-so-wonderful job at a local T-shirt factory to try to make a go of it as a street performer. "Kids really love it," he said of the ViolinMonster persona, which he debuted in Brooklyn, N.Y., this spring wearing a mask he bought at Fantasy Attic.

Once, when he was playing outside Nickels Arcade, a police officer stopped him, saying it was illegal to wear a mask in public. That turned out not to be true, but the Arcade is one of a few places in town where solicitation is banned (see box, p. 33). In July, Storey was planning to buy a new mask to wear during the Art Fair and beyond.

The cast of street walkers and performers changes constantly, yet there are plenty of regulars. Among the veterans who show up season after season are Paul Miles, in his elegant tie and hat, playing blues songs on his guitar, and the small older woman who walks all over downtown using a walker. She keeps to herself, but many of the regulars know each other, if not by

on Main Street, near the Black Pearl and Starbucks.

Yarn hats may seem like a tough sell in summer, but Spooner says you'd be surprised: "I sold a hat on the hottest day of the year ... She was very happy with it," he recalls. He works into the winter, too, for "as long as I can stand it." He usually comes out in the evenings, his hours varying based on the weather and his mood, and whether he's ready to chat with friends who show up on the corner. "I leave when I get tired of being here," he says.

He learned the basics of crocheting from his grandmother when he was six years old. Now he works mostly with acrylic yarn because it's more durable. He will make hats or scarves to order, though he's loath to do them in maize and blue, which he sees as trite.

The yarn artist says he grew up in Kalamazoo and then spent a few years in San Francisco and New York, but he's been in the Ann Arbor area for forty-plus years. Originally he thought he'd become a "subsistence farmer," he says, and he still has a big garden at his home in Manchester, where he grows garlic, beans, and

"They may look scary, but they're the sweetest characters," says Lily Demiri, a waitress at the Fleetwood Diner, where many of them gather at the outdoor tables.

name, then by face, reputation, or mannerisms. They share gossip, cigarettes, and signs that the city's friendly streets are becoming less welcoming. Last year, when "travelers" in town for Punk Week intimidated customers and businesspeople with their aggressive panhandling, the city passed a stepped-up law limiting it.

Many Main Street merchants recognize and greet Arthur, the guy with one crutch, or share a cigarette with Spooner. Others complain that street walkers scare customers away and make downtown uncomfortable for suburbanites who come to Ann Arbor for dinner or entertainment. But however they're viewed, each is here for a reason, and each has a story to share.

pooner sees himself as an artist. He offers his multicolored hats and bags online and in person—wearing them or displaying them on a long pole that looks like a well-worn walking stick. "Sales are nothing like what anyone would call strong," he says.

His hats sell for \$35, a price that hasn't changed since 1975, he says. He hung out in the Del Rio bar selling them for almost twenty years and also sold them in a coffee shop. These days, he can usually be found

other vegetables.

"I had a day job in 1964 working in an asbestos factory," he says. At the time, he was making art from melted plastic spoons, so friends started calling him Spooner. (He declines to reveal his real name, but says it includes David.) He started the crocheting business a few years later, and has made blankets, bags, scarves, dolls, and other items ever since.

He does the crocheting at home or out in his garden. He's been married and divorced twice and has had assorted girlfriends, too. He has thirteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

It took Spooner about a week to crochet the colorful jacket he wears, and it's become part of his look. Yet he says he'd sell it—or make another for a customer—for \$500. He also says that despite his striking appearance, many people ignore him. He mostly accepts that, but he became angry when a wire mannequin strung with blue lights was pushed down Main Street and drew a crowd of admirers. He thinks people are jaded and don't appreciate high-quality work; many try to talk him into taking \$10 for a hat, a price that would require him to work for "slave wages."

He's not willing to do that. "I'm the Picasso of the crocheted world," he says.

MARK BIALEK

MARK BIALEK



Rissa Haynes sells the *Groundcover News* outside the People's Food Co-op. She's also written articles for the homeless newspaper, and even sold a few ads.

Not many people know Arthur Fillbrun's name, but anyone who's spent much time downtown will recognize him: he's the guy with one crutch and a simple request: "Excuse me. Could you spare fifty cents or a buck so I could get something to eat?" He sometimes speaks with a British accent, which comes and goes and doesn't reflect his background. He says he's a New Yorker, who lived near 72nd Street in Manhattan, and a Vietnam veteran.

"I walk around all day. I hang out," says Fillbrun, fifty-nine. He says he moved to Ann Arbor almost fifteen years ago for a laser surgery at the VA Hospital on his stomach. (The Veterans Administration declined to confirm any details of his account, but one merchant says he believes Fillbrun's stories of serving in Vietnam because they're so realistic.)

Known to many simply as "Crutch Man," Fillbrun uses a single metal crutch, he says, because he has had two hip replacements, "and the second one didn't take so hot. I'm on a crutch for the rest of my life." It's his left hip that hurts; he says the VA doctors provide ample pain medication, but he tries to use it sparingly.

He gets a partial government disability check that pays the rent on his place on Huron Street, an easy walk to Main. Sometimes he earns a little money as a dishwasher or by helping with set-up at the Farmers Market. "I make a couple of bucks here and there," he says, but most of his income comes from handouts.

People here are very generous, he says. "One thing about Ann Arbor: You could never go hungry. Somebody's always willing to feed you." Among them is a man named John, who gives Fillbrun a bag of groceries from Kroger every Saturday morning. Inside are cereal, milk, sandwich meat, and fruit. "He's been doing it for a year," says Fillbrun.

His favorite place is sitting on the planter on Main outside what used to be Barclay's and is now the Himalayan Bazaar. He says the owner of Barclay's sometimes bought him lunch or gave him some

clothes. The owner confirms that, saying he feels that Fillbrun's veteran status earns him a little extra assistance.

Yet others call him a fake and a cheat and worse, claiming he's scamming people. It is true that he occasionally switches his crutch to the other side and sometimes even walks without it. As with any chronic problem, he says, there are days when it's better and some when it's far worse.

Fillbrun's only complaint about Main Street is the sidewalk in front of Starbucks, which last year had huge potholes and cracks. (Most have been repaired in recent months.) He twisted his ankle there once and also caught his shoe heel in a crack. Overall, though, he likes life in Ann Arbor and hopes to stay here. "It's quiet. It's laid back. It's serene. There's no fighting," he says. "It is a small town ... I know every store owner there is."

Rissa Haynes is a relative newcomer to the streets of Ann Arbor. Though she moved back to Michigan about three years ago, her mobile phone still has a Dallas area code from her twenty years in Texas. Now she's a regular in the Kerrytown area, where she stands outside the People's Food Co-op on Fourth Ave., selling the *Groundcover News* and saying hello to children and adults.

She's a polite and upbeat person wearing a wide, glowing smile and a Wolverine baseball cap. Though not yet as well known as *Groundcover's* first vendor, Tony, who was featured in an Observer article last September, she's winning her own following with her lovely demeanor and what *Groundcover* publisher Susan Beckett calls her "million-dollar smile."

"Rissa has really made herself into a saleswoman," Beckett says. "She is an ideal representative of

Groundcover, whether she is selling it to a customer, encouraging another person in need of a job to give selling *Groundcover* a try, or explaining the paper's purpose and mission to the media."

So far Haynes has signed up six individuals and businesses as *Groundcover* subscribers; they pay a year ahead, and she delivers copies to them. She has convinced Zingerman's Creamery, down by the airport, to stock the paper along with a donation jar. She has also sold a few ads and written articles for the newspaper, including one that she spotted from her "stoop" on Fourth Ave. It's about bicycle riders around town, including some who park and chat with her.

"I love people. I love talking to people," Haynes says. Her optimism comes from her faith in God and her belief in the Bible verses that promise all things will work for the good. But "I'm not sitting around and saying, 'The Lord's going to take care of me,'" she says. Instead she's working on her life goals, which include plans to complete a master's degree and teach others how to use computers.

She's had her share of challenges, too, one of them a medical condition that hit while she lived in Texas and took many months and many doctors to figure out. She lost the use of her legs, and one doctor wanted to amputate her foot. She declined.

When she started selling *Groundcover*, she was still wheelchair bound. Treatments and healthy foods have helped her considerably, she says, and she's progressed from the wheelchair to a walker to walking with a cane to walking alone, though she still moves slowly and carefully.

"I am an incurable optimist," says Haynes, beaming. And, she notes, that optimism has been justified by the people she's met on the streets of Ann Arbor: "They've embraced me." ■

RULES OF THE STREET

The city's law on solicitation was expanded in April but has been on the books for many years. The new provisions forbid panhandling or selling goods or services in any public alley or entrance to one, or outside the main branch of the Ann Arbor District Library at Fifth and William.

Already covered were panhandling or seeking to sell items on any public transportation vehicle, in or near public parking structures, within twelve feet of a bank or ATM, or to a person who is in a vehicle on the street. So technically those high school kids screaming about their car wash as you drive by are breaking city law.

Solicitation—whether by small business owners, street musicians, or panhandlers—also is forbidden when individuals are seated in outdoor cafes and in three downtown arcades: Nickels Arcade on State, the Galleria on South University, and the Pratt Building on Main. And "aggressive" solicitation is outlawed everywhere: a panhandler or vendor may not follow someone down the street, knowingly make false or misleading representations, obstruct a pedestrian's walkway, or otherwise act in a threatening manner.

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The Big Easy Comes to Zingerman's Southside



Allen Leibowitz, co-managing partner at Zingerman's Coffee Company, told the *Times* "We were inspired on a recent visit to New Orleans to make the best iced au lait we could."

He added, "coincidentally, on that same trip, I had walked by the oldest coffee importer in the US operating since 1851. They also source the great French chicory for which New Orleans coffee is famous." Zingerman's Coffee Company brought in the best of those chicories and is brewing it using their cold brew method.

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recent flavor boom linked to local produce



Attack of the "Killer" Tomatoes at Zingerman's Roadhouse



As the days [and nights] get hotter, farmers, food makers and food lovers are all gearing up for the biggest event of the summer: tomato season. While the Cornman Farms team carts bushel baskets of ripe red heirloom tomatoes through the back door of Zingerman's Roadhouse, cheesemakers are stretching curd into balls of fresh mozzarella, chefs are sharpening their knives and hungry diners are oohing and aahing over the one-of-a-kind flavors appearing their plates. With a several varieties of tomatoes coming in from his farm, James Beard Award-winning chef Alex Young has a lot of options but if you ask him for a recommendation, he likes to keep it simple: "Ceres salad...just slices of tomato picked that day with fresh basil, fresh mozz and really good olive oil. What else do you need?"

Zingerman's Creamery 2nd Annual Mozzarella & Tomato Party

Saturday, Aug. 27th • 5-7pm • \$40

Take \$5 off if you reserve 48 hours in advance (reservations recommended—call 734.929.0500)

Meet Creamery cheesemakers and taste fresh handmade mozzarella, smoked mozzarella, burrata and prosciutto rolls with local heirloom tomatoes and other seasonal vegetables!



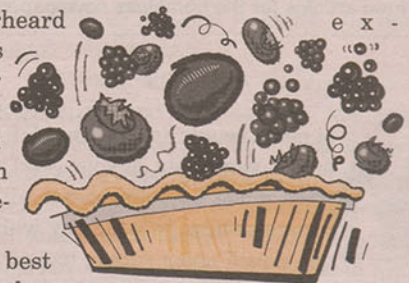
Zingerman's Bakehouse Gets Fresh with Fruit Pies & Tarts

Times readers

have been overheard claiming "This is what summer tastes like!" after tasting the fresh fruit tarts from Zingerman's Bakehouse.

Made with the best fresh fruit the Bakehouse bakers can find (local when it's available) on top of vanilla bean pastry cream in a crisp, buttery tart shell made with a hint of fresh citrus. Fresh fruit is also appearing in the Bakehouse's Country Peach pies and tarts. Insiders say they're made with delicious peaches and vanilla sugar baked in buttery, flaky, handmade crust or puff pastry.

Check out these other seasonal Bakehouse pies: Key lime, coconut cream, jumbleberry, blueberry, cherry, and pecan. Experts suggest trying them with a scoop of vanilla gelato from Zingerman's Creamery!



For more information, visit www.zingermansbakehouse.com



Zingerman's DELICATESSEN

Gets Italian Makeover

Throughout August, Ann Arbor's Kerrytown shopping district will have its very own Italian market as Zingerman's Delicatessen celebrates Italian foods all month long. Stop by for exclusive specials and limited time promotions and sample specially selected Italian meats, cheeses, oils and more!

Piazza Zingermanza
Annual Italian Street Food Fair!
Saturday August 20th
and Sunday August 21st,
11am to 3pm

The annual August tradition of transforming the Deli's patio into an Italian street food fest is one of the highlights of the year. Come and watch as those 80# wheels of Parmigiano Reggiano cheese into are cut into approachable chunks. Witness as curd is turned into delectably soft balls of mozzarella. Get a fix of Prosciutto—sliced to order. The folks at Zingerman's Deli got a few tricks up their sleeves, but they're all firmly rooted in the Italian culinary tradition. It's an event not to be missed!



"Purple" is NOT a Flavor

Local Popsicle Maker Aims to Dispel Notion Widely Held Among the 10-and-under Set

John Loomis, cheesemaker at Zingerman's Creamery, has spent many years introducing local cheese lovers to fresh and mold-ripened cheeses that are more at home in Europe than Michigan, but this summer he has a new crusade. "We wanted to take all the great, natural flavors of real fresh fruit that we've successfully put into a sorbet and turn them into something equally great that kids (of all ages) could enjoy while they were walking around the market," Loomis recently explained. With flavors like Pineapple Coconut, Blueberry Lime and Chocolate Fudge, Zingerman's Creamery is out to prove that popsicles aren't just a way for kids to beat the summer heat. They're a real full-flavored treat for grown ups, too!

Popsicles are available at Zingerman's Creamery on Plaza Drive, and at the Creamery's farmers market booths. Go to www.zingermanscreamery.com for more information.



Restaurant Reviews

Mark's Carts

Something new under the sun

The urban food court that burst into bloom in May on West Washington, near the corner of Ashley, has to be the most novel Ann Arbor eating scene in recent memory. Credit goes to impresario Mark Hodesh of Downtown Home and Garden for having the vision and the wherewithal to transplant the trendy food truck concept from the coasts, Portlandia, and other hipster hotspots. The cluster of a half-dozen or so wheeled kitchenettes, collectively known as Mark's Carts, has fast become a place to see and be seen at lunchtime and on Friday evenings. (Some offer dinner on other days, and breakfast as well; check markscartsann Arbor.com for weekly updates.) Teen jazz buskers frequently set up shop amid the picnic tables, blooming vines, and hibiscus bushes, adding to the mellow picnic party atmosphere.

But enough about the scene: When the music stops and you're sitting quietly on a hot bench with your compostable fork poised, how does that midair morsel taste? Is the food as much of a draw here as the concept? I'd say yes, with some qualification.

Authentically yummy creations can be savored here, like the decadently gryerich mac and cheese from Humble Hogs. The Taiwan-inspired mushroom or pork belly steamed buns from San Street are carefully calibrated for salty-sweet balance with condiments of pickled cucumber and ginger-scallion sauce. I also loved the delicate grilled whitefish soft corn taco with raw beet slaw and peppery sauce from Darcy's Cart; a heartier appetite would be satisfied by a few of Darcy's pork tacos, or the huge walnut/bean/kale "burger" that overflows its bun with bulky texture and earthy flavor.

Vegetarians and people who have to go back to work without a siesta can head to the Eat cart for a virtuous tagine of parsnips and other root vegetables, garbanzo beans, and kale in a softly spiced broth. Lamb and beef entrees are also available. Chef Blake Reetz adapted the recipe for his fruit pies from ones passed down in his farm family; with a honey-sweet layer between their filling and their flaky crusts, the pies are such a huge draw that you might miss out if you come late in the meal hour.

Popular at the Lunch Room vegan food cart (the tallest and the only wood-paneled one) is fresh Thai-style slaw that's served beside a barbecue tofu sandwich; tuck it under the bun for a great \$5 lunch. Romaine lettuce in the "vegan way Caesar



JOHN COPLEY

salad" was crispy, but flavorless garbanzo beans seemed out of place, and I longed for a robust garlic and lemon dressing. A cute and healthy kids' meal of PBJ, carrot sticks, and applesauce plays off the Lunch Room's name and is topped off with a chocolate-chip cookie. Grownups will want to opt for one of the crispy-on-the-outside, chewy-on-the-inside Mexican hot chocolate cookies, charismatically cayenne charged throughout.

The tapas-oriented Debajo del Sol cart has another light and bright dessert: a trio of almond cookies, made with almond meal and thus gluten free, per chef Cristina Trapani-Scott's family recipe. Cool melon soups rotate through this cart's creative menu. If a splurge is in order, there's an outrageous chorizo corn dog, or exotic Quebecois *poutine*-esque potatoes fried in duck fat, then swamped with sausage gravy and blue cheese.

Even before mention of Humble Hogs' headcheese hoagies, you're probably sensing a mix of pioneering new ground and updates on standard fare. Mark Hodesh may have been seeking ethnic street food, but along the way he's curated a cadre of young locavore chefs who are putting worldly spins on some longtime familiar foods. An Indian chaat cart to come from Hut-K may spice up the mix, and low overhead costs mean the lineup of tasty and affordable fare can continue to change. There's already been one defection, though: the People's Pierogi Collective bowed out after a few weeks. (Find them back at Detroit's Eastern Market, where they do the heavy volume they count on.)

Lukewarm and kind of chunky fruit smoothies from the Lunch Room were perhaps the least successful offering I sampled during one ninety-degree week. It's not easy to serve icy drinks at these mobile mini-enterprises, because the health department has strict rules about the storage of ice, and the carts don't have freezers. Hodesh says he had no trouble with health rules while setting up the big shared kitchen he runs for the carts, but the

owners have had to negotiate their challenges independently.

Serving temperatures might not be such an issue if the venue weren't already getting toasted by the propane grills of several carts and that big ball of fire in the sky. As of early July, inadequate shade from tiny carts, tiny trees, and a few strung sailcloths left people sweating and scrambling through the cement hardscape. I wilted one noon when the half-shaded stoop I'd found turned out to be downwind of a cart's exhaust fan. Hodesh has since installed more canopies and several misting fans, which help to make hot days less fierce.

I've enjoyed exploring version 1.0 of this distinctive venture. With crowds already swelling into the hundreds at lunch, the plan to operate well into Michigan's gorgeous autumn seems appropriate. Can you imagine savoring all that hearty food around the cozy firepit that Hodesh is ready to pull out at first chill? A good proposition for this economic climate, Mark's Carts need only temper our actual climate to keep al fresco fans coming back in droves.

—M.B. Lewis

Mark's Carts
211 W. Washington, 662-8122

Carts set their own hours, which continue to be in flux. Lunch is the only time all the carts are open. Darcy's Cart opens first, Mon.-Thurs., at 8 a.m. for breakfast; the Lunch Room is the only cart offering dinner every weekday. Check the website for weekly updates: markscartsann Arbor.com

Appetizers and entrees, \$2-\$9. Drinks and desserts, \$1-\$4

Wheelchair friendly.

The Joy of Drive-Ins

Bill's, Roy's, and the Chick-Inn

When I was a kid, my mom and I perfected the technique for making and eating root beer floats. I use the word "eating" deliberately, because the dish we concocted was more suitable for dessert or Sunday supper than as a beverage to accompany a hot dog. After cramming multiple scoops of vanilla ice cream into tall glasses, we slowly drizzled

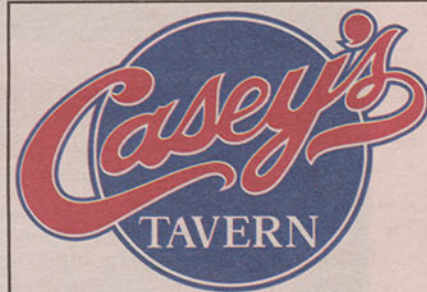
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James Cammack bass
Herlin Riley drums
Manolo Badrena percussion
Saturday \ September 17 \ 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

Mark Morris Dance Group

Mark Morris artistic director
Friday \ September 23 \ 8 pm
Saturday \ September 24 \ 8 pm
Power Center

*The Infernal Comedy:
Confessions of a Serial Killer*

John Malkovich

Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra

Sophie Klussmann and
Claire Meghnagi sopranos
Martin Haselböck conductor
Saturday \ October 1 \ 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

Yuja Wang piano
Sunday \ October 9 \ 4 pm
Hill Auditorium

State Symphony Capella of Russia

Valery Polyansky conductor
Thursday \ October 13 \ 7:30 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Goran Bregovic and His Wedding and Funeral Orchestra

Saturday \ October 15 \ 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

Water Stains on the Wall

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre

Lin Hwai-min artistic director
Friday \ October 21 \ 8 pm
Saturday \ October 22 \ 8 pm
Power Center

Schola Cantorum de Venezuela

María Guinand conductor
Thursday \ October 27 \ 7:30 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Beckett's *Endgame* and Watt

Gate Theatre of Dublin

Michael Cogan director
Featuring Barry McGovern
and Rosaleen Linehan
Thursday \ October 27 \ 7:30 pm
Friday \ October 28 \ 8 pm
Saturday \ October 29 \ 8 pm
Power Center

Apollo's Fire and
Philippe Jaroussky countertenor
Jeannette Sorrell music director
Thursday \ November 3 \ 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

Audra McDonald
Friday \ November 4 \ 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

Diego El Cigala
Saturday \ November 5 \ 8 pm
Michigan Theater

AnDa Union
Wednesday \ November 9 \ 7:30 pm
Michigan Theater

A Night in Treme: The Musical Majesty of New Orleans

Rebirth Brass Band
Donald Harrison, Jr. saxophone
Christian Scott trumpet
Glen David Andrews trombone
Dr. Michael White clarinet
Friday \ November 11 \ 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

St. Lawrence String Quartet
Saturday \ November 12 \ 8 pm
Rackham Auditorium

Beijing Guitar Duo
with Manuel Barrueco
Sunday \ November 20 \ 4 pm
Rackham Auditorium

Canadian Brass
Sunday \ November 27 \ 4 pm
Hill Auditorium

Handel's Messiah

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
UMS Choral Union
Jerry Blackstone conductor
Saturday \ December 3 \ 8 pm
Sunday \ December 4 \ 2 pm
Hill Auditorium

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Vladimir Jurowski conductor
Janine Jansen violin
Tuesday \ December 6 \ 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

Veni Emmanuel

Stile Antico
Wednesday \ December 7 \ 7:30 pm
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church [NOTE VENUE]

Einstein on the Beach

An Opera in Four Acts by
Philip Glass & Robert Wilson
Choreography by Lucinda Childs
Friday \ January 20 \ 7 pm
Saturday \ January 21 \ 7 pm
Sunday \ January 22 \ 2 pm
Power Center

Denis Matsuev piano
Monday \ January 23 \ 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

Les Violons du Roy

Bernard Labadie conductor
Maurice Steger recorder
Saturday \ January 28 \ 8 pm
Rackham Auditorium

From the Canyons to the Stars

Hamburg Symphony Orchestra
Jeffrey Tate conductor
Francesco Tristano piano
Daniel Landau filmmaker
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Rackham Auditorium

**Chamber Ensemble of the
Shanghai Chinese Orchestra**

Wang Fujian artistic director
Friday \ February 10 \ 8 pm
Rackham Auditorium

The Tallis Scholars

Peter Phillips director
Thursday \ February 16 \ 7:30 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Sweet Honey In The Rock

Friday \ February 17 \ 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

FAR

Random Dance

Wayne McGregor artistic director
Saturday \ February 18 \ 8 pm
Power Center

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
with Wynton Marsalis**

Wednesday \ February 22 \ 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

Hagen Quartet

Thursday \ February 23 \ 7:30 pm
Rackham Auditorium

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti conductor
Pinchas Zuckerman violin
Friday \ March 9 \ 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

Berlin Nocturne

Max Raabe & Palast Orchester

Saturday \ March 10 \ 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

The Andersen Project

Ex Machina

Written and directed by **Robert Lepage**
Starring **Yves Jacques**
Thursday \ March 15 \ 7:30 pm
Friday \ March 16 \ 8 pm
Saturday \ March 17 \ 8 pm
Power Center

American Mavericks

San Francisco Symphony

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Hill Auditorium

Featuring:

Paul Jacobs organ

Jeremy Denk piano

Mason Bates laptop

Thursday \ March 22 \ 7:30 pm

Jessye Norman soprano

Meredith Monk and

Joan LaBarbara vocalists

St. Lawrence String Quartet

Friday \ March 23 \ 8 pm

Emanuel Ax piano

Saturday \ March 24 \ 8 pm

San Francisco Symphony

Mavericks Chamber Concert

Michael Tilson Thomas conductor

Meredith Monk and

Joan LaBarbara vocalists

Sunday \ March 25 \ 4 pm

Rackham Auditorium

**Zakir Hussain and
Master Musicians of India**

Thursday \ April 12 \ 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

Cheikh Lô

Friday \ April 13 \ 8 pm
Michigan Theater

Charles Lloyd New Quartet

Charles Lloyd tenor saxophone

Jason Moran piano

Reuben Rogers bass

Eric Harland drums

Saturday \ April 14 \ 8 pm

Michigan Theater

Pavel Haas Quartet

Wednesday \ April 18 \ 7:30 pm
Rackham Auditorium

Snow White

Ballet Preljocaj

Angelin Preljocaj artistic director

Jean Paul Gaultier costume

designer

Thursday \ April 19 \ 7:30 pm

Friday \ April 20 \ 8 pm

Saturday \ April 21 \ 8 pm

Power Center

Joshua Bell violin

Academy of St. Martin

in the Fields

Sunday \ April 22 \ 4 pm

Hill Auditorium



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Restaurant Reviews

in root beer, rarely able to fit in more than a quarter of the bottle. The fizzy soda, pooling in the few crevices, reacted with the scoops of creamy ice cream, crystallizing the edges to form a rich root beer granita (though it would be years before we learned that foreign word). With long spoons, we scraped off and ate the icy edges, occasionally digging deeper to indulge in a full mouthful of vanilla cream. As the crystallized root beer-ice cream gave way to our spoons, we'd pour in a bit more soda, eating and slurping until the bottle and the glasses were empty.

Recent visits to Ypsilanti's vintage drive-ins stirred up this memory of childhood floats. While Ann Arbor has been overrun with trendy upmarket eateries and student fast-food chains, Ypsilanti has preserved a remarkable number of restaurants whose architecture and menus are scarcely changed from the middle of the last century. Even after Kluck's closed a couple of years ago, the city still boasts at least three places with "curb service." Unfortunately, paper bags and Styrofoam have replaced most of the trays and glass mugs, but there's still a lot of fun to be had at Ypsilanti's drive-ins.

Although Bill's Drive-In, a tiny yellow shack on East Michigan Avenue, doesn't offer root beer floats, it does sell the area's best root beer, which you can buy by the icy mug if you stay, or by the glass or gallon to take home. Rich, smoky, maple-ly, it's fabulous. To go with your root beer, order a chili dog with onions and mustard. (You may get cheese if you must.) The chili, though light on burger, is tomatoey and a bit spicy, truly unique and a perfect counterpoint—in terms of both flavor and proportion—to the dog and bun. Bill's also sells plain dogs, loose burgers, and potato chips if you require a side—and that's the entire menu. Carhops, who materialize immediately once you park, will recite that menu and bring your order on a tray or in a to-go bag. And lunch will cost you almost nothing.

Roy's Squeeze Inn, just across the street, makes you smile just to look at it. A tiny building fronted with windows and enclosing a half-moon counter with stools, this joint offers the usual drive-in fare. You can eat in or, if you park near the door or facing those windows, a waitress will come out to take your order.

Roy's features the Big Squeeze—an eight-ounce coarsely ground fresh burger, cooked well done on a flattop and layered on a soft bun with tomato, lettuce, and mayo—a big messy, greasy, juicy sandwich my husband inhaled. The same coarsely ground beef, mixed with too little spice and no sauce, overwhelmed the chili dog; and I would definitely avoid the orange cheese. Coleslaw is standard issue, but the seasoned fries are thick wedges coated and fried crispy.

I was truly disappointed in the barbecue pork sandwich. Made from slow-roasted pork, it should have been delicious, but the meat had been cooked without salt, and the bright red sauce poured over the chopped meat was overly sweet. Next time, I'll or-



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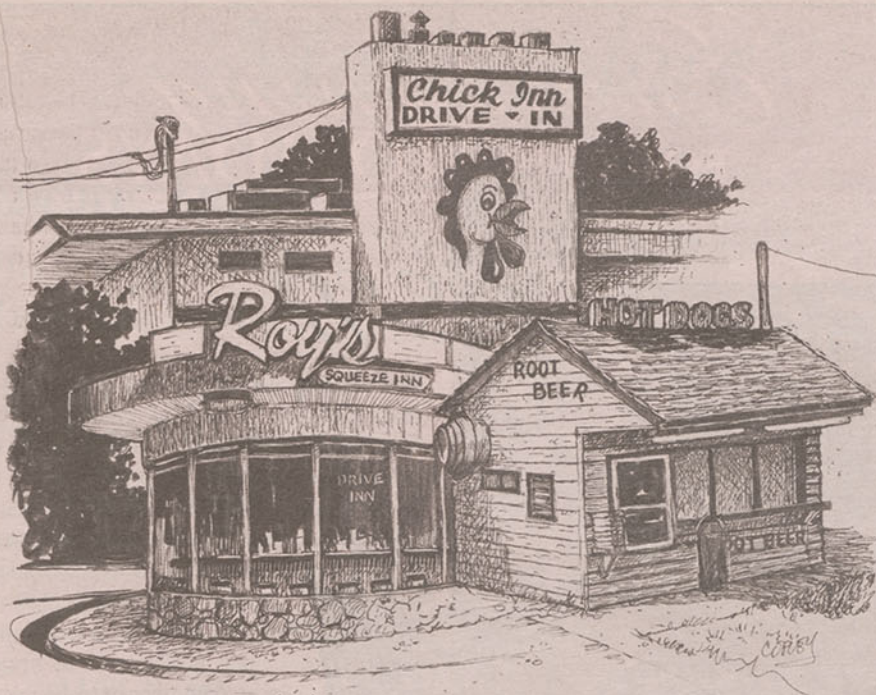
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JOHN COPLEY

der the sandwich sans sauce and with bacon, coleslaw, jalapeños, and a salt packet, and I'll wager I'll be as happy as my husband was with his burger. We visited the Michigan Avenue outlet of Roy's, where beverage options are limited to soft drinks and coffee, but the Ellsworth and Canton Center Road locations add shakes and floats as well as steak hoagies.

The Chick-Inn on Prospect at Holmes retains its speakerphones and carhops, but not its trays or frosty mugs. All the food comes wrapped to go, though you can eat at a couple of tables under its front awning if your car isn't comfortable. The place could use a bit of sprucing up, too—signs need repainting, planters cleaning out—but a summertime excursion there is still an adventure. The place is owned by Kevin Lim, a Korean American, and the menu reflects that heritage in one item—the Bul Taco. Finely cut beef flavored bulgogi style and wrapped with tomato, onion, lettuce, and lots of Korean hot sauce (we ordered spicy) in a flour taco, it's the perfect fusing of different cultures. The Paul Bunyan Burger, which combines two patties, secret sauce (*psst*, Thousand Island dressing), onions, and enough lettuce to make a side salad, won the giant messy burger contest for my husband's heart over the Big Squeeze simply because of the onions and secret sauce. Lettuce also looms large on the Hammy Sammy, as do piles of hot ham, cheese, and a mild horseradish sauce. The sauce is so mild as to be indistinguishable, but this is another multi-*napkin* sandwich.

The chili on Chick-Inn's foot-long dog, though meatier, spicier, and less tomatoey than Bill's, is equally good, and the fried chicken dinner has a shatteringly crisp coating and juicy meat. Upgrade the standard fries to curly, though, and avoid the onion rings: overly coated orbs taken straight from the freezer. Do order the coleslaw, fresh and flecked with celery salt and minced green pepper, and definitely above standard. And do indulge in a beverage beyond the usual sodas. Melting soft-serve ice cream makes the Chick-Inn's root beer float almost a root beer shake. The shakes and malts come in myriad flavors; some traditional, some not, but I will

tell you that a chocolate peanut butter malt is much better than it sounds—an icy cold, creamy Reese's Cup.

For a perfect summer evening, then, get yourself a 1955 Chevy Bel Air convertible and drive over to the Chick-Inn, with your date, for a Bul Taco, a Paul Bunyan Burger, and some coleslaw. Take your order to go and hurry over to Roy's Squeeze Inn to pick up a Big Squeeze to determine which wins your giant-burger contest. Carry all the food over to Bill's Drive-In and order, along with a chili dog or two, several frosty mugs of root beer and many, many napkins, and with your radio cranked to the oldies station, have a dinner from the past. Then, if you can still manage a bit more, take home a half gallon of Bill's root beer and make yourself a root beer float to enjoy slowly on your porch as the sun goes down and the fireflies begin to flicker.

—Lee Lawrence

Bill's Drive-In
1292 E. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti
485-2831

Open February–October: Mon.–Sat.
10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

Hot dog, chips, and 16 oz. root beer,
\$3 (cash only)

Roy's Squeeze Inn
1315 E. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti
485-3999

Mon.–Sat, 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. 11
a.m.–9 p.m.

Sandwiches and sides: \$1.30–\$5.15
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Chick-Inn Drive-In
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483-3639

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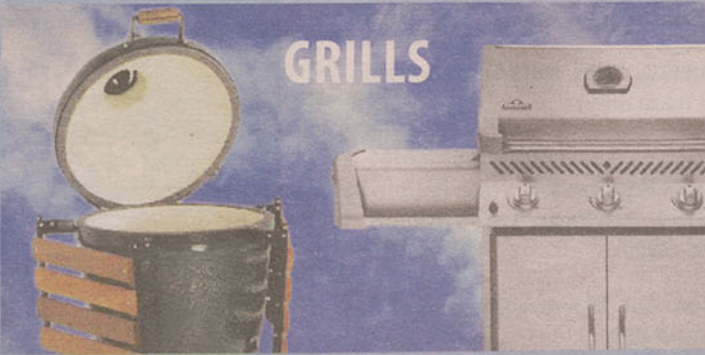


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Marketplace Changes

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

Encore, Encore

*Recordings is dead.
Long live Records.*

At the end of June, Peter Dale retired from the first job he ever had when he closed **Encore Recordings**, one of campus's most beloved used-music shops. Longtime employees Jim Dwyer and Bill McClelland immediately reopened the store as Encore Records.

Dale, sixty-two, started working at what was then called Liberty Music Shop when he was still in high school. After graduating from U-M with a bachelor's in English and a master's in Russian (neither of which he's ever used professionally) and serving a stint in the army, he left Liberty Music to work at the Ecology Center. After a couple of years, he moved to Detroit, where he ran his own record store for a decade until he became a stay-at-home dad.

In 1993, Dale heard Liberty Music was up for sale, so he came back to Ann Arbor, bought the place, and renamed it. "I consciously decided not to carry new things," he says. "Big-box stores were selling CDs for less than [independent music stores] could buy them wholesale. It's why most record stores have gone out of business. I learned that the hard way at my old store."

Dale says that in the 1990s his customers were mostly U-M students, and most of his sales were CDs. With the advent of music downloads, "that completely dried up." Now used vinyl records make up the bulk of Encore's sales, and most of its customers are older and come from out of town.

"It's a destination store," Dale says. "We get people from all over the world, literally." Last year, *Rolling Stone* magazine voted Encore Recordings the seventh-best record store in the country, and Dale says it was the best year they'd had since the early 2000s.

Jim Dwyer, who works full time teaching literature at Huron High and works at Encore evenings and weekends, says vinyl records are the reason sales have stayed strong. "Lots of things set them apart," he says. "A record is tactile—you can hold it in your hands, look at the cover, read the liner notes." CDs are much smaller, and even if they duplicate the artwork it's tiny and details are lost.

Dwyer says the main reason he and McClelland decided to carry on was because of "the devastating effect the absence of the store would have on our personal psychic well-being. Second, the effect on the community to have this place disappear." Though they plan to turn a back room into a performance space, the new owners stress that most things—including the staff's incredible collective knowledge base—remain the same.

Meanwhile, Dale is keeping busy with volunteer work. Since his retirement, he's



Jim Dwyer says he and Bill McClelland stepped in to prevent "the devastating effect the absence of the store would have on our personal psychic well-being."

been working in a soup kitchen and a homeless shelter, helping out with a community garden project, and doing adult literacy work. "That's really what [retirement] was all about. It was about meeting my social obligations."

Encore Records, 417 East Liberty, 662-6776. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. www.encorerecordsa2.com

Miki Lightens Up

The Kims make sushi more accessible.

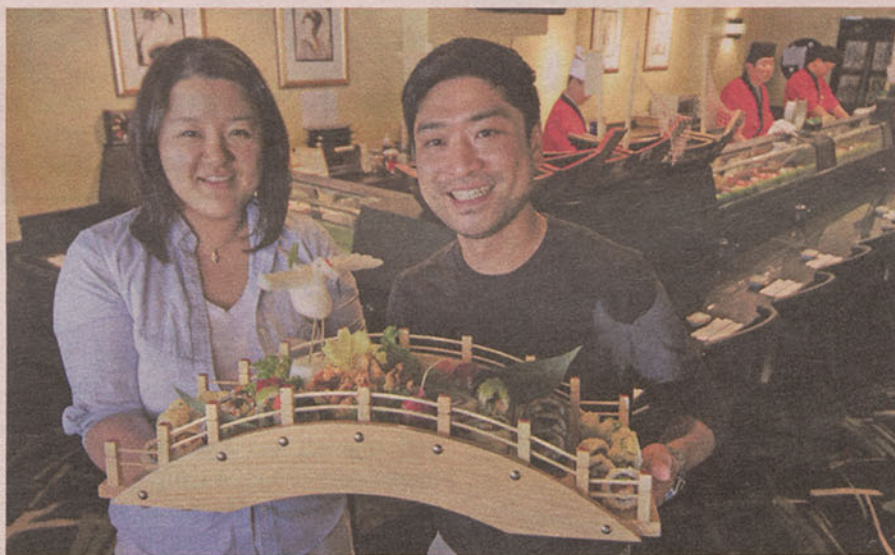
Miki, Ann Arbor's oldest extant sushi restaurant, harking back to the 1980s, has new owners and is in mid-course of a name change. Felisha and Yoon Kim will eventually change the name to **Sushi Zen**, but for now, Felisha says, it's "Miki slash Sushi Zen."

The Kims, both from Korea, met about ten years ago as students at MSU, where

she was studying hospitality and he med tech (while training to be a sushi chef on the side, working in several East Lansing sushi kitchens). Five years ago the pair opened Brighton's first sushi restaurant, Sushi Zen. They're discovering that taking over Miki is a little different. In Miki, the Kims inherited a restaurant and a staff with a history.

Started by Ann Lin in the 1980s, Miki was Ann Arbor's third sushi restaurant, preceded by Tamiko's (around the corner from Miki), and Fuji, in Braun Court near Kerrytown. Those early sushi restaurants tried to reproduce, as closely as was possible in the landlocked Midwest, the pure, spare, Edo-style sushi of Japan—a style so rigorous that an Observer write-up from the era claims that Miki's Japan-trained chef had endured corporal punishment for bad knife work.

Customers didn't have it so easy back in the 1980s either. First you read up on all the diseases you could incur eating raw fish, and if you were still game, you then had to navigate a steady procession of etiquette crises, beginning with what



New owners Felisha and Yoon Kim are mid-course of a name change—for now, Felisha says, the First St. restaurant is "Miki slash Sushi Zen."

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Marketplace Changes

to do with that hot towel and ending with whether to tip the sushi chef separately.

James Bee and Kevin Choi bought Miki in 2003, and they sold it to the Kims, who still seem to be deciding how much of its history they want to carry forward. "Sixty percent of our customers have never been here before," Felisha says, but nevertheless "we keep all the old Miki menus, and we have the same chefs, so if customers order a favorite thing, we can make it." Sections of the old menu moved intact to the new one, like the teriyakis and most of the appetizers, and some changes are minor, like "a new ginger dressing for the salads. It's lighter." She hesitates politely. "And better."

But elsewhere on the menu, big changes are afoot.

The Kims represent a new generation of sushi restaurateurs, and their touch seems lighter and more relaxed than the old guard's. The menu is all in English. Beach Boys music plays in the background. Rolls—those seaweed-wrapped nuggets of rice that are easier to eat than nigiri sushi and are considered the entry-level sushi item—have names that sound like happy-hour specials in a Key West bar: Blushing Madam, White Tiger, Mango Fiesta, and Kiss of Fire—and include ingredients like cream cheese, mango, Cajun seasoning, jalapeno, and mozzarella cheese. While customers can still order nigiri sushi and sashimi off a checklist, the place now offers an eye-popping list of seventy rolls, some of which even contain beef or chicken. The Kims have also added Korean entrees, like bulgogi and kalbi (short ribs) to the menu.

Behind the scenes, Yoon claims to be a strict taskmaster who takes the job of training and retaining sushi chefs seriously. Colorful, innovative sushi made with cream cheese and deep fried avocado may seem friendlier than raw octopus, but it is still demanding, precise food work. He has his chefs quickly assemble some for a photo shoot; garnished with an elaborate crane made from a daikon radish, the result is a tribute to their skill.

Miki/Sushi Zen, 106 S. First St., 665-8226. Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. & 4:30-10 p.m., Sat. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Sun. 3-10 p.m. (no website)

Way 1 Super Market opens

At Plymouth Mall, Ted Li takes center stage

If you're looking for pork, Ted Li's got you covered. He carries pork ribs, pork liver, pork belly, pork feet, pork legs, pork stomach, and if you're really adventurous, pork rectum. Li, fifty-four, opened the **Way 1 Super Market** in mid-June in the Plymouth Road Mall in the former Bella Vino space. It's quite a step up for Li, who had owned the smaller Dong Yu China Market inside the mall for eighteen

years. "Basically," Li says, "we moved the old store from the other location."

He also quadrupled the store's size. Dong Yu was about 5,000 square feet, and the new place is closer to 20,000. The move allowed Li to go from running a small ethnic grocery to a full-fledged supermarket selling goods from all over the world. The emphasis is definitely still on Asian items—even the bulk peanuts are labeled in Chinese characters—but next to things like toothpaste from China you'll also find American brands like Colgate and Pepsodent. With meat, seafood, fresh fruit, and produce, Way 1 is definitely a modern supermarket.

Li, who moved to Ann Arbor from China twenty years ago, never planned to go into the grocery business. In China he went to medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon, and he's also trained in traditional Chinese medicine like acupuncture. While studying for his boards in this country, he took a number of jobs at the U-M Medical Center doing medical research. But he decided to put off taking the boards when he realized he'd have to drag his daughter out of school and move his family to whatever residency program in the country would take him.

Now that his daughter is grown and a college grad, he says he might go back and take those boards one day. And once he finds a good manager, "maybe I can find more time to do something else."

Li says he has decided to adopt the new name so people wouldn't assume the store was simply an Asian market. He says "Way 1" suggests good will, and the "number one way" to have a wide variety of merchandise. Whether because of its new name or its greater visibility, the new store does seem to be drawing a more diverse clientele. Li says most of the customers at the old store were Asian. At the new store, he's getting a lot more non-Asian customers.

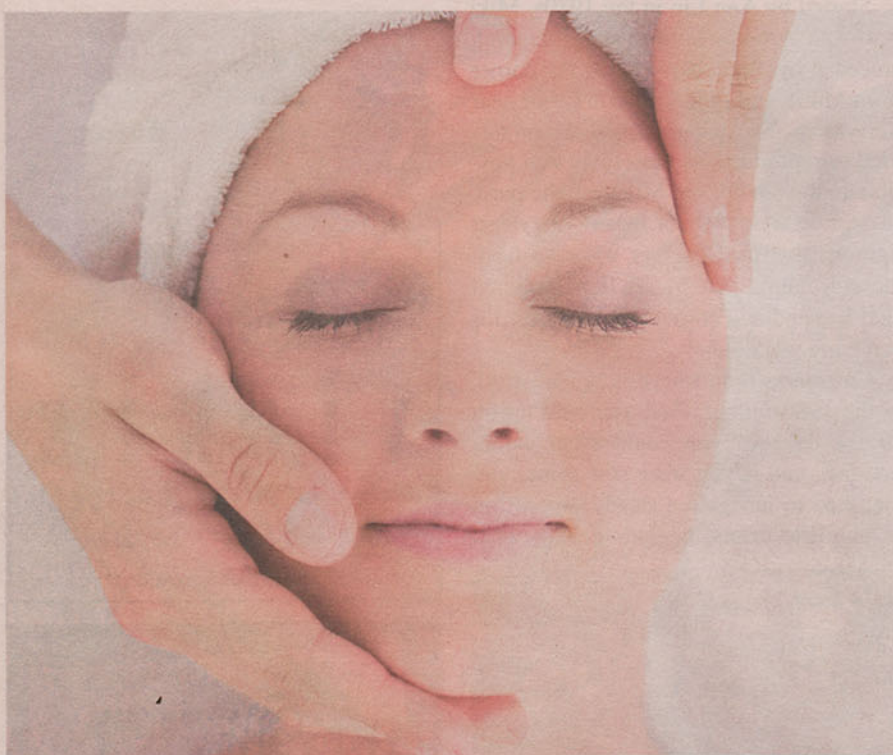
Way 1 Super Market, Plymouth Road Mall, 2789 Plymouth Rd., 669-8821. Sun.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Briefly noted

Mollie, a purebred Yorkie, is sensibly dressed today, wearing a brown Louis Vuitton dress, a black-and-white Up Country collar, and a hair ornament. "It's her everyday collar," says her owner, Shauna Williams, who just opened **Spoil Me** at Scio Town Center on Zeeb. "She has one she dresses up in when she goes to parties."

The dress, the hair ornament, the Up Country collar, and the party collar of Swarovski crystals are all for sale at Spoil Me. "I'm in a Yorkie club on Facebook," says Williams. "We meet every so often and bring our dogs. [Mollie] has her own little wardrobe. I'd guess she has about twelve dresses." Williams has another Yorkie at home, as well as a Shih Tzu and two Himalayan Siamese cats, all of whom are, she says, similarly spoiled.

Williams' pink, glittery, perfumed store is tiny, but so is most of the merchandise—animal dress-up seems to be played mostly



from the daily grind to complete unwind.

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with toy breeds. As hobbies go, dressing animals actually seems pretty affordable, with dresses around \$25 to \$30. The Swarovski crystal collars, at \$75 or \$80, are some of the more expensive things in the shop.

The beautifully frosted, vanilla-yogurt dipped "cannolis," "donuts," and "cookies" that are so cruelly placed at human-eye rather than dog-eye level, are unfortunately meant for dogs only, though they won't kill you. "They're not bad," Williams says. "I took a bite of one, because I wouldn't feed my dog anything I wouldn't eat myself."

Spoil Me, 283 S. Zeeb Rd., 222-9191. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., closed Sun. (no website)



At the other end of Scio Town Center, **Westside Furniture Consignment Emporium** just got bigger. When Joe Grammatico, who owns the complex, opened his used-furniture store there a few years ago, it was a shot in the dark. With his construction business flat-lining because of the recession, he had some time on his hands, and he had a vacancy. Now it seems he's found himself a new career. Positioning the store as upmarket and high end, rather than junk-shippy, has business humming. When Wine Etc. went out of business last January, Grammatico decided to knock out the intervening wall and expand. He was sad to see Wine Etc. go, but says he's not surprised. Gary Wilbert's wine store "sold only wine and some really expensive beer, like \$9 a six pack. He didn't even sell tobacco. I used to ask him why, and he said he didn't like it." Grammatico laughs heartily and sweeps his arm around his rooms of furniture and tchotchkes. "If I only sold stuff I liked, where would I be?"

Westside Furniture Consignment Emporium, 283 S. Zeeb Rd., 929-4508. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. wfce.net.



American Home Fitness has moved across town. "We love the mix. We're next to REI, Whole Foods, Ethan Allen. Everything is full, there are no vacancies, plenty of parking," says manager Adam Burns of his new home at Cranbrook Village. (He's much closer to Ethan Allen than to REI or Whole Foods, if you want to know which end of the parking lot to head for.)

Burns is particularly happy that the timing of the move has snagged him some free publicity, because—he points to the window display with a flourish—he has a big, new product to push, and big, new exercise equipment doesn't come out all that often. It's called the ElliptiGO, "a cross between an elliptical trainer and a bike"—best described as a bike you can't sit down on. "It's for people who want to get a great outside cardiovascular workout but who don't want to ride a basic bike. It's an exciting summer product. We've sold a couple of them to physicians, and they love them. Because you're standing up, you get more muscles involved, and it's low impact."

You operate the ElliptiGO standing up, and just to be clear, it's not a stationary product—it covers ground. The wheels are small, keeping the rider closer to the ground, but the ElliptiGO brakes and steers like a regular bike. "It doesn't take a lot to get used to," says Burns, demonstrating as he speaks. "You start it off like a scooter, push forward, get your balance, then"—and he's off. "It can go up to twenty-six miles an hour, and you can change strides." It's manufactured and marketed by a California company, but the inventor and patent-holder, Larry Miller, is from Michigan. ElliptiGOs cost \$1,700 to \$2,300.

American Home Fitness, 850 W. Eisenhower, 389-2550. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. www.americanhomefitness.com



Taste Our Goods is possibly the tiniest lunch counter in town—it's a two-seater, and if there's a one-seater somewhere, we don't know about it. It's been next to Kerrytown's Sparrow Market cash register for two years, but with the crush of people pushing their way through the tight aisles with armloads of groceries, especially at peak transit hours and on market days, you might never have noticed it. During quieter times, however, one or two people are often sitting lazily at the counter, picking their way through a meal and keeping the cooks company while they make the breakfasts, sandwiches, salads, and soups that are take-out favorites among people who work in Kerrytown and offices nearby. A rumor that Taste Our Goods was closing ruined the afternoon for two Observer staffers (the Observer offices are practically next door), so we're happy to report that it ain't so.

Taste Our Goods was a partnership of Elena Levin, who graduated from U-M and was looking for something to do ("I cooked a lot; I studied environmental science and focused on food systems."), and Bob Sparrow, the butcher and sausage maker behind the meat counter. Levin is leaving town at the end of July. Sparrow vacillated between closing TOG altogether and making major changes before deciding to keep it pretty much as is, though he has decided to expand the hours to seven days a week instead of five. He says the menu will remain the same, though he adds, not surprisingly, that "we'll probably do more with meat—like more sausages."

Taste Our Goods (inside Sparrow Market), 407 N. Fifth Ave., 769-2725. Daily 9 a.m.-3 p.m. www.tasteourgoods.com



Nabeel Gneym made money at his new **Tower Mini Market** before he'd even opened the store—and it came in the form of hidden treasure.

When Gneym, fifty, leased the one-time Matthew C. Hoffmann jewelry store in Tower Plaza, there was a 5,000-pound safe, six feet high by four feet wide, sitting in the middle of the space. No one seemed to know who owned it or where it came from, only that it had been in the store for

over thirty years.

At first, Gneym used it as a funky display rack and hung candies from it, but he had to admit it looked stupid. "It stuck out like a sore thumb," he says.

Finally, he got a half-dozen guys, "big football player types," to drag it out onto the sidewalk—a process that took five or six hours—then had Ann Arbor Towing haul it away and cut it open. Among the items inside was a two-dollar bill. Gneym decided not to frame it and hang it on the wall behind the counter—he saved that honor for the first dollar he made actually selling something.

Gneym, who immigrated from Jordan in 1979, originally settled in Grand Rapids, where he earned a degree in business management from Aquinas College in 1987. Tower Mini Market is his second party store. He opened his first, Grapes, Grain & Deli, in Grand Haven in 2008, but closed it after three years because, he says, the business climate was lousy. "If you want to do business, don't do it in Grand Haven," he warns, only half-joking.

Seeking more fertile economic ground, he settled on Ann Arbor, because he liked the area and thought a college town would provide more customers.

As for what he carries at Tower Mini Market, he says, "You name it." He thinks one of his strongest advantages is the diversity of the people who live in Tower Plaza; he stocks Mediterranean, Chinese, Japanese, and other countries' groceries to appeal to the building's residents. He says health drinks are very popular, as are imported cigarettes and traditional Syrian desserts. Unlike a lot of party stores "that just carry snacks like Snickers," he says, he tries to stock a lot of healthy products and even has a small selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. He expects to get a beer and wine license in August and also hopes to get a lottery license.

That two-dollar bill wasn't the only treasure to come from the safe. Gneym also found two opals, one of which he gave to Ann Arbor Towing, and a key. He has no idea what the key opens. If he's lucky, maybe it'll be another safe.

Tower Mini Market, 340 Maynard, 929-5948. 9 a.m.-midnight daily.

Closings

Ionia, the small gift shop in Nickels Arcade specializing in high quality Turkish gift items—ceramics, glass, wooden boxes, and jewelry—is closing for the happiest of reasons. Owner Ilkim Erturk had a baby and wants to spend time with him. In July, Ilkim's husband was answering the phone and presiding over the 30 percent off closing sale. His name? Totally irrelevant, he insisted, but his new son's name is Burak.

He says Ionia's lease runs through the end of August, but he's guessing the store will close after Art Fair. "Anything that's left we will keep for ourselves, because we love it."

Got a restaurant or retail change? Email sallymitani@gmail.com or tonymcreynolds@tds.net, or leave voice-mail at 769-3175 ext. 309.

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Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. Up-to-date schedules are posted at arborweb.com, but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.

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Dragon Wagon

Acoustic sounds rule the summer.

Every summer there's one band that seems to appear everywhere around Washtenaw County, and if you wanted to track the youth zeitgeist you could start by making a list of them. Right now an old bluegrass like me can take great pleasure in the crest of enthusiasm among young people for acoustic roots styles: for the first time since the early 1970s, you can go to a bar in Ann Arbor and hear and dance to acoustic music on a regular basis. The trend has found its local representative in the six-member band Dragon Wagon, which I've seen at Woodruff's with several dozen twenty-somethings bobbing happily in front of the stage, and in a more sedate show at the Ark that showcased the players' chops and tight ensemble work.

Dragon Wagon is everywhere at the moment. In August you can hear them at the Michigan Roots Jamboree (August 5), the weekly bluegrass night at the Circus (August 10)—where they've already appeared three times this summer—and the Wolverine State Brewing Company (August 11), as well as at several other Ypsilanti and outstate dates and an August 3 appearance to be announced. They recently returned from a tour that took them from the inaugural Electric Forest festival up north down to St. Louis, evidence that the local roots scene, mostly

Ypsilanti-based, is gaining some national traction.

Dragon Wagon proclaims that they offer "Bluegrass Folk-Rock with a Shot of Irish Whiskey." Their instruments include banjo, mandolin, fiddle (from the ebullient Diana Ladio), guitar, bass, and drums—a clear sound, but rhythmic enough to dance to. The variety of styles referred to in the motto is accurate, and better still is the band's ability to read audiences' moods: a crowd that's out for a rowdy time will get a stringband cover of a Hank Williams III song about a little bit of smoke and a whole lot of wine, but the band also plays some mellow originals just made

magazine editors poll, and *OffBeat* magazine says it "captures the allure of a speakeasy, the swagger of old Dixie, and the simple good-time charm of Western swing." \$49.50. **Aug. 11: Tommy Malone.** Solo performance by this New Orleans singer-songwriter, the lead singer and guitarist of the influential gospel-flavored roots-rock band The Subdudes. \$20. **Aug. 12: The RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites who have appeared in numerous festivals and on the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed*, a 1994 Ark performance. \$11 at the door only. **Aug. 13: Nanci Griffith.** Sold out. **Aug. 14: Cris Williamson.** Veteran women's music pioneer who writes rock-flavored folk songs known for their blend of passion, humor, visionary idealism, and deft storytelling. She also possesses a luminous, powerful voice, "a full-bodied, high-soaring thing of beauty," according to critic Ben Fong-Torres. \$17.50. **Aug. 15: John Lee Hooker Jr.** The son of the late blues legend, Hooker has forged a style that blends funky R&B, jazz, and down-home blues in a way that carries forward the sardonic, funky sound of Johnny "Guitar" Watson and other blues-based R&B artists of the 70s and 80s. \$15. **Aug. 16: Katie Geddes.** Folk, country-folk, and gospel tunes, along with songs by such contemporary songwriters as John Prine, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Michael Nesmith, and Lennon & McCartney, by this popular local folk-singer who sings in a clear, strong voice. \$13.50. **Aug. 17: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. \$3 (members & students, \$2). **Aug. 18: Sumkali.** Local band led by tabla player John Churchville that blends classical Indian music with jazz and funk idioms. \$15. **Aug. 19: Todd Snider.** Best known for his hilarious 1994 single "Alright Guy," this folk-rock singer-songwriter from Memphis has a sharp ear for colloquial speech and an alternately grim or whimsical sense of humor. He likes to write about last-chance romances, street-corner losers, and other phenomena on the alluringly dark margins of every-



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

roots music

for an outdoor show on a warm Michigan summer night.

At the core of the group's repertoire, though, are traditional pieces like "Shady Grove" and "Whiskey Before Breakfast" (which, it's true, could also fall into the rowdy category). Except for the drums, the performances of these tunes would have been recognizable to musicians of a hundred years ago. In the long run, it may be that music, along with other aspects of human productivity, will be made increasingly within grids of electricity and computing, but for now the substructure is holding, and the pleasures of wood and wire rule the summer.

—James M. Manheim

day life. "He reminds me of me," says Billy Joe Shaver, and John Prine calls him "the hardest act to follow since Steve Goodman." \$30. **Aug. 20: Bill Bynum & Co.** Bluegrass-based quartet led by Bynum, a Downriver singer-songwriter and guitarist whose songs also draw on old-time, early country, gospel, and contemporary folk music. His band includes fiddler Mary Seelhorst, dobro player Dave Keeney, and bassist Chuck Anderson. \$15. **Aug. 21: "Simon & Garfunkel Retrospective."** Performance by **AJ Swearingen & Jonathan Beedle**, a duo that's been performing its Simon & Garfunkel tribute show for more than a decade. \$20. **Aug. 23: The Rosie Burgess Trio.** Urban folk trio from Melbourne led by singer-songwriter Burgess, whose music is a high-energy blend of folk, blues, and gypsy music. FREE. All encouraged to bring nonperishable food or money to donate to Food Gatherers. **Aug. 24: Goitse.** Traditional Irish music by this young quintet made up of University of Limerick students. \$15. **Aug. 25: Great Lake Swimmers.** Toronto alt-country quintet led by singer-songwriter Tony Dekker whose music channels an array of influences from Hank Williams to Gram Parsons. Tonight the band showcases material from a forthcoming new CD. Opening act is **The Pines**, the up-and-coming Iowa indie folk-noir singer-songwriter duo of David Huckfelt and Benson Ramsey that has a widely acclaimed Red House debut, *Sparrows in the Bell*. \$15. **Aug. 26: Suzy Bogguss.** One of the most popular and critically respected country singers of the past 20 years, Bogguss is known for her strong, clear, expressive contralto voice and her eclectic taste in material, which ranges from enjoyable pop-country fluff to challenging works by top contemporary songwriters. She had her biggest hit in 1994 with John Hiatt's "Drive South," and she has recorded songs by the likes of Cheryl Wheeler, Julie Miller, and Matraca Berg, with whom she wrote "Somebody to Love." Her current concerts showcase material from recent CDs like *Swing*, a collection of elegant, western swing-flavored renditions of jazz standards and contemporary jazz songs, and *American Folk Songbook*, a collection of folk standards like "Shenandoah," "Wayfaring Stranger," and "Red River Valley." \$25. **Aug. 27: Finvarra's Wren.** Traditional Irish, Scottish, English, and Celtic-American dances and carols

by this Detroit-area multigenerational quintet led by singer-guitarist Jim Perkins. Also, Irish step dancing. \$15. **Aug. 28: Brother Sun.** All-male vocal harmony trio with a repertoire of contemporary gospel, blues, and folk tunes. Opening act is **Jen Cass**, a U-M law grad who now lives in Bay City. Her sprightly, often sharply humorous pop-folk parables have inspired comparisons to Mary Chapin Carpenter and Dar Williams. \$20.

The Black Pearl

302 S. Main 222-0400

This seafood and martini bar features live music Tues. & Wed., 7-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: Laith Al-Saadi.** Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Aug. 3: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **Aug. 10: Elise Amato & Matt Pietryga.** Local duo that performs a wide variety of pop, soul, classic rock, and contemporary music. **Aug. 17: Hailey Hewitt Clark.** Classically trained soprano from Cary (NC) whose songs reflect traditional folk, blues, country, bluegrass and gospel influences. **Aug. 24: Jody Raffoul.** Canadian pop-rock singer-songwriter who's been described as a hybrid of Bono and Bruce Springsteen. He is joined by backup vocalist and guitarist **Wes Buckley**. **Aug. 31: Beth Stalker & Jim Rawlings.** An eclectic mix of styles, from blues, R&B, and jazz to rock and country, by the Detroit Music Award-winning duo of singer-songwriter Stalker and songwriter-guitarist Rawlings.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. 996-8555

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7-10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets. **Every Tues.:**

No music in August. **Aug. 3: Nightlife Pop.** Local electro-pop dance band. Opening acts are **Charlie Slick**, a local Gary Numan-inspired electro-pop singer-songwriter. **Aug. 4: Graders.** Ypsilanti postpunk rock quintet. Opening acts are the local rock 'n' roll duo **Jehovah's Witness Protection Program**, the Ypsilanti folk-rock quintet **Lawless Carver**, and **Coke Dick Motorcycle Awesome**, a local metal-edged punk-rock "funcore" septet led by singer-guitarist Ben Igrisan. **Aug. 5: Ann Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Aug. 6: Skeleton Birds.** Ypsilanti indie rock quintet that's celebrating the release of a new CD. Opening acts are **Chris Bathgate**, a talented local singer-songwriter known for his heartfelt, poetic folk-rock story songs who has an acclaimed new CD, *Salt Year*, and **The Boys Themselves**, a local fuzzpop power trio. **Aug. 10: Matt G.** Local hip-hop MC. Opening acts are local hip-hop MCs **5 Ela**, **Magnum Opus**, **A.P.**, **Donnie Destro**, and **M Select**. **Aug. 11: Company of Thieves.** Popular, critically acclaimed Chicago indie rock quintet fronted by vocalist Genevieve Schatz. Opening acts are **The Hounds Below**, a Detroit big-beat rock quartet led by Von Bondies frontman Jason Stollsteimer that describes its sound as "Roy Orbison meets the Black Rebels Motorcycle Club", and **Gold Motel**, a Chicago indie pop quintet fronted by vocalist Greta Morgan. Advance tickets: \$10 (\$12 at the door). **Aug. 12: "Joe Strummer Tribute."** With an ad hoc local punk band featuring local techno and hip-hop DJ **A-Bomb** on drums, the Detroit-area mariachi punk band **Pancho Villa's Skull**, the Detroit blue-collar punk-rock trio **Detroit Underdogs**, the Ypsilanti punk band **Ironclad**, the Detroit-area punk band **Constituents**, and the local ska DJ collective **Alpha + Omega Soundsystem**. **Aug. 13: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. **Aug. 17: MC Frontalot.** All ages admitted. This proudly nerdy New York hip-hop MC wears a tie and a pocket protector and raps about Web comics, computer games, blogs, and picking up chicks at Star Wars conventions. He's the subject of *Nerdcore Rising*, a documentary about his debut national tour as the "Godfather of Nerdcore." Opening act is **Baron Knoxbury**, a local synth-pop musician whose music has been described as "super-sonic spaceship music ... that sounds retro, cheap, obnoxious, and endearing all at once." Advance tickets: \$13 (\$15 at the door). 8 p.m.-midnight. **Aug. 18: Plug.** Gay-friendly dance party with a DJ. **Aug. 19: TBA.** **Aug. 20: Ticked Fancy Burlesque Co.** Popular local postpunk burlesque troupe. Opening acts are **Mizz B. Haven**, a Detroit hula hoop wiz formerly known as FOX, and **Kaylouise & Mesmeric Belly Dance Fusion**, a Toledo-based troupe that blends traditional Middle Eastern belly dance with blues and vaudeville dancing. **Aug. 24: TBA.** **Aug. 25: The War on Drugs.** Philadelphia Americana-flavored indie rock trio whose influences range from Dylan and Springsteen to My Bloody Valentine. Opening acts are **Caveman**, a Brooklyn (NY) New Wave Afrobeat band, and **Carradine**, a Ferndale postpunk slack-rock band. **Aug. 26 & 27: TBA.** **Aug. 31: "Hip-Hop Night."** With Lansing MC **Versatai** and other hip-hop acts TBA.

Blue Tractor
207 E. Washington 222-4095
This downtown tavern features live music Wed. 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed. Open Mike.** All acoustic musicians and vocalists invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter Zachariah Griffin.

The Circus
210 S. First St. 913-8890
This 2nd-floor downtown club features live music on Wed. & occasional other nights 10 p.m.-2 a.m. DJ on Thurs 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, no dancing (unless otherwise noted). Also, live music or karaoke on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. in the street-level **Millennium Club** or basement **Cavern Club** (cover with dancing in these clubs). Age 21 & older admitted on Wed. & Thurs., age 18 & older on Fri. & Sat. **Aug. 3: Shotgun Party.** Austin-based acoustic trio—singer-guitarist Jenny Parrott, fiddler Katy Rose Cox, and upright bassist Andrew Austin-Peterson—whose songs blend a postpunk lyrical sensibility with early blues, old-time country, bluegrass, and Texas swing musical influences. "Best songs I've heard since Christ was a cowboy," says Kinky Friedman. "An old rugged cross between Tom Waits and Leonard Cohen. Jenny Parrott has the purest most un-decaffeinated voice this side of Loretta Lynn." **Aug. 6: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. Cover, dancing. In the Millennium Club. **Aug. 10: Dragon Wagon.** See review, p. 44. Highly regarded local experimental acoustic roots-music sextet that calls its music "bluegrass folk-rock with a touch of Irish whiskey." **Aug. 17: Whistle Pigs.**

Bluegrass-flavored alt-country Americana trio from Carbondale (IL) whose instrumentation features banjo, accordion, and upright bass. **Aug. 20: Killer Flamingos.** See above. In the Millennium Club. **Aug. 24: Holy Ghost Tent Revival.** High-spirited postpunk acoustic Americana by this Greensboro (NC) sextet whose instrumentation includes euphonium and banjo. "Holy Ghost recalls a New Orleans jazz band rocking out, reminding us that, for a time, jazz wasn't much more than good and dirty dance music," says *Independent Weekly* (Durham) writer Andrew Ritchey. **Aug. 31: Black Jake & the Carnies.** Popular Ypsilanti octet that calls its energetic, foot-stomping blend of punk, old-time music, and bluegrass "crabgrass." Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD, *Sundry Mayhems*, which according to *Deep Cutz* writer Jeff Milo features "blurring see-saw strings, a mean washboard, a wheezy accordion, angular, tinny banjos and mandolins and zingy, mercurial (yet melodious) lead vocals girded by poignant, rousing choruses (even some opera mixed in), at 0-60-and-back-again tempos."

Conor O'Neill's
318 S. Main 665-2968
Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30-10 p.m. and Thurs. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and a DJ on Fri. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Karaoke on Sun., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Aug. 4: JIVA.** Groove-oriented, melodic pop-rock with ethereal guitar textures by this Detroit band. **Aug. 6: Park Side Wes.** Local blues-rock and funk cover trio. **Aug. 11: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **Aug. 13: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues trio. **Aug. 18: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Aug. 20: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. **Aug. 25: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Aug. 27: Lucas Paul Band.** See above.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
114 S. Main 665-9468
Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music Thurs.-Sat., 8:30-10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Aug. 4: Dan Henig.** Local introspective folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Aug. 5: Derek Daniel.** Acoustic folk, blues, and rock covers and originals by this Ypsilanti singer-guitarist. **Aug. 6: Rob Reid.** Chicago-based singer-songwriter whose music draws on an eclectic range of genres, from bossa nova and Malian griot to doo-wop. **Aug. 11: Match by Match.** Local postpunk pop-folk duo of guitarist Gray Bouchard and accordionist Melissa Coppola. Winner of the 2010 Ark at the UMMA Student Songwriter Series. **Aug. 12: John Latini.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter. **Aug. 13: Ben Jordan.** Colorado-based Americana singer-songwriter. **Aug. 18: Yellowbird.** NYC indie rock singer-songwriter whose songs blend folkie lyrical force with a pop musical sensibility. **Aug. 19: Jo Serrapere.** Highly regarded veteran local singer-songwriter known for her spare, haunting ballads and blues and her sinewy, commanding vocals. She is accompanied by guitarist **John Devine**. **Aug. 20: John Churchville.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Aug. 25: Dave Sharp & Company.** Jazz standards by an ensemble led by local bassist Sharp and featuring a trio of his Ann Arbor Music Center jazz students. **Aug. 26: Four Shillings Short.** The California duo of string musician and drummer Christy Martin and Irish multi-instrumentalist Aodh Og O Tuama perform their spirited blend of Indian ragas, Scottish ballads, Irish airs, folk-rock, and blues. "They are not the Clancy Brothers or Jean Richie or Ravi Shankar but a combination of all three," says the Columbus Folk Music Society. **Aug. 27: David Nefesh.** Veteran folk-rock singer-songwriter from Royal Oak, a 6-time Detroit Music Award nominee.

Creekside Grill and Bar
5827 Jackson Rd. 827-2737
The intimate basement bar in this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Aug. 28: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. With vocalists Jim Tarravantes and Patty O'Connor. 6:30-9 p.m.

Dreamland Theater
26 N. Washington
Ypsilanti 657-2337
This downtown Ypsilanti theater features occasional live music, 9-11 p.m. or later. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. August schedule TBA.

Gandy Dancer
401 Depot 769-0592
This restaurant in Ann Arbor's old train station features live jazz on the courtyard patio, Wed. 6-9 p.m., June 15-Sept. 14. No cover, no dancing. **Aug. 3: Ellen Rowe Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by U-M jazz piano professor Rowe. **Aug. 10: Ben Jansson.** Local jazz ensemble fronted by this Ann Arbor-bred saxophonist, a recent U-M grad. **Aug. 17: Al Hill.** This veteran Ann Arbor-bred R&B, funk, and boogie blues pianist, who now lives in Nashville, is joined tonight by bassist Pat Prouty, drummer Sam Genson, and a guitarist TBA. **Aug. 24: Royal Garden Trio.** Local trio led by guitarist Brian Delaney that plays early jazz standards and Hot Club-style gypsy jazz. With cellist Michael Karoub and clarinetist and tenor guitarist Tom Bogardus. **Aug. 31: Matt Endahl's Quartet.** This local jazz ensemble led by pianist Endahl performs everything from traditional spirituals to Ornette Coleman works. With saxophonist Danny Fisher-Lochhead, bassist Andrew Kratzat, and drummer Aaron Gold.

Goodnite Gracie
301 W. Huron 623-1443
Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live music Thurs. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. and live music or DJ Sat. 8:30 or 9 p.m.-2 a.m. & occasional other nights, and a reggae DJ on Fri. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. (No Thurs. happy hour in August.) Cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi Trio.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Aug. 6: The Pasadena Band.** Pasadena (MD) acoustic reggae-rock quintet. Opening act is **Voodoo Lighthouse**, a local rock quintet that has a new CD, *Fight Forever*. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. **Aug. 13: Funktion.** Grand Rapids blues-funk band. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. **Aug. 20: "P-Funk Night."** Members TBA of the P-Funk All-Stars, the legendary funk-rock collective, are joined by several Funk Night Records DJs. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. **Aug. 27: The Junk Bonds.** Pop-rock covers and originals by this local band that features both male and female lead vocalists. Opening acts are **Jessica Carmichael**, a Detroit jazz-folk singer-songwriter, and **Umoja**, a local reggae band.

Guy Hollerin's
3600 Plymouth Rd. 769-9800
The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Sat. & occasional Fri., 8 p.m.-midnight. Cover, dancing. If tickets are available in advance, they are sold at the restaurant. **Aug. 8: Thoretta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James-style vocalist. **Aug. 13: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. **Aug. 20: Al Hill & the Love Butlers.** Reunion of this veteran local band, led by Nashville-based Ann Arbor native Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano, that plays soulful swing, New Orleans-style funk, and boogie-woogie blues. **Aug. 27: Bobby Murray Band.** R&B band led by singer-guitarist Murray, who is the regular guitarist in Etta James' band.

The Habitat Lounge
3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636
The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.-Thurs., 8:45 p.m.-12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, DJ Mon., 7 p.m.-midnight, and solo pianists Tues.-Sun., 6-8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Aug. 2: Dal Bouey.** Detroit R&B and neo-soul show band led by vocalist Bouey. **Aug. 3 & 4: Green-Eyed Soul.** Windsor pop trio fronted by vocalists Melissa Danese and Fallon Deluca. **Aug. 5 & 6: JoyRide.** Popular Flint dance band. **Aug. 9-11: Dave Hamilton.** Pop covers by this versatile solo guitarist. **Aug. 12 & 13: Bugs Beddow Band.** Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. **Aug. 16: Dal Bouey.** See above. **Aug. 17: JoyRide.** See above. **Aug. 18: Scottie Alexander.** Singer-pianist. **Aug. 19: Rockestra.** Versatile rock cover band whose repertoire ranges from the 60s to the present. **Aug. 20: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** See Live at PJ's. **Aug. 23-25: Slice.** East Lansing pop dance quartet. **Aug. 26 & 27: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing. **Aug. 30 & 31: Herbie Russ.** Solo saxophonist.

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Music at Nightspots

Live at PJ's 102 S. First St. 623-1443

This lounge features live music Sun. 5-8:30 p.m. and Fri. 9 p.m.-2 a.m., along with Fri. happy hour 6:30-9 p.m. Dance DJs (or occasional live music) Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (except happy hour), dancing. **Every Sun.: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Every Fri.:** Live bands TBA. **Aug. 5: The Vibratrons.** All-star band led by veteran local rocker Dan Mulholland, the charismatic former leader of the Watulus and several other great local rock 'n' roll bands. Its repertoire includes everything from garage rock and blues to country and folk, along with more ballads than Mulholland usually essays. With guitarist Brian Delaney, keyboardist Andy Adamson, bassist Jerry Hancock, and drummer Rich Dishman. 6-9:30 p.m. **Aug. 12: Steve Newhouse & the Nuke-a-billies.** Veteran local classic country and country-rock band led by singer-guitarist Newhouse. With guitarist Kevin Brown, bassist Chris Goerke, and drummer Eric Nyhuis. 6-9:30 p.m. **Aug. 19: Chris Goerke & the Houserockers.** Blues, classic rock, and classic country by this local band fronted by bassist Chris Goerke. With guitarists John Rasmusen and Scott Hutchinson, keyboardist Don Emerson, and drummer Bill Shurtliff. 6-9:30 p.m. **Aug. 26: Mr. Largebeat's Rockasaurus.** Big-beat space-rock covers and originals by this band led by veteran local singer-songwriter Jim Gertz, who plays a theremin (the original synthesizer) and percussion, and featuring lead female vocalist Ru. 6-9:30 p.m. **Aug. 26: Blockhead.** Devo cover band. 11 p.m.-1 a.m.

The Necto 516 E. Liberty 994-5436

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 6 nights a week, Mon.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover, dancing. **Aug. 11: MEDMA Presents Impulse!** The Michigan Electronic Dance Music Association's monthly showcase of progressive house, trance, and electronic dance music TBA. **Aug. 13: "Plastic Passion."** DJ Josh Burge hosts this monthly retro dance party with an eclectic mix of everything from New Wave, Britpop, and postpunk to acid house, goth rock, and industrial.

Old Town 122 W. Liberty 662-9291

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Aug. 7: Chad Williams & the Lonesome Plowboys.** Twangy country-folk ensemble led by singer-songwriter Williams, a former WCBN DJ and local alt-country impresario who now lives in Portland (OR). **Aug. 14: Greg McIntosh.** Local pop-rock singer-songwriter best known as the Great Lakes Myth Society guitarist. **Aug. 21: Whit Hill & the Postcards.** Nashville-based former local band featuring Hill's richly imaginative neobeatnik country-folk originals that are often spiked with her offbeat sense of humor. **Aug. 28: Ypsitucky Colonels.** Local garage dance band whose music mixes country, blues, funk, and rock flavors. Members are Corn Daddy guitarist Will Stewart and former Boomerangs guitarist R Baker, bassist Eric Kelly from Dirt Road Logic, and former Destroy All Monsters drummer John Crawford.

Oz's Music Environment 1920 Packard 662-8283

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most Tues. 7:30-9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover by donation, no dancing. **Aug. 2: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Aug. 13: "Postcards for Japan Concert."** Performances by Katsumi, a local alternative folk-rock songwriter, and **Half Not Japanese**, an experimental musical duo with a multi-cultural flavor. Opening act is **Laura Rousseau**, a local jazz-folk singer-songwriter and guitarist known for her luscious melodies and trenchant lyrics. Also, sale of postcards and greeting cards with photos by Tim Nagae. Proceeds donated to the American Red Cross's Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami Relief. 7 p.m. **Aug. 23: "Ukulele Jam."** Musicians of all ability levels invited.

Passport 3776 S. State 222-1111

This southside restaurant features live music Mon. 5:30-8:30 p.m. and occasional other nights. Also, salsa dancing with a DJ Sat. 8 p.m.-midnight and ballroom dance lessons Sun. 6-8:30 p.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Mon.: Open Mike.** All musicians invited.

The Quarter Bistro 300 S. Maple 929-9200

This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs. 6:30-9 p.m., Sat. 7:30-10 p.m., and occasional other nights. Also, a DJ on Fri. 6-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs. (except Aug. 4): Dave Boutette.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-guitarist whose genial songs about the small ups and downs of ordinary life draw on a range of influences from Chuck Berry to Paul Westerberg. **Aug. 4: Chris Cranick.** Acoustic alternative-rock singer-songwriter from Hartland. **Aug. 6: Mike Palazzolo.** Acoustic alternative-rock singer-guitarist. **Aug. 13: Pale-dave & Jenny Fair.** The local husband-and-wife duo of singer-songwriter Dave Buehrer and vocalist Jennifer Buehrer plays a mix of indie rock covers and originals. **Aug. 20: Chris Cranick.** **Aug. 27: Pale-dave & Jenny Fair.** See above.

Silvio's Organic Pizza 715 North University 214-6666

This campus-area restaurant features live music Fri. 7-9 p.m., and occasional Sat. 7:30-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Aug. 5: The Lady K Players.** Local jazz trio whose repertoire includes jazz standards, modified pop tunes, and originals. With guitarist Katharine Battistoni, bassist Ben Rolston, and drummer Jeremy Edwards. **Aug. 12: TBA.** **Aug. 19: Isosceles.** Versatile local acoustic trio that plays a mix of jazz, swing, country, pop, and folk. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, bassist Tim Berla, and guitarist Jim Cooney. **Aug. 26: TBA.**

Tap Room 201 W. Michigan Ypsilanti 482-5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music most Wed. 7-11 p.m., Thurs. 8 p.m.-midnight & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, DJ with Latin dance music, Wed. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Wed. (except Aug. 3 & 31): The Shelter Dogs.** Local self-styled "loung-a-billy" trio that plays vintage swing, rockabilly, and blues. With upright bassist Todd Perkins, guitarist Pete Bullard, and drummer Tom Twiss. 7-11 p.m. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales**, a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **Aug. 6: Alan Smith's All-Star Blues Revue.** Vocalist and blues harpist Danny Pratt fronts an ensemble of local blues veterans that's anchored by drummer Alan Smith and bassist Todd Perkins. With blues harpist Dave Morris, guitarist Wally Schmid, and keyboardist Greg Dermeyer. **Aug. 13: TBA.** **Aug. 20: TBA.** **Aug. 27: Dan Dabsoulman & Jake Lives Band.** Local septet fronted by vocalist Dan "Dabsoulman" Carter that plays a mix of R&B, soul, and blues.

Vinology 110 S. Main 222-9841

This wine bar and restaurant features live jazz, Thurs. 9 p.m.-midnight, and occasional other nights. No cover, no dancing (unless otherwise noted). **Aug. 4: Paul Keller Quartet.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this local ensemble led by bassist Keller. **Aug. 11: Meri Slaven.** Jazz trio led by Detroit vocalist Slaven. **Aug. 18: Paul VornHagen Trio.** Jazz standards by this local trio led by saxophonist and flutist VornHagen. With pianist Tad Weed and bassist Kurt Krahnke. **Aug. 25: Nicole New Trio.** Jazz trio fronted by New, a Detroit vocalist known for her rich tone and rhythmic phrasing.

Wolverine State Brewing Co. 2019 W. Stadium 369-2990

This west-side brewpub features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Aug. 11: Dragon Wagon.** See Circus.

Woodruff's 36 E. Cross Ypsilanti

This new club in Ypsilanti's Depot Town features live music Sun. & Thurs. 8-11 p.m., Tues. 7-10

p.m., and Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, karaoke on Thurs. 11 p.m.-1 a.m. and DJ on Sun. & Tues. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (except Tues.), dancing. **Every Sun. (except Aug. 28): Dan Bennett Quartet.** Experimental jazz ensemble led by Nomo saxophonist Bennett. 8-11 p.m. **Every Sun. (except Aug. 28): Todd Osborne.** This Detroit-area electronic musician spins techno, electronica, funk, and soul records. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. **Every Mon.: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Black Pearl. **Every Tues.: "Acoustic Open Mike."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter **Dave Boutette.** 7-10 p.m. **Every Tues.: "Absolute Beginners."** DJs Tim Sendra and Fred Thomas play 60-style pop music. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. **Aug. 3: TBA.** **Aug. 4: TBA.** 8-11 p.m. **Aug. 5: Macpodz.** Immensely popular local jam band that plays an invigorating mix of R&B, soul, rock, and hard jazz it calls "disco bebop." 11 p.m.-2 a.m. **Aug. 6 Ben Miller Band.** Self-styled "Ozark stomp" trio from Joplin (MO) whose music is a carnivalesque blend of blues and old-time music. Instrumentation includes slide guitar, washtub bass, washboard, drums, and trombone. A big local favorite since they first came to town more than a year ago. Opening act is **Third Coast Kings**, a 1 Local horn-driven retro funk band that recently released its debut 45 "Give Me Your Love" on the Italian funk label Record Kicks. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. **Aug. 10: TBA.** **Aug. 11: TBA.** 8-11 p.m. **Aug. 12: TBA.** **Aug. 13: TBA.** **Aug. 17: TBA.** 8-11 p.m. **Aug. 18: Andie & Tracy.** Foot-stomping avant-hillbilly music by an acoustic quartet fronted by the Detroit husband-and-wife duo of vocalist Andie Webb and bassist Tracy Webb. Opening acts are **Jubal's Kin**, a Florida trio whose eclectic blend of old-timey bluegrass and indie folk John Carter Cash calls "traditional music with a new heart and approach." and **Jo Serrapere**, a highly regarded local singer-songwriter known for her spare, haunting ballads and blues and her sinewy, commanding vocals. 8-11 p.m. **Aug. 19: The Muggs.** Downriver 70s-style blues-rock trio. Opening acts are **The Nines**, a Detroit blues-based psychedelic-rock garage trio, and **Speedy Greasy**, a Detroit rock quartet. **Aug. 20: "Elbow Deep."** Drag show and gay and lesbian dance night hosted by Maxi and Jennifer of the House of Chanel, with a DJ TBA. **Aug. 24: TBA.** **Aug. 25: TBA.** 8-11 p.m. **Aug. 26: "Discolanti."** Dance party with DJs Mike Trombley of Macho City, Todd Osborne, and Chuck Hampton. **Aug. 27: Sisters of Your Sunshine Vapor.** Local psychedelic-blues garage quartet. Opening acts are **Jehovah's Witness Protection Program** (see Blind Pig) and other bands TBA. **Aug. 28: "AndyFest V."** Woodruff's manager Andy Garis celebrates his birthday with some of his favorite bands TBA. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. **Aug. 31: TBA.**

Zal Gaz Grotto 2070 W. Stadium 663-1202

This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Mon 8:15-11 p.m., Tues. 5:30-8:30 p.m., & occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Every Mon:** No music in August. The Paul Keller Orchestra returns after Labor Day. **Every Tues.:** **Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger. **Aug. 19: Blueshouse/313.** Local blues trio, led by veteran English singer-guitarist Mike Brooks, whose repertoire combines blues standards with Brooks originals like "She's Got an Alibi," "Retribution Blues," and "Stone Cold Steamin' Mental." With bassist Brother Bille Lewis, drummer Geno Parker, and saxophonist Eric Korte. 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Zingerman's Roadhouse 2501 Jackson 663-FOOD

This west-side restaurant has live music on its outdoor patio on Wed. 6-9 p.m., through Sept. 28. No cover, dancing. **Aug. 3: Sari Brown.** Young local singer-songwriter who writes reverent yet unconventional spirituals, late-night traveling songs, and folk-style story songs with poetic lyrics and a strong political sensibility. **Aug. 10: Jamie-Sue Seal.** Lansing-area roots music singer-songwriter. **Aug. 17: No music.** **Aug. 24: Stella!** All-star all-female Detroit-area roots-country quartet fronted by local singer-songwriter and guitarist Jo Serrapere and featuring 3 other songwriters, multi-instrumentalist Jen Sygit, fiddler Diana Ladio, bassist Laura Ann Bates. They have a forthcoming debut CD, *Sorry Stella*. **Aug. 31: Stolen Moments.** The local duo of singer-guitarists Marsha Mumm and Jean Lieverman plays vintage and contemporary acoustic jazz, blues, and pop standards, along with some originals.

August Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

- **By mail:** John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
- **By fax:** 769-3375
- **By email:** hinch@aaobserver.com
- **After-hours drop box:** right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:

An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at arborweb.com. This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 MONDAY

★**Monday Club:** Ann Arbor Salvation Army. *Every Mon.* Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & over. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, **Bible study** and **chair exercises**. Followed by lunch (bring a bag lunch) and socializing. 10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668-8353.

★**"Playgroups for Babies":** Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Mon.* Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Playgroups are also offered at 3 AADL branches: Malletts Creek (Tues. 10–11 a.m., & Thurs., 6:30–7:30 p.m.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard; Pittsfield (Wed., 11 a.m.–noon), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.; and Traverwood (Fri., 10:30–11:30 a.m.), 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. 10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**Social Mah-Jongg:** Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon. & Thurs.* All seniors age 55 & over invited to play. 1 p.m. (Mon.) & 10 a.m. (Thurs.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794-6250.

U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Daily.* Three different audiovisual planetarium shows. *The Sky Tonight* (11:30 a.m. Mon.–Sat., 1:30 p.m. daily, & 3:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun.) is an exploration of the current night sky. *Hubble Vision* (2:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun.) is an audiovisual show about the discoveries made by the Hubble Space Telescope. *Larry Cat in Space* (12:30 p.m. Mon.–Sat.) is a playful cartoon about an inquisitive cat that learns more than it wanted to know about life in space when it stows away on a shuttle to be with its owner, a scientist on her way to the Moon. 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 & 1:30 p.m., Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$5. 764-0478.

★**"Music in the Park":** Herb David Guitar Studio. *Daily, except Thurs., through Oct. 31.* A variety of local performers TBA. Noon–2 p.m., Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Division. Free. 665-8001.

ACBL Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon., Wed., & Thurs.* All seniors age 55 & over invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. 12:45–4 p.m. (Mon.) & Noon–3 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$7 (members, \$6). 794-6250.



MAX SHTEIN

Constance (Lauren London) offers advice to Shakespeare's Othello (Roy Sexton), as a jealous Desdemona (Melynee Saunders Warren) and Iago (Russ Schwartz) look on in *Goodnight, Desdemona (Good Morning, Juliet)*, the Penny Seats Theatre Company's debut production, which opens in West Park on Friday, August 5.

FILMS

49 Film Screenings

John Hinchey & Katie Whitney

GALLERIES

53 Exhibit Openings

Katie Whitney

EVENTS REVIEWS

51 Dude, Where's My Play?

Purple Rose and the Oyster Considered Sally Mitani

57 Paul Burch

Fresh takes on traditional country James M. Manheim

59 Saxophonist Janelle Reichman

Second homecoming Piotr Michalowski

63 Ellen Baker

The shadow of the past Keith Taylor

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

44 Nightspots

Dragon Wagon John Hinchey James M. Manheim

★**Movie Matinee:** Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon.* Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available (\$2.50), 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 12:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794-6250.

★**Bridge:** U-M Turner Senior Resource Center. *Every Mon. & Fri.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. 1–3 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

★**"PokeMonday Tournament":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K–5 invited to

bring a Nintendo DS or DSi and a copy of Pokemon Diamond or Pearl to compete for prizes in a tournament. 1–5 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**"Wheeler Park Ride":** Velo Club. *Every Mon.* Cyclists invited to join club members on this easy-paced ride of 20–30 miles. 6 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. aavc.org.

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Sun.–Fri.* All invited to compete

in tournaments of this popular collectible card game using standard constructed (Sun. & Thurs.), extended (Mon.), Elder Dragon Highlander (Tues.), Legacy (Wed.), and booster draft (Fri.) decks. Prizes. Bring your own cards (except Fri.). 6 p.m. (Mon.–Fri.) & 1 p.m. (Sun.), Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. \$5 (Tues., free; Fri., \$15 includes cards). 786-3746.

★**"The Civilized Ride":** Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Mon.* Slow-paced "no-drop" ride, 12–18 miles, to Dexter, with a possible stop for ice cream. A good ride for beginners. Basic repair tips offered at 6:30 p.m. Other Mon. rides: **"Back Roads Ramble"** (8 a.m., meet at 960 Forest Rd. off Country Club Dr., Barton Hills, 761-2885, 663-5060), a slow-paced ride, 12–35 miles, along dirt and gravel roads to Independence Lake and other low-traffic destinations. **"Paved Country Roads Ride"** (6 p.m., meet at Royster Clark, 885 Parker Rd. at Pine Cross Lane just south of Jackson Rd., 426-5116), fast-, moderate-, and slow-paced training rides, 18–24 miles, along country roads west of town. 7 p.m. 610 Brierwood Ct. (off Arborview east of Westwood from Dexter). Free. 945-3133.

★**"Volleyball in the Park":** Ann Arbor Ski Club. *Every Mon. through Sept. 28.* All adults age 21 & over invited to join a volleyball game. All skill levels welcome. 7 p.m.–dark, Burns Park (just east of the picnic pavilion), corner of Wells & Baldwin. Free. 973-2136.

★**"Preserving Your Herbal Harvest":** Evening Herb Study Group. Talk by a club member. 7 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free. 647-7600.

★**Healthy Food Talks:** Nutritional Healing Center. Aug. 1, 17, & 29. Talks by NHC staffers. Aug. 1: **"Empower the Supermom in YOU!"** A talk by nutrition expert Kerry Cradit. Aug. 17: Chiropractor Darren Schmidt on **"Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids."** Aug. 29: Chiropractor Amanda Childress on **"Dining Out."** 7 p.m., NHC, 3610 W. Liberty. Free. 302-7575.

★**"An Evening with Animals from the Creature Conservancy":** Ann Arbor District Library. Representatives from the local Creature Conservancy display and discuss some of its collection of wild animals. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. 7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

"18th Annual Summer Sings": University Musical Society Choral Union. All singers welcome to join this venerable local chorus and guest conductors for the last of this summer's read-throughs of favorite choral works. Participants practice the more difficult parts of each night's piece and, after a break, sing it in its entirety, with regional professionals singing the solos. No auditions required; music provided. Refreshments. Tonight: Jerry Blackstone conducts **Mozart's Grand Mass in C minor.** 7–9:30 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. \$5 at the door only. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. 763-8997.

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Aug. 1, 8, 15, & 22. A series of concerts by area organists. Today's performer: **Timothy Huth.** 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi, 2250 E. Stadium. Donation. 769-2550, 821-2124.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Mon.* A wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, with live music. All dances taught, with emphasis on technique on the 3rd Monday. 7:30–9:30 p.m., location TBA. \$5. 395-7782, 769-1052, 426-0241.

2 TUESDAY

★**Primary Election.** There are contested Democratic council primaries in the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th wards. Polls are open 7 a.m.–8 p.m. If you are unsure about where to vote or need information about absentee ballots, call the county clerk at 994-2503.

★**"Save Water, Save Energy Breakfast":** Huron River Watershed/Clean Energy Coalition. HRWC and CEC staff teach easy techniques and show affordable tools to help save on utility bills. Participants receive a Water EcoKit coupon. Coffee and bagels provided. 8–9 a.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 769-5123, ext. 602.

★**Social Bridge:** Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues.* All seniors age 50 & over invited to play bridge. No partner required. Also, at 10 a.m. **Scrabble.** 9:30 a.m.–noon, Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794-6250.

★**Preschool Storytimes:** Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Tues. & Wed.* Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered at 3 AADL branches: Mal-



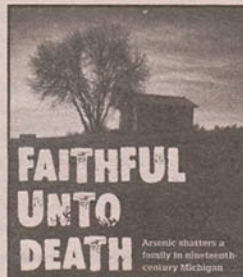
August 2011 Event highlights

Ann Arbor District Library

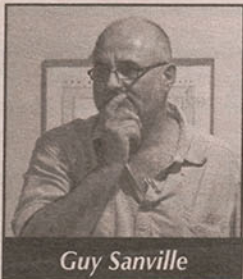
Events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.



LEGO Contest



Big Band Memories



Guy Sanville



Jael McHenry



Deborah Wyndham

- Monday 1 Meet the Animals from The Creature Conservancy**
7:00 - 8:30 pm This amazing organization returns to AADL with a porcupine and several more unique creatures • GRADE 6 - ADULT
- Tuesday 2 Quilling Paper Craft Workshop** • Learn how to create designs from rolled strips of paper • PITTSFIELD BRANCH • GRADE 6 - ADULT
- Thursday 4 6th Annual LEGO Contest** • WEBER'S INN, 3050 JACKSON AVE. Get the details at aadl.org/events/contests • PRESCHOOL - ADULT
- Thursday 4 Creating a Supportive Breastfeeding Culture...In Our Homes, In Our Workplaces, In Our Communities** • Joanne Motino Bailey, Director of UM Nurse-Midwifery Service, leads a distinguished panel in a discussion of breastfeeding
- Friday 5 Author Becky Thacker Discusses Her New Book, Faithful Unto Death, Based On a True Family Murder** • Learn about the 1894 murder on which this historical mystery novel is based and why UM Press has decided to serialize the book on their website
- Tuesday 9 Getting Inked: How to Get Your Work Published** • Author Lara Zielin gives tips on how to get published and reads from her just-released teen novel • MALLETT'S CREEK BRANCH • GRADE 6 - ADULT
- Saturday 13 Geek Academy III: Game Programming with Scratch**
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
OR 2:00 - 5:00 pm Discover an awesome way to get started making your own digital games • DOWNTOWN 3RD FLOOR COMPUTER LAB • GRADES 6 - 12
- Saturday 13 Big Band Memories: A Request-Driven Trip Down Memory Lane with Veteran Big Band Trumpeter Bill Hart** • Bill, who toured with the Tommy Dorsey orchestra, is joined by Alan Tedrick for a showcase of tunes and anecdotes from the Big Band era
- Tuesday 16 Comics Digital Coloring 101 for Teens** • Learn how to use Adobe Photoshop Elements to clean up your art, fill in line work and more • REGISTRATION REQUIRED: AADL.ORG | 327.8301 | ANY AADL LOCATION • DT 3RD FLOOR COMPUTER LAB • GRADES 6 - 12
- Tuesday 16 Highlights from Purple Rose Theatre's Upcoming Season**
6:00 - 9:00 pm Artistic Director Guy Sanville and cast members present scenes from the 2011-12 season, *From Our Family to Yours*
- Wednesday 17 Comics Digital Coloring for Older Teens & Adults** • Learn how to use Adobe Photoshop Elements to clean up your art, fill in line work and more • REGISTRATION REQUIRED: AADL.ORG | 327.8301 | ANY AADL LOCATION • DT 3RD FLOOR COMPUTER LAB • GRADE 9 - ADULT
- Thursday 18 Author Jael McHenry Discusses Her Cooking Blog, the SIMMER blog, and New Book, The Kitchen Daughter**
- Sunday 21 Snip & Shred: Seriously Geeky Crafts!** • Make cool stuff with David Erik Nelson, author of *Snip, Burn, Solder, Shred: Seriously Geeky Stuff to Make With Your Kids* • GRADES K - 5 W/ADULT
- Thursday 25 Green My House: Energy Savers Edition with Experts from the Clean Energy Coalition** • Learn how to save money on energy bills, reduce dependency on fossil fuels, and cut pollution
- Monday 29 Film • Exit Through the Gift Shop (RATED R)** • The inside story of Street Art, this Oscar-nominated film is one of the most provocative films about art ever made • DT 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM
- Wednesday 31 Concert • An Evening with Pianist Deborah Wyndham**
7:00 - 8:00 pm The jazz/contemporary pianist/composer plays a wide range of music, from Eubie Blake to pop and jazz, and has appeared on ABC, FOX and NBC television

For more information, call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

letts Creek (Wed., 10-10:30 a.m.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard; Traverwood (Tues. 11-11:30 a.m., Wed. 6-6:30 p.m., & Thurs. 10-10:30 a.m.), 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy.; and Pittsfield (Thurs. 7-7:30 p.m. & Fri. 10-10:30 a.m.), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. 10-10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 11-11:30 a.m. (Wed.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** Every Tues. Activities begin at 11 a.m. with "Energy Exercise" (\$4), a 60-minute workout led by Maria Farquhar, and at 1 p.m. mah-jongg, bridge and other card games, board games, Wii sports, and quilting and other craft projects. Also, at 1:30 p.m., Yiddish Tish, a Yiddish conversation group. Homemade buffet luncheon (\$3) available at noon. All invited. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971-0990.

★**"Focus on Women: The Huron River Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Tues. Slow/moderate-paced ride, 18-40 miles, to Dexter and back. Other Tues. rides: "Tuesday Ride to Chelsea" (8 a.m., Barton Nature Area parking lot, W. Huron River Dr. near Bird Rd., 996-8440), a moderate-paced ride, 35-40 miles, to Chelsea for breakfast. 6 p.m., meet at Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport. Free. 662-0205.

★**Sherrilyn Kenyon: Barnes & Noble.** This best-selling Nashville novelist reads from *Retribution*, the 20th novel in her *Dark-Hunter* series about a paranormal world. Signing. 6 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** Every Tues. All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap knitting tips. 6:30-8:30 p.m., location TBA at meetup.com/ann-arbor-stitchnbitch/ Free. 945-3035.

★**"Cornman Farms Heirloom Harvest Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse.** Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a dinner showcasing radishes, cucumbers, squash, squash blossoms, tomatoes, spinach, and potatoes harvested earlier today from his multi-acre garden (see feature, p. 27). 7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. \$45, plus beverage. Reservations required. 663-3663.

★**English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Every Tues. except Aug. 30. Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 7 p.m. 7-9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). \$7 (students, \$4; kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665-7704.

★**"Everest Base Camp Trek and Mani Rimdu Festival": The Himalayan Bazaar.** Screening of a DVD about the Himalayas and Mani Rimdu, the annual 19-day Sherpa festival. With information about an upcoming 3-week trip to Nepal. 7 p.m., The Himalayan Bazaar, 218 S. Main. Free. 997-7229.

★**"Quilling": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staff present a hands-on introduction to this art form, popular in 18th-century Europe, that involves rolling, shaping, and gluing strips of paper together in decorative designs. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *La Montaña Invisible*, Carolina De Robertis's multigenerational tale about women in 20th-century Uruguay. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★**German Speakers Round Table.** Every Tues. All German speakers invited for conversation. 8-10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453-2394.

★**Katri Ervamaa & Joel Hastings: Kerrytown Concert House.** The local duo of internationally recognized Finnish-born cellist Ervamaa and nationally recognized Canadian-born pianist Hastings performs an eclectic program that includes Chopin's Cello Sonata in G minor, early 20th-century Spanish composer Enrique Granados' *Madrigal for Cello and Piano*, the contemporary American composer Carter Pann's *Differences*, "The Desert and the Parched Land" from Dave Brubeck's jazz-classical *Mass To Hope: A Celebration*, and Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla's *Grand Tango*. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10-\$25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

★**"Posing": New Theatre Project.** Aug. 2-7, 12-14, & 19-21. NTP artistic director Keith Paul Medelis directs this local company in NTP playwright-in-residence Jason Sebacher's drama exploring the tensions between sex and love and the consequences of seeking to stay young forever. It's about the relationship between 2 men, each running from his past and evading his present and each keeping an impossible secret. Stars Evan Mann and Ben Stange. Mature



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dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for nonseniors) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or educational program. Aug. 4: Performance by Ann Arbor-bred classical guitarist Ben Lougheed, a Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute student. Aug. 11: A local politician TBA discusses "The Current Status of Ann Arbor and Visions for the Future." Aug. 18: Linda Garfield discusses topical issues. Aug. 25: A local pharmacist TBA discusses "Medication and Medication Safety." 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971-0990.

★"Sonic Lunch": Bank of Ann Arbor. Every Thurs. (except July 21), June 2-Aug. 26. Musical entertainment by local performers. Aug. 4: **Hoots & Hellmouth**, Experimental roots music band from Philadelphia led by singer-songwriters Rob Berliner and Sean Hoots. Aug. 11: **Chris Bathgate & Theo Katzman**. Double bill. Bathgate is a talented local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic story songs in a variety of moods, and Katzman is a local self-styled "indie soul" singer-songwriter best known as the former guitarist in My Dear Disco. Aug. 18: **Nervous but Excited**, Lansing singer-songwriter duo of Kate Peterson and Sarah Cleaver, who combine a down-to-earth point of view, progressive politics, and resonant, ringing vocal harmonies. Aug. 25: **Ella Riot**. Nationally acclaimed local dance septet, formerly known as My Dear Disco, that plays a blend of techno, funk, and jamming known as nu-jazz. Noon-1:30 p.m., Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Division. Free. 214-0109.

★"Scrapbooks from Scratch": Ann Arbor District Library. All teens in grades 6-12 invited for this craft activity. Bring your own collected items (photos, ticket stubs, etc). 2-3:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-8301.

"Thursday Night Rush Hour Relief": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. Every Thurs. Whole Foods staffers discuss wine. Tastings and small plates of food. Topics: Sauvignon Blanc (Aug. 4), Zinfandel (Aug. 11), World Chardonnay (Aug. 18), and Pinot Noir (Aug. 25). Also, Michigan beer tastings (price varies) at 5 p.m. on alternate Fridays with representatives of a brewer TBA (Aug. 5) and Original Gravity Brewing Company in Milan (Aug. 19). 5-8:30 p.m., Whole Foods wine bar, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. \$17. 997-7500.

★Inter Versiculos: U-M Residential College. Cambridge University classics professor David Money and students in his 8-day RC summer workshop read their poetry composed in Latin. Followed by a discussion with the audience about writing poetry in a language not your own. Reception follows in the Kelsey Museum. 5-7 p.m., RC Keene Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

★"Jazz in the Alley": Rick Burgess Music Scholarship. Performances by 4 local jazz trios to publicize and raise money for a scholarship fund for local high school music students established by the late jazz pianist Rick Burgess, cofounder of both the Del Rio and The Earle. The lineup includes a trio from the Community High School Jazz Band, Sean Dobbins & Friends (drummer Dobbins, bassist Paul Keller, and keyboardist Duncan McMillian), the Doug Horn Trio (saxophonist Horn, bassist Jordan Shug, and keyboardist Tony Viviano), and the Rick Burgess Trio, which now features Burgess' chosen successor Patrick Whitehead on piano, along with bassist Russ Tessier and drummer Robert Warren. 6-11 p.m., alley next to Kilwin's Chocolate, 107-109 E. Liberty. Free; donations accepted. (A portion of Kilwin's sales tonight go to the scholarship fund.) 769-7759.

"Summer Sparklers—A Tour of Bubbly!": The Produce Station (un)Corked Wine Tasting. Tastings of several sparkling wines from various European countries. 7:30-8:30 p.m., Alley Bar, 112 W. Liberty. Tickets \$10 in advance at producestation.com/wine. 663-7848.

★"Thursday Evening Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Thurs. Fast/moderate-paced 25-mile and slow-paced 15-mile rides around northeast Ann Arbor that include some good chances to improve your climbing skills. Other Thurs. rides: "Frank Lloyd Wright Ride" (7 p.m., meet at 2722 Georgetown Blvd. north off Plymouth Rd., 995-5017, 668-7706, 663-5060), a slow-paced 15-mile ride on mountain or wide-tired road bikes over the lightly traveled, hard dirt roads behind Domino's Farms. On Aug. 11 only (weather permitting): "Moonshadow Ride" (10 p.m., east end of Mitchell Field parking lot, Fuller Rd.), slow-, moderate-, and fast-paced rides, 8-24 miles (424-2802), along the Gallup Park pathway. 6:30 p.m., meet at the Fuller Pool parking lot, Fuller Rd. Free. 996-9122 (longer ride), 662-0205 (slower ride).

★"Sounds and Sights on Thursday Nights": Chelsea Retail Advisory Council. Every Thurs., June 17-Aug. 26, and July 29 & 30. Musical entertainment on 10 stages downtown, as well as activities for kids. Also, an art market, food vendors, and carriage rides. The weekly musical program also includes

2 open mike stages. The music is followed at dusk by "SRSLY Cinema," screenings of teen-friendly movies at Clocktower Commons. Weekly schedules available at chelseafestivals.com or arborweb.com. 6:30-8:30 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free (fee for carriage ride). 475-1145.

★Ann Arbor Go Club. Every Sun. & Thurs. Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. 7 p.m.-midnight (Thurs.) & 1-6 p.m. (Sun.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417-5547.

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. Every Thurs. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$5. 761-6691.

★"Creating A Supportive Breastfeeding Culture: In Our Homes, In Our Workplaces, In Our Communities": Ann Arbor District Library. Panel discussion led by U-M Nurse-Midwifery Service director Joanne Motino Bailey. With local registered nurse Linda Faubert and local physicians Lauren Helms and Katherine Pasque. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

"Five Hamlets": Brass Tacks Ensemble. Aug. 4-6. This local ensemble presents James Ingagiola's comic drama that presents 5 edited versions of Shakespeare's tragedy, each conceived for different voices and a distinct theatrical style. Cast: Amanda Barnett, Steve Elliott, Isaac Ellis, Chris Harrison, James Ingagiola, Anne S. Rhoades, Rob Sulewski, and Rachel Robbins Toon. 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

"The Strangest Kind of Romance" and "The Devil and Billy Markham": Carriage House Theatre. July 28-31 & Aug. 4-6. Avery Koenig directs Tennessee Williams' one-act drama about a nervous man who feels more for the cat in his new apartment than he does for the landlady who tries to start a relationship with him, and Jeff Crandall directs Shel Silverstein's stage adaptation of his bawdy poem about a man who plays a game of dice with the devil. 8 p.m., Carriage House Theatre, 541 Third St. \$10 (students & seniors, \$5) donation. 546-6441.

"Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh": Performance Network Professional Season. Every Thurs.-Sun, July 28-Aug. 28 (or later). Shannon Ferrante directs Joel Gross's 2003 drama about an imagined 20-year love triangle, set against a background of the approaching French Revolution, among Marie Antoinette, her portrait painter Elisabeth Vigee-Lebrun, and a fictitious playboy aristocrat with democratic sympathies who is a lover to both. Broward-Palm Beach New Times critic Brandon Thorp calls it "a gay and witty lovefest filled with innocent intrigue." Cast: Chelsea Sadler, Jill Dion, Drew Parker. 8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Preview tickets: whatever you can afford to pay (July 28), \$22 (July 29 & 31 and Aug. 4), and \$30 (July 30). Aug. 5 opening night tickets: \$39 & \$41 includes reception. After Aug. 5: \$27 & \$29 (Thurs.), \$32 & \$34 (Fri. & Sun.), \$25 & \$27 (Sat. matinee), \$39 & \$41 (Sat. eve.). \$3 discount for seniors age 60 & over. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. \$10 student discount in advance, half-price student tickets at the door only. For reservations, call 663-0681; to charge by phone, call 663-0696.

"Posing": New Theatre Project. See 2 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

"Consider the Oyster": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Every Thurs. Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$5 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

5 FRIDAY

★"Whitmore Lake Coffee Break": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Fri. Slow-paced 20-mile ride to the Coney Island in Whitmore Lake. 9 a.m., Olson Park, Dhu Varren at Pontiac Trail. Free. 663-4498.

Michigan Roots Jamboree: Depot Town Community Development Association. Aug. 5 & 6. Two days of music on 2 outdoor stages by local and touring bands. Also, a kids tent, displays by local artisans, and sale of local food and locally and nationally brewed beers. Overnight camping in Frog Island Park available both nights. Today's lineup: the nationally acclaimed local nu-jazz dance septet (formerly known as My Dear Disco) Ella Riot, the self-styled "Ozark stomp" Joplin (MO) trio The Ben Miller Band, the local experimental acoustic roots-music band Dragon Wagon, the local soul-based funk-folk band Theo Katzman & Love Massive, the Ypsilanti punk-bluegrass octet Black Jake & the Carnies, the local experimental alt-country and folk-rock band Drunken Barn Dance, the local blues-rock jam band Jam Samich, and the Roch-

Dude, Where's My Play?

Purple Rose and the Oyster Considered

As the curtain rose on *Consider the Oyster*, on two men in football jerseys raptly watching a TV football broadcast, I was suddenly struck—in a way that made me want to cartoonishly smack myself on the forehead—by the notion that in the last decade, I may have spent more time watching sports on the Purple Rose stage than I've spent in a sports arena. Is the Purple Rose commissioning plays about sports? Flipping back through the program, which lists every play produced at Purple Rose over its twenty-year history, I remember that *Honus and Me* was about baseball, *Bleeding Red* about soccer. The setting of *Guys on Ice* was fishing; *Duck Hunter Shoots Angel* and the entire Escanaba trilogy were about hunting. Then there are the plays that are not about sports, but about guys, guns, and outlaws, like *Panhandle Slim* and, earlier this year, *Corktown*. We are now considering a sizable number of Purple Rose productions. But considering them for what?

Has Purple Rose, now in business for a stable twenty years, been intentionally and stealthily trying to cultivate an audience of men who might otherwise be spending the evening at Comerica Park or Ford Field? If so, Dude, that's effing genius niche marketing! Whether Jeff Daniels' and artistic director Guy Sanville's propensity for bro-drama, man theatre, or whatever you want to call it, is purposeful or an outgrowth of their personalities, it was more interesting to think about than about this particular play, so I'm afraid I've sacrificed some space to examine Purple Rose's larger strategy. But then, *Consider the Oyster* is not nearly as good as some of the more testosterone-themed pieces just listed.



Oyster, by returning playwright David MacGregor (*Vino Veritas*, *Gravity*), is not about football. That opening scene uses football fetishism just to establish that one of the characters, Gene, is a "typical" guy. Then, on still shakier ground, it establishes that Gene's girlfriend, Marisa, is a "typical" girl—by having her interpose herself twixt man and television to show off her new Dolce & Gabbana jacket during the last, critical play of the Super Bowl. Shortly thereafter, a medical mishap turns Gene into a woman, and the play asks whether the relationship can survive.

If it sounds like a confusing mash-up of science fiction, romantic comedy, and mindless sitcom, it sure is. Through some alchemy (including, when I saw it, a lively and good-natured opening night audience) it rolls along anyway, gathering a critical mass of laughs and attentive sympathy, proving that a professional cast and crew can mold a forgettable script into an amusing if not memorable evening.

Purple Rose scripts are often hit or miss, since one of its missions is to produce original plays by regional playwrights. This one was a miss, but as Purple Rose completes its twentieth season, I'd say this year it batted about .500, way better than any of the Tigers. —Sally Mitani

ester Hills acoustic psychedelic funk quartet **Cloud Magic**. 3 p.m.–midnight, *Riverside Park, Depot Town, Ypsilanti*. \$15 per day (weekend pass, \$30) in advance at rootsjamboree.com and at the gate. \$50 weekend pass includes camping. Kids under 12, free. 846-5933.

★**Summerfest: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce**. Aug. 5 & 6. This downtown festival features a large craft show, live music, kids activities, contests, a beer and wine tent, and more. Updated schedule available at salinesummerfest.org. 5–11 p.m. (Aug. 5) & 7:30 a.m.–11 p.m. (Aug. 6), downtown Saline. Free admission. 429-7429.

★**Crossroads Summer Festival**. Every Fri., July 8–Aug. 19. Outdoor stage in downtown Ypsilanti with a variety of dance bands. Also, food vendors and arts & crafts sale. (In case of rain, held in the Tap Room, 201 W. Michigan.) Tonight: **Harper & the Midwest Kind**, a blues-rock band led by Peter Harper, a blues singer-songwriter from Australia, now transplanted to Grass Lake, who plays blues harp and didgeridoo. Also, the local blues duo **Shari Kane & Dave Steele**, and veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter **John Latini**. 6–10 p.m., Washington St. at Michigan Ave. Free. 717-7305.

★**Summer Concert Series: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce Summer Series**. Every Fri. (except Aug. 12), June 17–Aug. 26. Entertainment on 2 stages in downtown Dexter. Aug. 5: **Salmagundi**. Memphis-style rock 'n' roll. Aug. 19: **Bull Halsey**. Chelsea garage blues band. Aug. 26: **Billy Mack & the Juke Joint Johnnies**. Local roots-rock quartet. 6:30–8:30 p.m., Monument Park gazebo & in front of the clock tower, downtown Dexter. Free. 426-0887.

★**"Dance Party in the Park": 2011 Riverfolk Music and Arts Festival**. Dancing to Cajun music by a band led by Al Berard, a world-renowned Cajun fiddler from Lafayette (LA) whose repertoire includes traditional and original Cajun French songs and country songs of various types. Louisiana-style

dinner available. Cash bar. Silent auction. The 2011 festival also includes a **Jam Camp** (\$220), Aug. 3–5, for both bluegrass and Cajun musicians, and it culminates on Aug. 6 with a **Festival Finale Concert** (\$20 & \$30) at the Ark (see Nightspots listing). 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Carr Park (W. Main St. west of M-52), Manchester. Tickets \$15 (\$25 includes dinner) in advance at riverfolkfestival.org and at the gate. (888) 428-4563.

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. 7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. \$5 requested donation. 663-2037.

★**"Girls Taking Over the World": Nicola's Books**. Young adult novelists Lara Zielin, Rhonda Stapleton, Christine Johnson, and Sandra Mitchell discuss their girl-centric novels and give advice to young women about celebrating their strength and making their own choices. Also, an appearance by Michigan young adult writer **Aimee Carter**, author of *The Goddess Test*. Signing. 7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★**"Faithful unto Death": Ann Arbor District Library**. Michigan writer **Becky Thacker** discusses her new mystery novel, set in 1894, based on a suspected murder in her own family of small-town Michiganders. The book is available free on the U-M Press website (press.umich.edu) as a special serialized summer read. Signing. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Friday Night Live": Mark's Carts Courtyard**. Every Fri. With different local musicians each week. Weather permitting. 7–9 p.m., Mark's Carts, 211 W. Washington. Free. 224-8859.

★**"Goodnight, Desdemona (Good Morning, Juliet)": The Penny Seats Theatre Company**. Aug. 5–7 & 11–14. Jacqui Robbins directs this new local outdoor summer theater company's debut produc-



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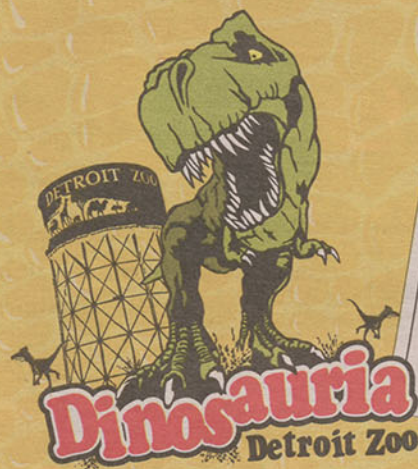
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New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library, Mallets Creek Branch (3090 E. Eisenhower). *Abstract Drawings by John McLaughlin and Portraits of the Things I Can't Describe: Oil Paintings by Joan Newberry* (Aug. 2–Sept. 14). Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun., noon–6 p.m. 327–4555.

Clay Gallery, 335 S. Main. *Assemblages* (Aug. 1–28). Collage and 3-D assemblages by Bonnie Miljour and Monica Wilson. Reception Aug. 5, 6–8 p.m. Mon.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 662–7927.

Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave. *Imagined Communities* (Aug. 10–Sept. 18). A multimedia exhibit with 20 local, regional, and national artists who explore ideas of community in the digital world. Reception Aug. 12, 6–9 p.m. Tues.–Sat. noon–9 p.m., Sun. noon–4 p.m. 997–7012.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals). Main Hospital: *Treeline: Mixed Media Paintings by Robert Mullenix and Contemporary Mosaics by Mosaic Artists of Michi-*

gan (Aug. 22–Oct. 10). **Cancer Center:** *Fragility & Strength: Glass and Mixed Media Sculpture by Katrina Ruby and Nature's Art: Poetry & Photography by Phyllis Perry* (Aug. 22–Dec. 5). **Taubman Center:** *Statements of Light & Color: Photography by Monte Nagler; Whimsical Nature: Fiber Birds by Mary Katz; Natural Abstraction in Color Photography by John Lilley; Committed to Clay: Works by the Village Potters Guild* (Aug. 22–Oct. 10). Daily 8 a.m.–8 p.m. 936–ARTS.

Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main. *Behind the Lines: Horses, Hardtack, Heartbeats, & Heroes* (through Oct. 23). Sat. & Sun. noon–4 p.m. 662–9092.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. *Image as Metaphor* (Aug. 4–27). Juried exhibit of 3-piece compositions by various southeast Michigan artists. Reception Aug. 13, 5–7 p.m. Thurs.–Sat. 3–9 p.m., Sun. 1:30–4 p.m. 480–2787.

U-M Exhibit Museum of Natural History, 1109 Geddes. *The Invisible World of Mites* (Aug. 15 through February). Display and video highlighting U-M biologist Barry O'Connor's research on dust mites. Mon.–Sat. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 763–4191.

U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art & Design), 2000 Bonisteel. *Things That Move* (July 18–Aug. 5), the U-M School of Art & Design's 5th annual alumni show. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 936–2082.

U-M Taubman Health Sciences Library, 4th Floor—Current Reading Area, 1135 E. Catherine. *From Max to Macs: A Retrospective of Medical Illustration Techniques from Pioneering Medical Illustrators Like Max Brödel to the Digital Tools of the Twenty-First Century* (Aug. 15–Sept. 30). Mon.–Thurs. 8 a.m.–11:45 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.–7:45 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–7:45 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–11:45 p.m. 764–1210.

U-M Work (U-M School of Art & Design), 306 S. State. *Things That Move* (see U-M Slusser Gallery above). *While You Were Out* (Aug. 12–Sept. 2), annual A&D staff exhibition. Reception Aug. 12, 6–9 p.m. Tues.–Sun. noon–7 p.m. 998–6178.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *16 + 16 Show* (Aug. 2–Sept. 11). Sculptures, paintings, drawings, photography, encaustics, ceramics, and book art by 16 artists. Reception Aug. 5, 7–10 p.m. Tues. & Wed. noon–6 p.m., Thurs.–Sat. noon–10 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 761–2287.

tion, Canadian novelist and playwright Ann-Marie MacDonald's award-winning comedy. A clever mix of Shakespeare's texts with original prose, it tells the story of an overwhelmed grad student who regains her self-confidence with the help of 2 of Shakespeare's greatest heroines. The *Memphis Commercial Appeal* compared the play to a "collaboration among Shakespeare, Lewis Carroll, and Woody Allen." Cast: Melynee Saunders Warren, Russ Schwartz, Sarah Leahy, Roy Sexton, Matt Cameron, and Lauren London. Box dinner (\$10; reservations recommended) available for evening's show only 90 minutes before showtime. Bring a picnic blanket. 7 p.m., *West Park Band Shell*. Tickets \$10 (kids 12 & under, \$7) in advance at pennyseats.org and at the gate. 276–2832.

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** Aug. 5 & 26. All invited to join an ongoing discussion of Rudolf Steiner's *An Outline of Esoteric Science*. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. 8–9:30 p.m., *Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes*. Free. 944–4903.

★**"Five Hamlets":** Brass Tacks Ensemble. See 4 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"The Strangest Kind of Romance" and "The Devil and Billy Markham":** Carriage House Theatre. See 4 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"Posing":** New Theatre Project. See 2 Tuesday, 8 p.m.

★**"Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"Consider the Oyster":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Mark Poolos: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Aug. 5 & 6. Ann Arbor debut of this veteran Minnesota-bred comic whose act blends observational humor, one-liners, family stories, and humorous original songs accompanied on guitar. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below *Seva* restaurant). \$10 reserved seating in advance, \$12 general admission at the door. 996–9080.

Swing Dance Party: Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Every Fri. Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, blues, and Balboa dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. 9 p.m.–midnight, *Dakota Bldg., 1785 W. Stadium*. \$5 (includes lessons; students with ID, \$3). 417–9857.

6 SATURDAY

★**"Dexter Breakfast Ride":** Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Sat. Beginner-friendly slow-paced (22 miles) and moderate/fast-paced (30–80 miles) round-trip rides to the Dexter Bakery. Also, after the bakery stop, a fast/moderate-paced swim extension ride (40 to 60 miles) continues to Silver Lake for a swim. Note: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone, and snacks. 8 a.m., meet at either *Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St.*, or at *Barton Park, Huron River Dr.* Free. 996–9461 (Aug. 6 ride), 663–5060 (Aug. 13 & 27), 996–4985 (Aug. 20), 426–5116 (swim extension).

★**"Democratic Ride":** Velo Club. Every Sat. & Sun. A ride of 50–70 miles with distance and pace (usu-

ally fast) determined by the assembled riders. 9 a.m., meet at *Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St.* Free. aavc.org.

★**29th Annual Great Lakes Discraft Open: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club.** Aug. 6 & 7. Professional and amateur disc golfers from around the world—including current and former world champions—compete in three 24-hole rounds in this annual tournament. Cash prizes. The final round on Aug. 7 is the tournament's big spectator attraction. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. (Aug. 6) & 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m. (Aug. 7), *Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. and Huron River Dr.)*. Dexter. \$55 entry fee; free to spectators. \$5 vehicle entrance fee. A3disc.org. (517) 304–8288.

★**"Treetown Sundae Cup 2011":** Ann Arbor Ultimate. All invited to compete in this spirited team sport using flying discs. Also, ice cream (cones provided; bring a cup and spoon for sundaes or root beer floats). 10 a.m., *Lillie Park, Platt at Ellsworth (entrance on Platt, 1/2 mile south of Ellsworth)*. \$110 per team. Preregistration required by emailing reed.pe@gmail.com. a2ultimate.org/treetown.

★**34th Annual Dixboro Fair: Dixboro United Methodist Church.** Community fair with a popular petting zoo, a moonwalk, kids games, homemade cakes and pies, live music, and more. Also, the annual "Artisans on the Green," a juried arts and crafts show of works by 45 Michigan artisans, including paintings, jewelry, woodworking, photography, dolls, and more. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., *Dixboro Village Green, Plymouth Rd. at Cherry Hill Rd. (2 miles east of US-23)*. Free admission. 665–5632.

★**"Stories for All Ages":** Ann Arbor District Library. Every Sat. AADL staff read stories for listeners of all ages. 10–10:30 a.m., *AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave.* Free. 327–8301.

Michigan Roots Jamboree: Depot Town Community Development Association. See 5 Friday. Today's lineup: the nationally acclaimed local Afrobeat-jazz band *Nomo*, the Dayton funk-rock jam band *The Werks*, the versatile Lansing acoustic string quartet *Steppin' in It*, the Orion Township experimental bluegrass-based folk-rock quartet *Frontier Ruckus*, the Detroit blues and R&B band *Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise*, the Philadelphia experimental roots music band *Hoots & Hellmouth*, the Detroit postgrunge folk-rock singer-songwriter *Sista Otis*, the local self-styled "upbeat global soul" electronic-jazz quartet *October Babies*, the Kalamazoo acoustic pop-folk and blues trio *Graham Parsons & the Go Rounds*, the Bridgeport (CT) gypsy-flavored acoustic swing quartet *Caravan of Thieves*, the Columbus Americana rock 'n' soul sextet *The Floorwalkers*, the local Appalachian folk and old-time music duo *Red Tail Ring*, the local neopsychedellic rock 'n' roll quartet *The Afternoon Round*, and the local neopsychedellic rock 'n' roll quartet *Sixteen More Miles*. 10 a.m.–midnight.

★**Storytime: Nicola's Books.** Every Sat. An experienced storyteller spins yarns for kids age 7 & under. 11 a.m., *Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center*. Free. 662–0600.

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** Every Sat. Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids. 11 a.m., *Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw*. Free. 973–1618.

★**"Professor Ray's Everyday Science":** Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Aug. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, & 21.

Museum staffers give family-friendly science demos. Aug. 6 & 7: "Mind Over Matter" includes experiments with extreme states of solids, liquids, and gases. Aug. 13 & 14: "Out of This World" includes educational activities about constellations and moon craters. Also, a chance to see how much you weigh on other planets. Aug. 20 & 21: "Chem Mystery" includes experiments using everyday items to create chemical reactions. 1 & 3 p.m., *AAHOM, 220 E. Ann*. \$9 regular admission (members & infants, free). 995–5439.

★**"Robots for Teens":** Ann Arbor District Library. Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair staff show kids in grades 6–12 how to make their own robot. Supplies provided. 1–4 p.m., *AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave.* Free. 327–8301.

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** Every Sat. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. 2–4 p.m., *U-M Diag*. Free. 761–1115.

★**Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Aug. 6 & 20. All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook*, Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection*, and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. 3–6 p.m., *Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.)*, Saline. Free. 994–9307.

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. Preceded at 3 p.m. by a kids drum circle (\$10) hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. 4–5 p.m., *Oz's, 1920 Packard*. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.

★**In Good Company African American Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion of *Lime Tree Can't Bear Orange*, Amanda Smyth's lush novel, set in Tobago, about a young woman who learns hard truths about her family when she tries to piece together her lineage. 4 p.m., *Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center*. Free. 662–0600.

★**"Family Campout":** Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Families invited to bring tents, sleeping bags, and lawn chairs for this overnight campout. Evening activities include nature walks, fishing, crafts, and a campfire with s'mores and storytelling by Debra Christian. 6 p.m. until Sunday morning (tent setup begins at 2 p.m.). *Rolling Hills County Park, 7660 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti*. Preregistration required. Camping fee, \$15 per tent. \$5 vehicle entry fee. 484–9676, ext. 0.

★**"Goodnight, Desdemona (Good Morning, Juliet)":** The Penny Seats Theatre Company. See 5 Friday, 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Drum 4 Wellness Circle":** Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a drum circle. Bring a drum or use one provided. 7:30–9 p.m., *Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd.* \$5 suggested donation. 480–1219.

★**1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Caller TBA with live music by Joyous Noise. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. 8–11 p.m., *Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.)*. \$10 (members, \$9; students, \$5). 769–1052.

★**"Milonga Picante":** U-M Michigan Argentine Tango Club. Aug. 6 & 20. Tango dancing to music

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spun by a DJ. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. 8 p.m.–midnight, Michigan League Vandenberg Room. \$10 (members, \$5). umich.edu/~untango.

“Consider the Oyster”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

“Five Hamlets”: Brass Tacks Ensemble. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

“The Strangest Kind of Romance” and “The Devil and Billy Markham”: Carriage House Theatre. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

“Posing”: New Theatre Project. See 2 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

“Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Mark Poolos: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★University Lowbrow Astronomers. Aug. 6 & 27. A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments. Participants encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. or as long as the sky remains clear, Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.

“Serious about Salsa” Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. Aug. 6 & 20. High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. 9 p.m.–1 a.m., Phoenix Center, 200 S. Main (above Elmo’s). \$5. (313) 808–0358.

“Tropical Splendor Dance Party & Ice Cream Social”: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by a DJ. Ice cream with toppings served. Cash bar. 9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$8 (PWP members, \$6). 433–1668.

7 SUNDAY

★Horse Show: Spur of the Moment Club. Kids and adults compete in English, western, and halter events. (English and western are 2 styles of riding; halter is a showmanship event, without riding.) Concessions. 8 a.m.–about 7 p.m. (races & games begin around 3 p.m. and last until around 6 p.m.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. 645–4918.

★Sunday Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Sun. Aug. 7: “Wamplers Lake Swim Ride,” fast- and moderate-paced 80-mile rides to Wamplers Lake for a swim. Aug. 14: “Breakfast in Milan Ride.” Slow-paced 30-mile ride to Milan for breakfast. Aug. 21: “Tour of the Huron Valley.” Fast-paced 70-mile ride along Pontiac Trail and the Huron Valley Rail Trail to Island Lake State Park and Kensington Metropark. Aug. 28 (7 a.m.): “Jackson Parlour Ride.” Fast-, moderate-, and slow-paced 100-mile rides (545–0541) to Jackson to visit one of the most popular ice cream parlors in southeastern Michigan. 9 a.m. except as noted, meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431.

★“Buddhism”: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. Every Sun. except Aug. 28. Talk by Gelek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of his students. Aug. 7: “Opening Our Heart.” Aug. 14: “Patience & Anger.” Aug. 21: “Being Happy Now.” 10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). Free. 994–3387.

26th Annual Exotic Bird Exhibition: Ann Arbor Companion Bird Club. Display of live exotic birds from around the world, with sales of birds and bird-related items. Veterinarians and other experts are on hand to answer questions. Also, Toledo avian behaviorist Lara Joseph discusses “Choice, Control, and Complexity: Their Effects on Our Birds’ Behavior.” Informational displays by representatives from various national avian organizations. Raffles. 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Weber’s Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Admission \$3 (children under age 12, free). 545–5282.

★Mature Singles: First Presbyterian Church. Every Sun. A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Aug. 7: Laura Berg plays the DVD “The Book of Judges, Part 1,” an episode from the Teaching Company series on the Old Testament. Aug. 14: Sharon Morrow presents some entertaining mental challenges she has mined from Reader’s Digest’s 101 Ways to Improve Your Memory: Games, Tricks, and Strategies. Aug. 21 & 28: Two-part showing of Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory, an Oxford University Press/Gateways Films documentary about the American Evangelical movement. 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.

The Sunday Artisan Market. Every Sun. Juried market that features local handmade arts and crafts. On Aug. 7 at 1 p.m., Arvel Bird, a Native American flutist and violinist, known internationally as the “Lord of the Strings,” performs his original blend of Native American and Celtic sounds. 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers’ Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 913–9622.

★H.A.C. Ultimate. Every Sun. All invited to a very relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. 11 a.m., Mitchell Field, Fuller Rd. Free. 846–9418.

Contact Improv. Every Sun. All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. It is somewhere between tango, modern dance, aikido, wrestling, gymnastics, and none of the above, and usually takes place without music. People do contact improv in any combination of genders, and there are no steps. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. 1–3 p.m., Sun Moon Yoga, 404 W. Huron. \$5–\$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.

★Storytime: Downton Borders. Every Sun. A Borders staffer reads stories for kids. 1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.

★“Dancing Babies”: Ann Arbor District Library. Robinsongs for Kids director Robin Robinson presents a program of music and movement for babies through 5-year-olds. 1–1:40 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.

“Savory Pies”: Preserving Traditions. Cooking demo with Kathleen Giesting. Check preservingtraditions.org for ingredients to bring. 2–4:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$5 (Grange members, free). Preregistration required at preservingtraditions.eventbrite.com. 997–8844.

★“Art as Experience”: UMMA. Every Sun. Docent-led tour, with audience participation, of highlights of UMMA collections. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763–0395.

“Goodnight, Desdemona (Good Morning, Juliet)”: The Penny Seats Theatre Company. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

“Consider the Oyster”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

“Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★Pokemon League: Get Your Game On. Every Sun. All invited to play this popular card game and trade cards with other players. 3 p.m., Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. Free. 786–3746.

Sunday Matinee Puppet Show: Dreamland Theater. Every Sun. The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents all-ages puppet shows by local writers featuring a variety of puppets created by local artists, including marionettes and shadow puppets. The stories often contain humorously intended social commentary that, like contemporary children’s cartoons, some may consider inappropriate. 3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. \$5 (kids age 3 & under, free). 657–2337.

★Ann Arbor Morris. Every Sun. All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance based on the 15th-century Spanish moresca. Wear athletic shoes. 6–8 p.m., outside Burton Tower. Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu to confirm. 747–8138.

Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M. Every Sun. except Aug. 14. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. 8–10 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom (Aug. 7 & 21) & Michigan Union U-Club (Aug. 28). \$5. 763–6984.

“Posing”: New Theatre Project. See 2 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

8 MONDAY

Chamber Music Concerts: 2011 PhoenixPest! Grande Chamber Music Festival. Aug. 8–11 (different programs). Four evenings of chamber music concerts, in conjunction with the PhoenixPest! music student workshops. Tonight: The Hastings Trio performs works by Schumann, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven. Members include violinist Gabriel Bolkosky, cellist Derek Snyder, and pianist Joel Hastings. 7 p.m., EMU Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. \$15 (students, \$10) in advance at phoenixensemble.com/concerts and at the door. 358–2100.

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 1 Monday. Today’s performer: Andrew Meagher. 7 p.m.

★“Viewing Night”: U-M Detroit Observatory. Aug. 8 & 22. All invited to peer at the night sky through antique telescopes. The Observatory dome can be opened only during mild, dry weather, so

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Thursdays	6:15pm to 7:05pm
Saturdays	10:15am to 11:05am

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\$10 discount if you enroll for Session I by August 30th

\$20 discount if you enroll for both Session I & II by August 30th

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check astro.lsa.umich.edu/outreach/detroit to see if the event has been canceled due to weather conditions. 9:30-11 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. Free. 763-3482.

9 TUESDAY

★**Tour: Wild Ones.** Local landscape architect Mike Appel leads a tour of a 55-acre parcel with an extensive trail network that contains restored savanna, old fields, prairies, wetlands, oak forest, and deciduous swamp. Wear closed-toed shoes, bring insect repellent. 6:45-8:45 p.m., 8387 Ford Rd., Ypsilanti. Free. 604-4674.

★**"Family Camp-In": Ann Arbor District Library.** Family-oriented program of campfire songs, crafts, and s'mores. 7-8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Getting Inked: How to Get Your Work Published": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk for kids in grades 6-12 by local writer Lara Zielin, who also reads from her new teen novel *The Implosion of Aggie Winchester*. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**"Extracting Honey": Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers.** Club members discuss a brief history of honey, its unique properties, and methods of extracting it from different types of combs. 7 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 125, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 660-8621.

★**"A Raw Diet is for Athletes Too!": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston. 7-8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required at the co-op, by emailing outreach@peoplesfood.coop, or by phone. 994-4589.

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & over invited to discuss *Rainbows End*, Vernor Vinge's sci-fi novel about a utopian high-tech near future that raises new questions about knowing, identity, and values. 7-9 p.m., 3154 Angell Hall. Free. 764-2553.

Chamber Music Concerts: 2011 PhoenixPhest! Grande Chamber Music Festival. See 8 Monday. Tonight: Acclaimed Columbus (OH) jazz violinist **Christian Howes**. A *Chicago Reader* review says, "Not since Jean Luc Ponty has a violinist ranged from pure classical to fuzz-tone rock to convincing jazz with such authority." 7 p.m.

★**Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss Donovan Hohn's *Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea and of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists, and Fools, Including the Author, Who Went in Search of Them*. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971-1157.

Fred Knapp Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. The Grand Rapids jazz trio led by drummer Knapp celebrates the release of its new CD, *Standards & More, Vol. 1*, which includes swinging arrangements of standards, Monk and Parker compositions, and a Knapp original. With pianist Glenn Tucker, bassist Dave Rosin, and guest saxophonist **Ben Jansson**. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10-\$25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

10 WEDNESDAY

★**"Cirque Amongus": Ann Arbor District Library.** This Livonia-based troupe presents a program of comedy and circus arts, including audience participation, for kids in grades K-5. 10-10:45 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave., & 2-3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Kitchen Tool Show & Tell": Pittsfield Union Grange.** Potluck (bring a dish to pass). Followed by display and discussion of unusual and antique kitchen tools. Also, an opportunity to trade extra garden produce. 6:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 769-1052.

★**"Drumunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-7818.

★**"Candy Sushi": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 6 & up invited to make a sushi-like product using gummies, peeps, fruit rolls, and more. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of *A Town Like Alice*, Nevil Shute's 1950 novel about an Englishwoman, a Japanese prisoner in Malaya during WWII, who moves to outback Australia after the war in search

of romance. Refreshments. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

Chamber Music Concerts: 2011 PhoenixPhest! Grande Chamber Music Festival. See 8 Monday. Tonight: EMU faculty concert, with violinist Dan Foster, cellist Diane Winder, bassist Derek Weller, and others. 7 p.m.

★**History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** Motte & Bailey owner Gene Alloway leads a discussion of Rebecca Edwards' *New Spirits: Americans in the Gilded Age, 1865-1905*. 7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369-2499. "Consider the Oyster": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

11 THURSDAY

14th Annual Milan Bluegrass Festival: Jim Wilder & Jerry Yates. Aug. 11-13. Three days of bluegrass music performed by leading regional and national performers. Today's headliner is **Newfound Road** (3:15 & 7:45 p.m.), a highly regarded rootsy bluegrass band from southwestern Ohio known for its tight harmonies, driving groove, and what All Music Guide calls the "rich, chesty baritone roar" of lead singer Tim Shelton. Also, **Wildwood Valley Boys** (11:45 a.m. & 10:15 p.m.), **Harbour Town** (12:15 & 7:45 p.m.), **Cats & the Fiddler** (1 & 5:30 p.m.), **Next Best Thing** (1:45 & 7 p.m.), **S & S Express** (2:30 & 6:15 p.m.), and **Gold Wing Express** (4 & 8:30 p.m.). Noon-midnight, **KC Campground**, 14048 Sherman Rd. (US-23 to Exit 25; southeast on Plank Rd.), Milan. Tickets \$65 (for all 3 days) in advance by Aug. 1, \$75 at the gate for all 3 days. \$35 per day at the gate only. (248) 435-2828, (248) 813-0260.

★**"The Many Faces of Pinot: A Winemaker Dinner with Old Shore Vineyards": Vinology.** A 5-course dinner paired with several pinot noir wines. Also, Old Shore Vineyards (Buchanan, MI) winemaker Cornel Olivier leads a tasting of the unreleased 2010 pinot noir. 7-9:30 p.m., Vinology, 110 S. Main. \$75 (plus tax & tip). Reservations required. 222-9841.

★**"Micro Madness": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting.** A chance to sample and learn about a wide variety of beers from microbreweries around the country. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. 7-9 p.m., ABC, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 (if available) at the door. 213-1393.

★**Healthy Kid Talks: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market.** Aug. 11 & 25. Local chiropractors discuss how to keep kids healthy. Aug. 11: Amanda Childress on how to avoid using prescription drugs. Aug. 25: Shannon Roznay on healthy food. 7-8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 975-4500.

★**"Knitting": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults & teens in grade 6 & up invited to try some patterns with basic stitches. Bring your own needles; yarn provided. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Around the World with Jeffrey and Jay": Shantel Cabaret & Gallery.** Outdoor cabaret performance by local singer-pianist Jeffrey Willets and tenor (and ACLU lawyer) Jay Kaplan. 7 p.m., Braun Ct. courtyard. Free admission. 663-0036.

Chamber Music Concerts: 2011 PhoenixPhest! Grande Chamber Music Festival. See 8 Monday. Tonight: **PhoenixPhest!** faculty perform various chamber works in different combinations. 7 p.m.

"Goodnight, Desdemona (Good Morning, Juliet)": **The Penny Seats Theatre Company.** See 5 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Consider the Oyster": **Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh": **Performance Network Professional Season.** See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": **Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

12 FRIDAY

★**"Dexter Daze": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** Aug. 12 & 13. Festivities in Monument Park include arts and crafts booths (9 a.m.-8 p.m.), a social tent (11 a.m.-11 p.m.), specialty food booths, musical entertainment TBA (11 a.m.-11 p.m.), merchant sidewalk sales, and yard sales around town. Complete schedule available at dexterdaze.org. 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Monument Park, Main St. & Baker Rd., Dexter. Free admission. 426-0887.

14th Annual Milan Bluegrass Festival: Jim Wilder & Jerry Yates. See 11 Thursday. Today's headliner is International Bluegrass Music Association Entertainer of the Year **Rhonda Vincent and the Rage** (3:45 & 8:15 p.m.). Also, **Next Best Thing** (11 a.m.), "Bill Yates Tribute to the Country Gentlemen" (11:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.), **Danny Paisley** (12:30

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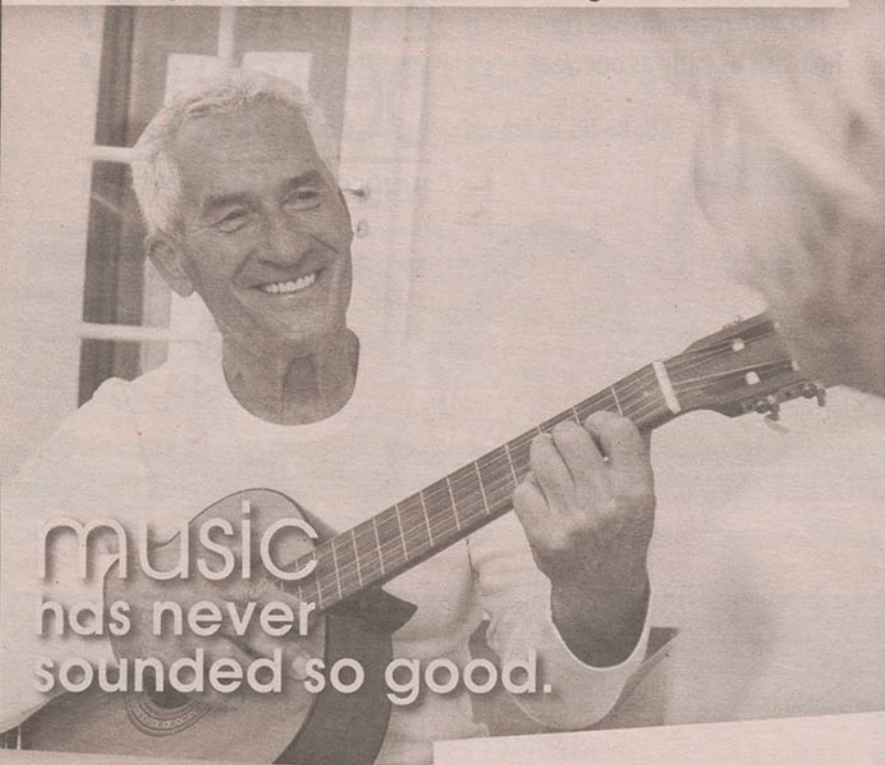
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Monday-Friday 8 AM-11 AM

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& 6:30 p.m.), Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out (1:15 & 9:15 p.m.), Larry Stephenson (2 & 5:45 p.m.), and Junior Sisk & Ramblers Choice (2:45 & 8:30 p.m.). Noon-midnight.

★“Lunchtime Tour”: UMMA. Student docents and UMMA staffers give a 30-minute, warm weather-themed tour of the museum. 12:15-12:45 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★“Full Moon Paddle and Bonfire”: Huron River Watershed Council. All invited to paddle around South Lake with expert paddler Barry Lonik and HRWC staff. Bring your own watercraft, gear, and flotation device (required). S'mores included. 7 p.m., South Lake, Pinckney Recreation Area, Hankerd Dr. (1.75 miles north of North Territorial Rd.) Free (park vehicle entry fee: \$4). Preregistration required by emailing mring@hrwc.org or by phone. 769-5123, ext. 610.

★Crossroads Summer Festival. See 5 Friday. Tonight: George Bedard & the Kingpins, a local band led by guitar genius Bedard that plays superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, and Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio, a local trio led by Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling roots-rocker, who performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker blues. 7-10 p.m. “Goodnight, Desdemona (Good Morning, Juliet)”: The Penny Seats Theatre Company. See 5 Friday. 7 p.m.

★“Adventures: Had or Wished for”: Older Lesbians Organizing. All lesbians invited to join a discussion. 7:30 p.m., Jim Toy Community Center (former WRAP office), 319 Braun Ct. Free. 995-9867.

★Ann Arbor Kirtan. All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet-saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Friends Meeting-house, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761-7435.

New West Guitar Group: Kerrytown Concert House. This L.A.-based acoustic and electric guitar trio plays jazzy originals that, according to *Acoustic Guitar Magazine*, range from “chamber-like elegance and fragile introspection to exhilarating swing and gritty blues.” New West, which includes Jeff Stein, John Storie, and Perry Smith, collaborated with renowned jazz vocalist Gretchen Parlato on its 3rd album, *Sleeping Lady*, an all-acoustic collection that showcases steel-string guitars made by Santa Cruz luthier Jeff Traugott. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15-\$30. Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

“Posing”: New Theatre Project. See 2 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

“Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

“Consider the Oyster”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Ty Boeh: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Aug. 12 & 13. Ann Arbor debut of this Portland (OR) comic known for his smart, fast-paced, slightly bizarre observational humor about his life as a bus-riding urbanite with friends that are way too into hip-hop, plus the oddball fantasies that propel his search for the perfect “sounding” woman. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$10 reserved seating in advance, \$12 general admission at the door. 996-9080.

ARBCO Presents: Vault of Midnight. Performances by several local bands TBA who record for the independent ARBCO label. 9 p.m., Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main. Price TBA. 998-1413.

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. 10 p.m.-midnight, 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left). Free. 764-3440.

13 SATURDAY

Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Aug. 13, 14, & 21. Aug. 13 (7:45 a.m.): “Huron River Clean-Up.” All invited to help clean up the Huron River by canoe. Those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Lunch provided. FREE. Aug. 14 (1 p.m.): “Kids in Creek Stream Ecology.” Kids invited to collect and observe some of the large and small inhabitants of the Huron River ecosystem. Wear boots and be prepared to get wet feet. Aug. 21 (1-3 p.m.): “Fishing Day.” License required if you are 17 or older. Tackle (including poles) and bait provided, or bring your own. Various times, park activity center (for fishing events, meet at the

Rapids View Area), 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. The Huron River Clean-Up begins and ends at Dexter-Huron Metropark parking lot (near the toll-booth), Huron River Dr. (about 1/2 mile east of Mast Rd.), Dexter. \$3 unless otherwise noted. Preregistration required. \$5 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

★Honey Extracting Demonstration: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers. Hands-on demo of how to remove honey frames from a hive, uncap the honeycomb, and extract the honey in a centrifuge. Includes tasting. 9 a.m.-noon, U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 125, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647-7600.

“Summer League End of Season Tournament”: A2 Ultimate. All invited to compete in this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Followed by a party with refreshments. 10 a.m., Fuller Field. \$5 (league players, free). Preregistration required at a2ultimate.org.

“Antique Tractor, Truck, & Farm Equipment Show”: Waterloo Area Farm Museum. Aug. 13 & 14. A celebration of the evolution of farming in Michigan, with displays of everything from horse-drawn plows and steam-powered machines to modern farm equipment. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Aug. 13) & noon-5 p.m. (Aug. 14), Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 13493 Waterloo-Munith Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. 5 miles north from I-94 exit 153), Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. \$5 (seniors age 62 & over, \$3; kids ages 5-17, \$2; kids age 4 & under and members, free). (517) 596-2254.

★“Game Programming with Scratch”: Ann Arbor District Library. All teens in grades 6-12 invited to learn how to use this programming language to make your own digital game. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2-5 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

“A2 Architectural Tour.” Aug. 13 & 14. Michigan architectural history enthusiast Jacob Jabkiewicz leads an informative 75-minute walking tour highlighted by Burton Memorial Tower, U-M Hatcher Graduate Library, and the Michigan and State theaters. 10 a.m. and 1 & 3 p.m. (Sat.) and 1 & 3 p.m. (Sun.), meet at the corner of E. Liberty and Maynard. \$10 (kids age 5 & under, free). (517) 392-5113.

★“Fancy Nancy Soiree”: Ann Arbor District Library. All kids from preschoolers through 3rd graders invited to dress up in their poshest outfit for a program of stories and crafts inspired by Jane O'Connor's Fancy Nancy character. 10:30-11:15 a.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★“In Conversation with Tiffany”: UMMA. Avid Tiffany researcher Shelley Brocci leads a tour of the Tiffany works in the museum. Followed at 11:30 a.m. by a discussion of *Clara and Mr. Tiffany*, Susan Vreeland's novel about Louis Tiffany and Clara Driscoll, the actual but unrecognized designer of Tiffany's celebrated leaded-glass lamp shades. 10:30 a.m., UMMA (meet at the information desk), 525 S. State. Free. 647-0522.

★“Storytime at the Museum”: UMMA. U-M student docents read stories related to the art on display. For kids ages 4-7 accompanied by a parent. 11 a.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

14th Annual Milan Bluegrass Festival: Jim Wilder & Jerry Yates. See 11 Thursday. Today's headliners are the legendarily virtuosic Virginia-based Lonesome River Band (3:45 & 9:45 p.m.), an outfit known for its great harmony singing, lickety-split solos, and white-hot ensemble playing, and the acclaimed young Nashville bluegrass sextet The Grascals (4:30 & 10:30 p.m.), a 2-time winner of the IBMA Entertainer of the Year Award that Dolly Parton calls “one of the best bluegrass bands I've ever heard.” The band's widely acclaimed new CD *The Famous Lefty Flynn's* includes bluegrass covers of a wide range of material, from the Monkees' “Last Train to Clarksville” to Steve Earle's “My Old Friend the Blues.” Also, Barry Scott (noon & 6 p.m.), Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers (12:45 & 6:45 p.m.), Lost & Found (1:30 & 7:30 p.m.), Nothin' Fancy (2:15 & 8:15 p.m.), and Bluegrass Brothers (3 & 9 p.m.). Noon-midnight.

★“Music in the Park”: Herb David Guitar Studio. See 1 Monday. Today: Six Foot Poles, a classic rock band. Noon-2 p.m.

★“Big Band Memories”: Ann Arbor District Library. Veteran big band trumpeter Bill Hart tells anecdotes from his 50 years playing in bands backing up everyone from Dinah Shore to Vic Damone, and he is joined by keyboardist Alan Tedrick for an interactive program of music from the Great American Songbook. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

Family Fun: Oz's Music Environment. Aug. 13, 20, & 27. Families invited to get on stage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. 3-4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. \$15 per family. 662-8283.

country music

Paul Burch

Fresh takes on traditional country

The songs of Paul Burch are subtle takes on older country music, mostly in its swing- and rockabilly-flavored varieties. They strip traditional country down to its bones, turn it inside out, and build on it anew, asking in the process what it's all about. As examples of song craft they're extraordinary, and they're matched by their instrumental settings in lovely ways. On top of all this they're mostly sweet, insouciant love songs, and they ought to sneak into your heart and bring a smile when Burch headlines the Kerrytown District Association's 5th annual NashBash country music festival on Thursday, August 18.

Consider the title track of Burch's latest, *Still Your Man*. It has a shuffle beat, and like many of his songs, it begins with a formula:

*Boys and girls all around the world
Wonder what life has in store.
Sailor, soldier, judge, police,
Doctor, lawyer, Indian chief.*

But then it adds an unexpected twist to this familiar material:

*Now Lincoln was a man of destiny.
Maybe you could say the same for me.
Some climb a mountain because they can.
Well, I made my move, and I'm still
your man.*

Many of Burch's songs offer a simple lyrical model and then destabilize it with an element that points back toward our preoccupation with love. Or sometimes the image



at the center of the lyric may be unusual ("Montreal, we had it all in our hands, and we rolled around like dice"). What he's trying to do, in the gentlest way, is get us to hear the clichés of country love songs in a new way and to ask what they tell us about love and the part it plays in our lives.

Burch's band, the WPA Ballclub, provides a perfect instrumental analog for these forms. It's a small group, with the mannerisms of traditional country—the exaggerated steel guitar notes, the twanging guitars—pared down to a sparse, mostly rhythmic unit. Then quiet but highly original and detailed electric guitar, or another instrument, is added in. The instrumentalists, like the lyrics, find fresh inspiration in their source material.

Burch's background combines folk, country, rock, and a stint in the hard-to-classify Nashville experimental band, Lambchop. He's an absolute original who has attracted a core of underground admirers in Music City over the almost fifteen years he's been at it. With an appearance a couple of years ago at the Ypsilanti Songwriting Festival and now at NashBash, he's poised to find a critical mass of people who get his unique creations here as well.

—James M. Manheim

"Goodnight, Desdemona (Good Morning, Juliet)": The Penny Seats Theatre Company. See 5 Friday, 2 & 7 p.m.

Cinema & Yoga: Ann Arbor Film Festival/Ann Arbor School of Yoga. School of Yoga director Laurie Blakeney leads a yoga session for all levels. Followed by a screening of 2011 Ann Arbor Film Festival shorts. Snacks. 7:30–10 p.m., Ann Arbor School of Yoga, 420 W. Huron. \$25 (AAFF & AASY members, \$20) at the door only. 995-5356.

★"Full Moon Campfire": Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. All invited to enjoy a family-oriented campfire in one of the largest conservancy-owned nature preserves in southeast Michigan. Bring campfire refreshments and lawn chairs; firewood appreciated. Gates open at 5 p.m. 8–11:30 p.m., LeFurge Woods, 2252 N. Prospect Rd. (½ mile north of Geddes), Superior Twp. Free. 484-6565.

"Full Moon Paddle": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All adults invited to join a city naturalist to paddle a canoe around Gallup Pond and watch the wildlife settle in for the night. Bring a flashlight. 8–11 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). \$18 per boat. 662-9319.

Bliss: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. The local trio of singer-songwriter Laura Massaro, guitarist Craig Brann, and percussionist Don Allen performs an eclectic mix of pop, folk, and world music, including originals, covers, and improvisations. 8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$8 (\$15 for 2). 665-0409.

"Consider the Oyster": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday, 3 & 8 p.m.

"Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday, 3 & 8 p.m.

"Posing": New Theatre Project. See 2 Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Ty Boeh: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 12 Friday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

14 SUNDAY

"Battle of Waterloo Triathlon": Epic Races. All invited to compete in a 10-leg triathlon of swimming, biking, and running spread over a 42-mile course of remote paved roads, winding dirt lanes, steep trails, and lakes. Awards. 7:30 a.m., Portage Lake Beach, List Rd. at Seymour Rd., west off Mount Hope Rd. north from I-94 exit 150, Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. \$140 by July 17, \$155 by Aug. 12. \$10 discount for USA Triathlon members. Entry forms available at epicraces.com. \$10 annual vehicle entry fee. 678-5045.

★"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio. See 1 Monday. Today: Grandpa Egg, a self-styled "shambolic folk" singer-songwriter from Nashville. Noon–2 p.m.

"Tufa Trough": Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society. All invited to make a tray from soft, porous tufa rocks. 1–4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. \$5 materials fee (free to watch). Preregistration required. (248) 790-9089.

★"Kerrytown Market & Shops Courtyard Concert": Kerrytown Shops. Aug. 14, 21, & 28. A variety of local performers. Aug. 14: **Deep Fried Pickle Project**, a bluegrass-based Americana band from Kalamazoo that plays family-friendly tunes. Aug. 21: **Joe Reilly**, a local singer-songwriter whose songs draw on blues, Native American, and other traditional American idioms and address ecological and spiritual themes. Aug. 28: Local Music for Little Folks director **Gari Stein** leads kids in an interactive program of music and movement. 1–3 p.m., Kerrytown courtyard. Free. 369-3107.

★Summer Hikes: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Aug. 14 & 28. Aug. 14:

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"Summer Butterflies" (Leonard Preserve, meet at the dead end of Union St. north off Main west of M-52, Manchester). Naturalist Ron Gamble leads a hike to catch (and release) butterflies. Bring a hat and water. Aug. 28: "Exploring the Sedge Meadow" (Osborne Mill Preserve, park at the trailhead on E. Delhi Rd. south of Huron River Dr.). WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike across the meadow to observe the difference in vegetation as the wetness of the soil changes. Wear shoes and pants that can get wet. 2-4 p.m., various locations. Free. 971-6337, ext. 334.

★Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss 2 mystery novels set in the Wild West. Steve Hockensmith's *Holmes on the Range* is about a Montana cowboy, addicted to reading Sherlock Holmes mysteries around the campfire, who decides to put his detective skills to work when another ranch hand is found dead. Second book TBA. 4:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769-2149.

"Consider the Oyster": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday, 2 p.m.

"Goodnight, Desdemona (Good Morning, Juliet)": The Penny Seats Theatre Company. See 5 Friday, 2 p.m.

"Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday, 2 p.m.

★"What We Remember": Rainbow Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of Michael Thomas Ford's suspenseful novel about brothers whose relationship is challenged when their father's body turns up 8 years after he went missing. 4:30-7 p.m., Jim Toy Community Center (formerly WRAP), 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763-4168.

"Posing": New Theatre Project. See 2 Tuesday, 8 p.m.

15 MONDAY

★"9th Annual UA Block Party": Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau/Main Street Area Association/Greater Michigan Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association. Classic cars, hot rods, muscle cars, and a Michigan International Speedway pace car. Live bluegrass and high-energy American folk by the Saline Fiddlers. Also, plumbing and pipefitting demos in the Palio parking lot. Food available from area restaurants, with dining tables in the street. 6-10 p.m., Main St. between Liberty & William and Liberty between Ashley & 4th. Free. 417-4149, 995-7281.

★Nonfiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of Stacy Schiff's recent *Cleopatra: A Life*. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 1 Monday. Today's performer: Marijim Thoene. 7 p.m.

16 TUESDAY

★"RiverUp! Launch Celebration": Huron River Watershed Council. Talks about efforts initiated in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti to build canoe and kayak portages, reclaim old industrial properties, and shape a Huron River Water Trail. Speakers include Congressman John Dingell, Ann Arbor mayor John Hieftje, Michigan Department of Transportation chair Jerry Jung, HRWC executive director Laura Rubin, and Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan director Tom Woiwode. Light refreshments and folk-country music from the Jay Stielstra Trio, an ensemble led by highly regarded veteran local singer-songwriter Stielstra. With vocalist Judy Banker and dobro player John Saylor. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Island Park Shelter, 1450 Island Dr., off Maiden Lane between Broadway & Fuller. Free. 769-5123, ext. 608.

★"Highlights from Purple Rose's Upcoming Season": Ann Arbor District Library. Purple Rose Theatre artistic director Guy Sanville and members of the Purple Rose acting company present an evening of scenes from the upcoming season. 6-9 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

"Heirloom Tomato Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a dinner showcasing the nearly 2 dozen varieties of heirloom tomatoes from his own garden (see feature, p. 27). 7-10 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. \$45, plus beverage. Reservations required. 663-FOOD.

★"Music and Games to Share": Ann Arbor District Library. Local music teacher Beth Battey introduces parents and teachers to favorite folk songs, games, and other fun activities for home and school. Dress in comfortable clothes for dancing. 7-8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Free. 327-8301.

★"Live Raptors! What We Can Learn from Birds of Prey": Huron Valley Sierra Club/Washtenaw

Audubon Society, Leslie Science and Nature Center raptor handler Sarah Gillmore discusses and displays live raptors. 7:30-9 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 665-0248.

Ken Kozora's Energetic Sphere and Skebo/Michalowski Duo: Kerrytown Concert House "Jazz at the Edge" Series. Local avant-jazz musician and miscellaneous noisemaker Kozora is joined by veteran Detroit jazz drummer Gayelynn McKinney for a program of primarily percussive music in a mix of styles, including world music, free jazz, baroque, techno, and funk. The music is accompanied by dance improvisations by People Dancing artistic director Christina Sears Etter. Preceded by a set of acoustic improvisation by the duo of French hornist and bassist Christopher Skebo and reed player Piotr Michalowski. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10-\$25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

17 WEDNESDAY

"Blissful Summer Smoothies and Salads": Washtenaw Whole Foods Market. Cooking demo by a Whole Foods staffer. 6-8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. \$15. Reservations required. 975-4500.

★"Andy and Harold's Excellent Ecuadorian Birding Adventure": Washtenaw Audubon Society. Cornell University sophomore Harold Eyster and Chelsea High student (and 2009 ABA Young Birder of the Year) Andy Johnson, both WAS members, discuss a birding trip to bird-rich Ecuador they won in a birding competition. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 677-3275.

★Culinary History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join a discussion of *Alice Waters and Chez Panisse*, Thomas McNamee's history of the famous Berkeley restaurant and its renowned chef. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

"Oklahoma!": Children's Creative Center. Aug. 17-21. Local kids present an abridged version of this landmark Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. 7:30 p.m., Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline (at Kay Pkwy. east of Stadium). Tickets \$50 (Aug. 17 benefit show) & \$10 (students & seniors, \$5) Aug. 18-21 in advance and at the door. 769-0019.

★Quartex: UMMA Jazz Series. This local jazz ensemble—the house band at the U-M Episcopal student Center Canterbury House—performs everything from traditional spirituals to works by Ornette Coleman, Sun Ra, Johnny Cash, and the Dead Kennedys. Members include pianist Matt Endahl, saxophonist Matt Setzler, drummer Rob Avsharian, and bassist Andrew Kratzat. 8 p.m. Forum Court, UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763-UMMA.

"Consider the Oyster": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday, 3 & 8 p.m.

18 THURSDAY

"Tea with the Fairies": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as magical fairies to sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petits fours, and cookies to kids and their families. Also, fairy stories and readings. Bring your own fairy wings and dolls. 1 & 4 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. \$11 (babies age 18 months & younger, free). Preregistration required. 665-9468.

★"No-Sew Scarves": Ann Arbor District Library. All adults & teens in grade 6 & up invited to bring an extra T-shirt to learn how to turn it into a scarf. 3-4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Free. 327-8301.

★5th Annual NashBash: Kerrytown District Association. This mini country music festival is headlined by Paul Burch (see review, p. 57), a pioneering Americana singer-songwriter whose straight-ahead, pedal steel-dominated music played a major role in the mid-90s Nashville honky-tonk revival. His melodically seductive, lyrically ambitious songs move easily and inventively between old-time Appalachian, honky-tonk, Memphis soul, and country-politan styles. Opening acts: Whit Hill & the Postcards, a former local mainstay now based in Nashville. Hill's richly imaginative country-folk originals are often spiked with her offbeat sense of humor. Also, the Nashville-based duo of singer-songwriter Pam Kennedy Boylan and composer-guitarist Steve Mitchell, and local bands TBA. Also, an artisan market and Trunkapalooza trunk sales. Barbecue and drinks available. Followed at 8:30-10 p.m. by an afterglow party at the 'autbar (315 Braun Ct.) with an open mike that features several local favorites. 5-8:30 p.m., Farmers' Market parking lot. Free admission. 709-0697.

★"Furstenberg Nature Area": Ann Arbor District Library. City natural area preservation naturalist William Kirst leads a walk through this 38-acre riv-

Saxophonist Janelle Reichman

Second homecoming

When the *Detroit News* named her one of the top twenty high school graduates in the arts in all of Michigan a decade ago, the young saxophone player Janelle Reichman gave her career plans simply as "musician." By then she was enrolled at the music conservatory at the University of Cincinnati, but the groundwork for her future was set in Ann Arbor, by Mike Grace at Community High and private mentoring by multi-instrumentalist Vincent York.

At the time her goals might have seemed somewhat unrealistic. But Reichman moved on to New York, where she obtained a master's degree three years ago at the Manhattan School of Music. This was an inspired choice. With a solid musical education and much performance experience, she was able to study with saxophonists Steve Wilson, Bob Mintzer, and Dick Oatts. All three are well-trained perfectionists who have deep harmonic knowledge and have invested years in developing individual instrumental voices.

In jazz, first-rate musical training all too often produces bland competence. Not in Reichman's case, however: by force of talent and personality, she took full advantage of the knowledge and experience of her stellar teachers, building on the inspired early training she received from her Ann Arbor tutors. As a result, only a few years after landing in New York, Reichman has become a busy player, leading her own groups and very much in demand as a sideman.

In New York, Reichman regularly plays with two orchestras, the well-established all-woman DIVA, as well as with a big band led by Noriko Ueda, DIVA's bass player. She is also a regular member of the modern jazz combo Fiveplay and of the Redhook Ramblers, which looks back in time, re-creating New Orleans music. In addition to playing in others' combos, Reichman has just released her first recording as a leader, *Middleground*.



The title aptly describes her concept—this is complex but melodious modern jazz. A few years ago she came home to play at the Firefly Club and impressed many listeners. She has a rich, deep-toned voice on the tenor saxophone, which she plays with an easy virtuosity. Equally at home with the clarinet, she is never flashy, using her impressive technique to weave lines that are harmonically and rhythmically complex but always melodic. Some time ago an avant-garde saxophonist told me that he admired the older swing-era musicians because they seemed to play as if they were having a conversation or telling stories. For all its modern complexity, Reichman's solos are just like that—they follow a line, sometimes trekking back, sometimes taking side roads, but ultimately getting there by creating unique architectural structures.

Janelle Reichman has chosen to come home to the Kerrytown Concert House for her CD release concert on August 26 with a stellar group: Paul Finkbeiner, trumpet, Tad Weed, piano, Paul Keller, bass, and Pete Siers, drums.

—Piotr Michalowski

erside park and discusses its flourishing native plant garden and restoration efforts in it. 7-8:30 p.m., meet by the park restrooms in the parking lot off Fuller across from Huron High School. Free. 327-4555.

★**"The Kitchen Daughter": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Intrepid Media* editor and pop culture columnist **Jael McHenry** discusses her new novel about a shy, sheltered young woman with Asperger's Syndrome who discovers she can invoke ghosts by cooking from dead people's recipes. McHenry also discusses her food and cooking blog *simmerblog.typepad.com*. Signing. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

"Oklahoma!": Children's Creative Center. See 17 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

The Hollands!: Canterbury House. Green Bay-based husband-and-wife duo from Australia whose music blends elements of Celtic, Gypsy, and folk music. Opening act is **The Applesed Collective**, a popular young local acoustic quartet whose music is an enchanting blend of lyric-based folk rock with Dixieland and gypsy jazz rhythms and harmonies. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5. 764-3162.

"Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Consider the Oyster": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

19 FRIDAY

★**32nd Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival.** Aug. 19-21. 100,000 people usually visit this award-winning cultural heritage showcase of historical exhibits, tours, musical events, kids activities, and much more in Riverside Park, Frog Island Park, and Depot Town. Also, live music, open houses at several museums and historic buildings, a **WWII Encampment**, "Riverside Beer Garden," an arts & crafts fair, contests, and a children's village with kids activities, games, and inflatables. Lots of food and drinks available. For complete schedule see ypsilantiheritagefestival.com. Related events include the Ypsilanti Garden Club **Heritage Garden Tour** (Aug. 20, noon-5 p.m., \$10 in advance at various Ypsilanti locations listed at ypsilantigardenclub.org, and on the day of the tour 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Townner House, 206 N. Huron, 320-0233) and the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation **Historic Home Tour** (Aug. 21, noon-5 p.m., \$10 in advance at Downtown Home & Garden and other locations; \$12 on the day of the tour in front of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum), a self-guided tour of 6 Ypsilanti homes, from an 1848 Greek Revival to an 1893 renovated Queen Anne. Noon-8 p.m. (Aug. 19), 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (Aug. 20), & 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (Aug. 21), Depot Town/Riverside Park, Ypsilanti. Free admission (nominal charge for some special events). 483-6071.

★**Crossroads Summer Festival.** See 5 Friday. Tonight: veteran local jazz guitarist **John E. Lawrence**, the **WCC Jazz Youth Ensemble**, and **Jungle**, a world-music fusion trio featuring guitarist Steve

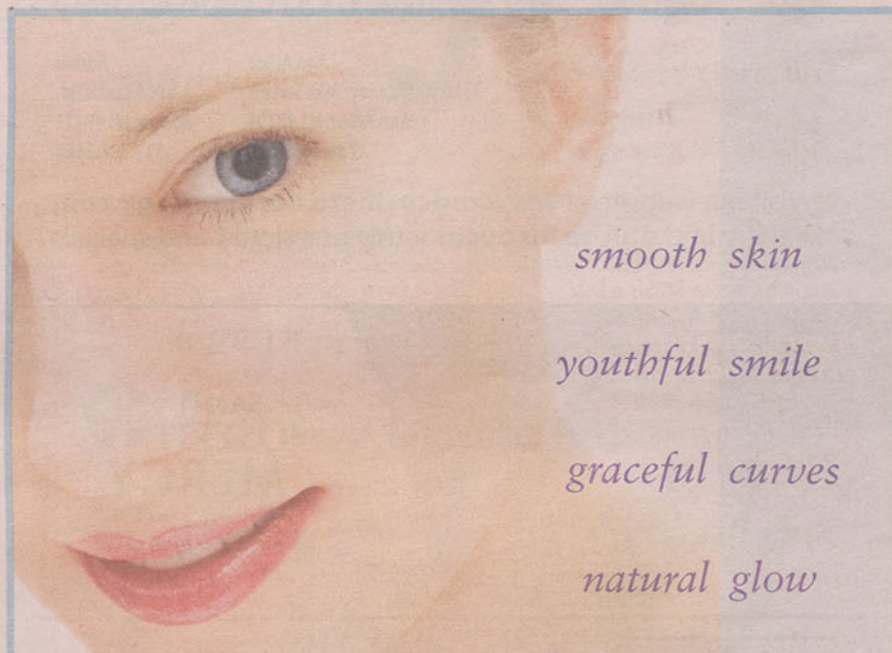
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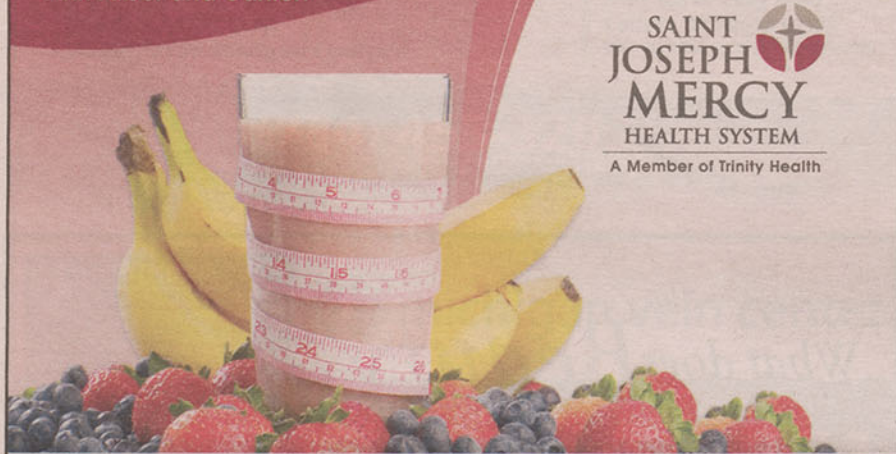
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Springer, percussionist Muruga Booker, and bassist Dave Sharp. 6-10 p.m.

★“Music and Movement”: Ann Arbor District Library. KinderMusik teacher Denise Owens presents a program for infants through 2-year-olds accompanied by an adult. 6:30-7:10 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-8301.

★U-M Women's Soccer vs. Akron. The U-M also has games this month vs. Oakland (Aug. 21, 2 p.m.), Duquesne (Aug. 26, 7 p.m.), and DePaul (Aug. 28, 2:30 p.m.). 7 p.m., U-M Soccer Field, 2250 S. State. Free. 764-0247.

★“A Discovery of Witches”: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Reading Circle. All invited to discuss Deborah Harkness's novel about a centuries-old vampire, a spellbound witch, and the mysterious manuscript that draws them together. 7-8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★“Twelfth Night”: Blackbird Theatre Shakespeare West. Every Fri. & Sat., Aug. 19-Sept. 3. Blackbird continues its summer-long series of West Park Shakespeare productions with director Barton Bund's modern twist on Shakespeare's comedy of mistaken identities and misplaced affections. It's the Summer of Love, and Viola washes up on the shores of Illyria, a remote island paradise with a folk festival. To infiltrate the inner workings of the festival, she cuts her hair, picks up a guitar and harmonica, and joins the fray of lascivious bohemians, rock stars, and bikers caught up in the wild excesses of love, revenge, and plotting. After several gender-bending plot twists, everyone eventually snaps back into place, albeit with a variety of delightful and surprising differences. Folk music, though, is never quite the same. Cast: Linda Rabin Hammell, Victoria Gilbert, Sean Sabo, Dan Johnson, Dana Sutton, and others. 7 p.m., West Park Band Shell. Tickets \$25 (seniors, \$20; students, \$10) in advance at blackbirdtheatre.org and at the gate. 332-3848.

★“Oklahoma!”: Children's Creative Center. See 17 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Blues: Kerrytown Concert House. Concert by this local Christian band, which is joined tonight by several other local musicians, including guitarist-pianist Al Skinner, guitarist Jerry Partovich, guitarist-drummer Daniel Jackson, and pianists Yvon Gbah and Daniel Fernandez. Proceeds benefit Camp Take Notice, a local tent community of homeless people. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15. Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

Jubal's Kin: Canterbury House. Florida trio that plays an eclectic blend of old-timey bluegrass and indie folk. John Carter Cash calls it “traditional music with a new heart and approach ... Once you hear Jubal's Kin, you never forget them.” Opening act TBA. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5. 764-3162.

★“Inherit the Wind”: Carriage House Theatre. Aug. 19-21 & 25-27. Forrest Hejkal directs Jerome Lawrence and Robert Lee's charged 1955 drama exploring threats to intellectual freedom represented by the notorious 1925 Scopes “Monkey Trial,” in which Clarence Darrow defended (and William Jennings Bryan prosecuted) a Tennessee schoolteacher arrested for teaching the theory of evolution. The play is staged so that the audience is onstage as members of the gallery or even as jurors. 8 p.m., Carriage House Theatre, 541 Third St. \$10 (students & seniors, \$5) donation. 546-6441.

★“Posing”: New Theatre Project. See 2 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

★“Consider the Oyster”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★“Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Billy Ray Bauer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Aug. 19 & 20. This dynamic Detroit jokester uses a fine repertoire of voices and dialects to tell fresh, lively stories, often drawn from his experiences as the father of 4 boys. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$10 reserved seating in advance, \$12 general admission at the door. 996-9080.

20 SATURDAY

Ann Arbor Antiques Market. Aug. 20 & 21. Large show and sale of antiques in various styles from Americana to Art Deco. No reproductions are allowed, experts check every booth, and the items' authenticity is guaranteed. Deliveries available. Concessions. No pets. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat.) & 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. \$6 (children age 12 & under accompanied by an adult, free). (937) 875-0808 (before the show), 429-3145 (day of show).

★“Explore with Me”: Leslie Science and Nature Center. A visit to the Critter House and a hike through the woods for kids ages 1-5 (accompanied

by a caregiver). 10-11:30 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$7 per child. 997-1533.

★“Little Ones and Creative Fun”: Ann Arbor District Library. U-M Child Care teachers Michelle Freund and Kelly Zechmeister lead infants through 2-year-olds (accompanied by a caregiver) through sensory art experiences with paint, Play-doh, and paper. 10:30-11 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★“Vintage Truck & Tractor Show”: Saline Area Historical Society. Display of vintage trucks and tractors and a fire engine. Also, wagon rides, tours of the farmhouse, and a chance to see the farm's garden and animals. All invited to bring a picnic lunch. Ice cream & water available. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. \$1 donation (kids, free). 429-4154.

★“Piazza Zingerman”: Zingerman's Delicatessen. Aug. 20 & 21. Taste samples and sale of hams, cheeses, oils, and other Italian foods. Also, demos of how to make mozzarella and the ancient art of splitting open a wheel of Parmigiano-Reggiano. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Zingerman's outdoor tent, 422 Detroit St. Free admission. 663-3400.

★“40th Anniversary Bus Tour”: Legacy Land Conservancy. Tour of several of LLC's protected lands. Lunch & refreshments. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., meet at REL, 970 W. Eisenhower Pkwy. \$15 (members, \$10). Reservations required by email or phone. susancooley@legacylandconservancy.org. 302-5263.

★“Summer Splash Day”: Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. A family-oriented afternoon of pool games and contests. Today's program includes the popular Jello Pool Slip & Slide, along with a watermelon-eating contest and a pinata. 2-4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Pool, 2751 Packard Rd. \$4 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & older, \$3.50). 971-3228.

★“Holistic Legacy Planning for Your Peace of Mind”: University Living Cultural Center. Talk by Callan Loo, cofounder of Peaceful Crossings, an organization dedicated to improving the way our society views and plans for death. 2-4 p.m., University Living, 2865 S. Main. Free. Reservations required. 669-3030, ext. 233.

★“Twelfth Night”: Blackbird Theatre Shakespeare West. See 19 Friday. 7 p.m.

★“Oklahoma!”: Children's Creative Center. See 17 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. With live music. No partner needed; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. Preceded by a lesson at 7:30 p.m. 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$10 (members, \$7; students with ID, \$5). 426-0241.

Bridgewater: Kerrytown Concert House. This local duo of vocalist A.T. Miller and vocalist-guitarist Craig Kukuk performs 19th-century hymns and songs, 20th-century singer-songwriter music, and originals. Tonight the duo celebrates the release of its new CD, *Though It's September, It's Still Morning*. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10-\$25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

★“Consider the Oyster”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★“Inherit the Wind”: Carriage House Theatre. See 19 Friday. 8 p.m.

★“Posing”: New Theatre Project. See 2 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

★“Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Billy Ray Bauer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 19 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

21 SUNDAY

★“Farm Tour Field Day”: People's Food Co-op. All invited to tour several local farms whose produce is sold at the co-op. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., meet at the co-op to carpool, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Pre-registration required at peoplesfood.coop or by phone. 994-4589.

Annual Corn Roast and Membership Drive: Ann Arbor Ski Club. Newcomers and old members invited to this event kicking off the club's season of meetings and outings. Corn, beverages, and preheated grills provided. Bring your own food to grill and a dish to pass. Also, volleyball and other games. Those under age 21 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. 1-7 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). \$5 admission. 645-0630.

★“Dancing Babies”: Ann Arbor District Library. First Steps Washtenaw instructor Monica Higman leads infants through 5-year-olds (accompanied by an adult) in a program of music and movement. 1-1:40 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★“Sundae @ the Ann Arbor Art Center”: Ann Arbor Art Center. All families invited to paint ceramic bowls. Also, ice cream sundaes, scavenger

hunts, balloon animals, and face painting. 1-4 p.m., AAAC, 117 W. Liberty. Tickets \$10 in advance at annarborartcenter.org & by phone, and at the door. 994-8004, ext. 101.

★“Kerry Tales: Buckle Your Shoe with Mother Goose”: Kerrytown Shops. Half-hour family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkeley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Hollander's, 410 N. Fourth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769-3115.

★“Snip & Shred: Geeky Crafts!": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K-5 invited to join David Erik Nelson, author of *Snip, Burn, Solder, Shred: Seriously Geeky Stuff to Make with Your Kids*, for a craft activity. 2-4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★Julie Kramer and Sarah Zettel: Aunt Agatha's. Kramer, a freelance TV producer in Minneapolis, discusses *Killing Kate*, the latest in her series of mysteries featuring TV producer Riley Spartz, and local sci-fi writer Zettel discusses *A Taste of the Night-life*, her new mystery novel featuring a vampire chef. Signing. Refreshments. 2 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769-1114.

“Oklahoma!": Children's Creative Center. See 17 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

“Consider the Oyster”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

“Inherit the Wind”: Carriage House Theatre. See 19 Friday. 2 p.m.

“Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★“N is for Nepal”: The Himalayan Bazaar. Local writer Anita Adhikary, a native of Nepal, reads her new children's book. Signing. 3 p.m., The Himalayan Bazaar, 218 S. Main. Free. 997-7229.

★“Not About Madonna”: Nicola's Books. Country-folk singer Whit Hill, a long-time multidimensional star (originally as choreographer Whitley Setrakian) of the local performing arts scene before moving to Nashville a few years ago, discusses her poignant, funny memoir of her life during and after her junior year at U-M when she and Madonna were roommates. Signing. Hill, who is in town for the annual Nashbash (see 18 Thursday listing), also performs with her band at the Old Town tonight (see Nightspots). 4-6 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

“Old Fashioned Picnic at the Farm”: Slow Food Huron Valley. An 8-course locally sourced meal followed by a pie auction and homemade ice cream making. Bring your own tableware. Local beer and wine available. Also, live acoustic music, farm tours, old-time farm activities, lawn games, and a chance to see the farm animals. 4-8 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 13493 Waterloo-Munith Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. 5 miles north from I-94 exit 153), Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. \$35 (members, \$30; kids ages 5-12, \$10) in advance at brownpapertickets.com/event/181814. slowfoodhuronvalley.com. 277-1017.

★“Music in the Arb”: U-M Nichols Arboretum. The 2nd in a series of outdoor concerts in the Arb amphitheater. Tonight: Cairn to Cairn, a local Celtic-folk trio of guitarist Terry Farmer, singer-flutist Kelly McDermott, and bassist Rob Crozier. 6 p.m., Arb amphitheater, 1/2 mile from either Arb entrance (1610 Washington Hts. or Nichols Dr. at the Huron River). Free. 647-7600.

“Posing”: New Theatre Project. See 2 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

22 MONDAY

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 1 Monday. Today's performer: Aaron Tan. 7 p.m.

23 TUESDAY

74th Annual Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. Aug. 23-27. Fair rides and concessions (Aug. 23, 5-10 p.m., & Aug. 24-27, 1-10 p.m.), along with livestock shows, truck and tractor pulls, demolition derbies, and more. Complete schedule available at chelseafair.org. 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, Old US-12 at Old Manchester Rd., Chelsea. \$7 (kids 10 & under, free) daily admission; \$25 5-day pass. Free admission for seniors age 65 & over on Aug. 25. 475-8153 before fair; 475-1270 during fair week.

★Michigan Marching Band Practice. Aug. 23-27 & 29-31. The U-M's highly disciplined 200 plus-member marching band or sections thereof can be seen and heard practicing on Elbel Field. All are welcome to find a spot in the bleachers and get a sneak preview of upcoming halftime shows. 3:30-5:30 p.m. (Aug. 23), 7-9:30 p.m. (Aug. 23, 24), 9-11:30 a.m. (Aug. 24, 25, & 27), 3-5 p.m. (Aug. 24, 25, 27, & 30), 8-10 p.m. (Aug. 25), 7:30-10 p.m. (Aug. 26), 7-9 p.m. (Aug. 27), 10:30 a.m.-noon & 7-10 p.m. (Aug. 29), 10:30-11:30 a.m. & 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Aug.

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30), and 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. & 4–5:15 p.m. (Aug. 31). Elbel Field, Hill at Division. Free. 764-0582.

Food Sessions: Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. Aug. 23, 25, & 26. Talks and demos by Whole Foods staffers. Topics: "Eggplants and Tomatoes" (Aug. 23), "Blissful Summer Smoothies & Salads" (Aug. 25), "Beer Tasting: World Favorites" (Aug. 31). 6 p.m. Whole Foods Market, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. \$10 (Aug. 23), \$15 (Aug. 25), \$6 (Aug. 26). Preregistration required. 997-7500.

★**P.J. Parrish and Doug Allyn:** Aunt Agatha's. Kelly Montee, who with her sister Kristy Montee writes under the P.J. Parrish pen name, discusses *The Killing Song*, their new mystery about a Miami journalist whose search for the elusive serial killer who murdered his sister takes him eventually to the Paris catacombs, and Edgar-winning Montrose (MI) short story writer Allyn discusses his work. Signing. The talks are part of a meeting of the midwest chapter of the Mystery Writers of America. All invited. 7 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769-1114.

24 WEDNESDAY

★**History of Science Reading Group:** Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join a discussion of *Bone Wars: The Excavation of Andrew Carnegie's Dinosaur*, Tom Rea's history of the scientific gold rush sparked by the late 19th-century discovery of dinosaur bones in Wyoming. 7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

★**"Bonsai Soils: What We Need to Know to Grow Healthy and Thriving Bonsai":** Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Talk by Jack Wickle, Paul Kulesa, and another club member TBA. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 747-6439.

★**"Consider the Oyster":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

25 THURSDAY

★**"Kickoff Luncheon":** U-M Club of Ann Arbor. New head football coach Brady Hoke presents the first of the club's 2011–2012 lunchtime talks by U-M coaches. 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson. \$9.50 (seniors age 65 & over, \$9). 769-2500, 426-3092.

★**"Green My House":** Ann Arbor District Library. Green Energy Coalition experts offer tips on energy-friendly home improvements. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**"How to Talk to Plants and Avoid the Impression of Lunacy":** People's Food Co-op. Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Diane Feldt. 7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required at the co-op, by emailing outreach@peoplesfood.coop, or by phone. 994-4589.

★**"Hairspray":** Father Gabriel Richard High School Dramalums. Aug. 25–28. Anne Kolaczowski-Magee directs recent Gabriel Richard graduates in Marc Shaiman's Tony-winning musical (based on John Waters' 1988 film) set in 1962 Baltimore about a pleasantly plump teen girl who confronts racism when she lands a spot on a TV dance show. The score includes such favorites as "Good Morning, Baltimore," "Welcome to the Sixties," and "You Can't Stop the Beat." 7:30 p.m. WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets \$10 in advance and at the door. 662-0496, ext. 200.

★**"Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Consider the Oyster":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★**"Inherit the Wind":** Carriage House Theatre. See 19 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**"Comedy Jamm":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

26 FRIDAY

★**Gaming Tournaments:** Ann Arbor District Library. Aug. 26–28. Video game tournaments with prizes. Aug. 26: "Goldeneye Wii Splatterfest." For 9th graders through adults. Aug. 27: "NBA Jam" and "Rock Band 3." For all ages. Aug. 28: "Wii Sports Resort Team Tourney." For all ages. 6–8:30 p.m. (Aug. 26) & 1–4 p.m. (Aug. 27 & 28), AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**Super Kicker Rodeo:** Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. Aug. 26–28. With bull riding, mutton busting, calf roping, a boot scramble, barrel racing, and bareback saddle bronc riding. Also, kids games, vendors, a mechanical bull, an inflatable, and Brad "the Wild" Hair clown who, according to an organizer,

fiction

Ellen Baker

The shadow of the past

Ellen Baker's first novel, *Keeping the House*, has had the kind of success that's not supposed to be possible anymore. Since it was published in 2007—to good, if occasionally mixed, reviews—its reputation has continued to grow as the book has been passed from hand to hand, from book club to book club. Clearly Baker touched a chord with this tale that sprawled across generations even as it focused on the life of a woman in 1950s America.

Her second novel, *I Gave My Heart to Know This*, will probably have a similar appeal, despite the fact that Baker's ambitions are even larger. In this book, the reader is led across big jumps in time, from 2000 to 1913, and back again, with long stops in the 1940s. The story is told from several different points of view, as Baker builds the mosaic of tragedy that defines one family's life over a century.

If *I Gave My Heart to Know This* is shaped by the shared history that impinges on the lives of its characters. A 1913 tragedy—the Italian Hall panic, or massacre, that occurred in Calumet, Michigan when someone maliciously yelled “Fire!” in a hall crowded with the families of striking mine workers, causing seventy-three deaths—creates an attitude in one young man that affects his wife and family for the next century. The novel centers on three women who have been touched by this man and on their work as welders in a Wisconsin shipyard during World War II. These women assume the war work when the men have either gone off to fight or have disappeared into their own insecurities.

People disappear often in this novel, sometimes forever, sometimes to reappear decades later; but all are bound by one hard-scrabble farm way up in northern Wisconsin. They keep being drawn to this place, and



JOANN JARDINE

some of the characters allow themselves to be defined by it.

Of the characters who vanish, some hope to forget their connections to the farm and to the people who remain there; others try to remember but with only tentative results. The great-granddaughter of one of the main characters decides “that there was no way to erase memory; instead, you could learn to bear the things that had been, to fold them into who you were and who you would be. You could learn to forgive the fates and move on, and find your way to the light, out from the long, dark shadow of the past.” It is the measure of Ellen Baker's success that she makes this journey from the shadowed past real and deeply moving.

Ellen Baker reads from *I Gave My Heart to Know This* at Nicola's Books on Monday, August 29.

—Keith Taylor

“will make your sides hurt.” 7 p.m.–midnight (Aug. 26 & 27) & 6 p.m.–midnight (Aug. 28), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Tickets \$10 (kids ages 5–12, \$5; kids age 5 & under, free) in advance at Tractor Supply (111 Sage Ct. north off Michigan Ave., Saline) and Lodi Food Mart (6135 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.) and at the gate. Gates open at 4 p.m. (231) 832-3707, 429-3145.

“Twelfth Night”: Blackbird Theatre Shakespeare West. See 19 Friday. 7 p.m.

“Hairspray”: Father Gabriel Richard High School Dramalums. See 25 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Janelle Reichman Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House. See review, p. 59. NYC-based jazz clarinetist-saxophonist Reichman, an Ann Arbor native, leads an ensemble of local veteran jazz musicians, including trumpeter Paul Finkbeiner, pianist Tad Weed, bassist Paul Keller, and drummer Pete Siers. A *Jazz Improv* review says she “seems to defy logic and possibility in her speed, dexterity, and musicianship.” She has a brand new album, *Middleground*. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15–\$30 (students, \$10). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

“Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

“Consider the Oyster”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

“Inherit the Wind”: Carriage House Theatre. See 19 Friday. 8 p.m.

Ty Barnett: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Aug. 26 & 27. Acclaimed stand-up comic from Chicago known for his smart, edgy, and very funny observations about contemporary society from an African American point of view. A frequent guest on late-night TV, he was also featured in the NBC reality

show *Last Comic Standing*. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant), \$15 reserved seating in advance, \$17 general admission at the door. 996-9080.

27 SATURDAY

Annual Bonsai Show: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Aug. 27 & 28. Display of more than 100 elegant bonsai specimens, in a variety of styles, grown by club members. Also, bonsai demos and a sale of trees, soil, tools, pots, and other supplies. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Admission \$3 (age 16 & under, free). 812-5702.

★U-M Field Hockey vs. North Carolina. The U-M also has a match this month against Wake Forest (Aug. 28). Noon, Ocker Field, 1202 S. State. Free. 764-0247.

★“3rd Anniversary/Back to School Bash”: One: A Center for Integrative Health. Bounce houses, a fire truck, snow cones, nerve stress tests, information on backpack safety, prizes, and more. 1–4 p.m., One, 203 S. Zeeb, Suite 106. Free. 274-5107.

German Park Picnic. Old-fashioned German dinner served a la carte (approximately \$5–\$7) with wine, beer, pop, and coffee for sale. Dancing to German and American music by Enzian aus Detroit. 4–11 p.m., German Park, 5548 Pontiac Trail (7 miles north of Ann Arbor; look for the banners and signs marking the entrance). \$5 (children 12 & under, free). No one under 21 admitted without parent or legal guardian. 769-0048 (weekdays).

“Stars of Russian Ballet Gala”: Academy of Russian Classical Ballet. This professional ballet company's Corps de Ballet, a troupe of experienced

young area ballet students, is joined by several national and international guest artists, including American Ballet Theatre star Daniil Simkin and principal performers from the famed Mariinsky Theatre (St. Petersburg, Russia), the National Ballet of Ukraine, the San Francisco Ballet, Staatsballet-Berlin, and more. The program includes classical pieces like the pas de deux from Marius Petipa's *Don Quixote* and contemporary pieces like Simkin's *Bourgeois*. 7 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$26–\$56 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. (248) 982-7882.

“Twelfth Night”: Blackbird Theatre Shakespeare West. See 19 Friday. 7 p.m.

“Hairspray”: Father Gabriel Richard High School Dramalums. See 25 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

“Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

“Consider the Oyster”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

“Inherit the Wind”: Carriage House Theatre. See 19 Friday. 8 p.m.

Ty Barnett: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

28 SUNDAY

★Mushroom Foray: Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club. All invited to join club members on a hunt for edible fungi. Followed by a potluck picnic. Bring a compass, whistle, basket, and knife. All mushrooms evaluated by experts for edibility. 9 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Oak Meadows Picnic Area, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter–Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. \$5 vehicle entry fee. 971-2552, 355-0359.

“Hairspray”: Father Gabriel Richard High School Dramalums. See 25 Thursday. 1:30 p.m.

“Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

“Consider the Oyster”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★Society of Women Engineers Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of political broadcast journalist Cokie Roberts's *Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation*. 6 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

“Songs She Likes”: Kerrytown Concert House. Local vocalists Betsy Haller and Mike Mosallam perform a program of cabaret songs ranging from musical theatre to contemporary pop. With pianist Eric Lofstrom and drummer Patrick Shrock. 4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

29 MONDAY

★“I Gave My Heart to Know This”: Nicola's Books. See review, above. Minnesota writer Ellen Baker discusses her new novel, set in Wisconsin in 1944, about 3 women who work in a shipyard. Signing. 7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

30 TUESDAY

76th Annual Saline Community Fair. Aug. 30–Sept. 4. Full schedule available at salinefair.org/events.htm. Noon–dusk (Aug. 30) & 9 a.m.–late evening (Aug. 31–Sept. 4), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Cost TBA. 668-0776.

31 WEDNESDAY

★“After School Snacks”: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market Kids Club. A Whole Foods staffer shows kids ages 3–12 (accompanied by a parent or guardian) how to prepare easy, tasty after-school snacks. Tastings. 4 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 975-4500.

★Deborah Wyndham: Ann Arbor District Library. Recital by this jazz pianist whose repertoire ranges from Scott Joplin and Eubie Black rags to originals that fuse classical and modern jazz idioms. 7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

“Consider the Oyster”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.



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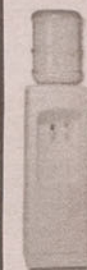


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Classifieds & Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian	J=Jewish
B=Black	✉=Letters
C=Christian	LTR=Long Term Relationship
D=Divorced	
F=Female	M=Male
G=Gay	ND=Nondrinker
H=Hispanic	NS=Non smoker
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate	☎=Phone Calls
ISO=In Search Of	P=Professional
	S=Single
	W=White

Women Seeking Men

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
\$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Bright, slim, caring SWPF ISO true gentleman for friendship, maybe more. RSVP soon. 5786 ♀

Cute, fit, girl teddy bear ISO LTR with boy teddy bear 45+. For dancing to the Blues, cassoulet by the fire, more. 5794 ♀

Female, 50, looking for someone to hang out with. I'm a smoker and occasional drinker. 5809 ♀

Men Seeking Women

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
\$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Deaf male, SW, wife died. Looking for good woman, 39-49, who likes movies, walks, Thanksgiving, and family good times. 5803 ♀

Ready for love, SWM, 41, in search of special lady. 5808 ♀

General Personals

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB
You don't have to ski to be a member! We are a 4-season social and sports club for singles and couples 21 & over from Ann Arbor and the surrounding area.

Upcoming events:
August 6, Go-Karts, Putt-Putt Golf & Laser Tag
August 13, Zukey Lake Tavern
August 19, Happy Hour at Dominick's
August 21, Corn Roast at Cobblestone Farm
Sign up for our Winter ski trips out West!
Get the details at a2skiclub.org.

For Sale

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

Art

Will sell set of 6 original paintings by international artist EDWARD ANTHONY. Vintage 1947. Frame by J.L. Hudson Co. \$12,000. View by appt. (734) 449-0470.

Entertainment

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

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Lessons & Workshops

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD for referrals to qualified professional piano teachers. All levels and ages, 665-5346. aaaptg.googlepages.com.

Piano and Guitar Lessons. Double degreed music teacher. Pittsfield Township. (734) 646-2740.

PIANO LESSONS—Your home, all levels. Experienced, perceptive teacher. DMA U-M. Info: (734) 482-4663.

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*Ongoing summer Mosaic Classes/Workshops
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www.GlassShackStudio.com

Miscellaneous

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 71? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to spend at an Ann Arbor Observer advertiser of your choice. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, August 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769-3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

It's Easy to Respond to a Personals Ad!

To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail:

Letter responses are forwarded for \$3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes, but be sure to include your contact information inside the letter if you wish to receive a reply. Mail all response letters (in a larger envelope) to the Ann Arbor Observer; include a check for \$3 per response made payable to: Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Place Your Personals Ad Today!

• Personals ads are \$7.00 per line.

- Place a personals ad through www.arborlist.com and receive the first four lines for FREE.
- Email: classifieds@arborweb.com or Fax: (734) 769-3375
- Mail or walk-in: 201 Catherine St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Observer Personals Ads are also posted online at: arborlist.com—totally free classifieds, and arborweb.com—Ann Arbor online

Please call with any questions or comments: (734) 769-3175

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

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Services

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Outdoors

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Garden Care by Zoe
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Pets

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Real Estate

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For Rent

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NE ANN ARBOR - Incredible 32-acre estate property just minutes to Ann Arbor, U-M, and hospitals. This property is breathtaking. This custom-built home rests in the heart of mature forest. Enjoy complete privacy and harmony with nature with the convenience of a premier location. The 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home features soaring ceilings, walls of glass, and extensive upgrades. \$995,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Twenty-acre estate property features a custom-built Southwest inspired dream home. Property is gorgeous with panoramic views of a wood ravine and pond. Home is a timeless masterpiece featuring a dramatic barreled entry, oversized two-story great room, 4 fireplaces, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$975,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Very special Frank Lloyd Wright inspired 2001 Showcase of Homes Entry. Exterior features gorgeous estate setting with view of pond, extensive plantings, patio, porch, deck, and extremely upgraded materials. The interior is a showpiece highlighted by the two story great room with stone fireplace, custom trim, gourmet kitchen with cherry cabinets, den, luxurious master suite, and finished lower level. \$849,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - MATTHAEI FARM - This stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home rests on a 2.6 acre natural oasis in an Ann Arbor loved neighborhood. Incredible grounds feature ample plantings, mature trees, and complete privacy. Featuring living room with vaulted ceiling, cherry kitchen, open family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$799,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



GLENNBOROUGH - Very sharp 5-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home by Russell. This home rests on one of the most gorgeous settings you will find backing to trees and wildlife. The interior is special featuring great room with vaulted ceiling, large custom kitchen with Corian, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$599,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP - Incredible 4-bedroom, 2½-bath custom-built home on 6.77 perfectly private acres. This setting is spectacularly nestled in the woods, but conveniently located to Ann Arbor, US-23, and M-14. Newer home with all the current finishes, including maple kitchen with granite, great room with high vaulted ceiling, first-floor master suite, sunroom, and upper loft. \$579,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE - Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 4.4-bath custom-built home by Harris on the 9th fairway at Stonebridge. This home is the essence of quality. Incredible landscaping and multi-tier brick paver patio. Features a two-story family room with masonry fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, den with built-ins, luxury master suite with spa-like bath, and finished lower level with rec room. \$529,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



DEXTER - This incredible estate property rests on one of the most beautiful settings you will ever see. Enjoy extensive gardens, exotic plantings, ponds, and covered entertaining areas highlight the exterior. Interior features extensive renovation including dream kitchen, vaulted ceilings, den, luxurious master suite, and separate 900 sq. ft. guest room. You will be impressed. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP - Incredible estate property just minutes from Ann Arbor and US-23. This custom-built home rests on 3½ peaceful acres and includes one of the nicest barns you will find. 40 x 60 pole barn with cement floor, oversized doors, and finished loft. Home is stunning with high vaulted ceilings, first-floor master, maple kitchen with granite, and finished basement. \$474,900 Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - SANDPIPER COVE - Striking 4-bedroom, 2½-bath custom built colonial on a gorgeous acre lot backing to a mature tree line. This home presents like a model home. Incredible grounds with beautiful plantings, two-tier deck, and shady backyard. Interior features maple kitchen with granite counters, open family room with built-ins, oversized master suite with sitting room and exercise area, and great kids' bedrooms. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SAGINAW HILLS - Striking 4-bedroom, 2½-bath water front home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Enjoy peaceful pond views from the oversized deck on this beautiful one acre lot. Home has a nice contemporary flair and features an open kitchen and family room with water views, living room with vaulted ceiling, master suite with walk-in closet and luxury bath, and finished basement. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



3000 GLAZIER WAY - Stunning 3-bedroom, 2-bath condo in Ann Arbor's most desired building. Enjoy the gorgeous natural surroundings from this fabulous unit just minutes from hospitals, U-M, and North Campus. Features open great room, porch overlooking the woods, sunroom, spacious master bath, and study. Freshly painted, move-in condition. \$424,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



PINCKNEY - Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home with 90 ft. of frontage on Highland Lake. This home is just paradise with panoramic views of lake and 11,000 acres of state owned land. The interior is loaded featuring oversized great room, maple kitchen with granite, and dream master suite. \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - HAWTHORNE RIDGE - Perfect 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in a desired Ann Arbor sub. Incredible grounds feature extensive landscaping, in-ground pool, large deck, and patio. Shows like a model, including white kitchen with granite, oversized family room with fireplace, formal living room and dining room, first floor den, master suite, and partially finished walkout basement. \$369,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - EAST HORIZONS - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the most desired subs in Saline's School District. This great setting features very large backyard, great deck, and extensive landscaping. The interior is crisp with ample hardwood floors, great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, fabulous first floor master suite with brand new bath, and spacious bedrooms. \$329,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE RIDGE - Very sharp 5-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial on a quiet acre lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. Great setting with significant landscaping, large deck, and beautiful patio. This home features a large family room with fireplace, open maple kitchen, formal living room and dining room, oversized master suite, and incredible finished walkout basement. \$309,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LINCOLN SCHOOLS - Enjoy your own 40-acre private get-away in this modest 3-bedroom, 1-bath home. The land is spectacular and features open meadows and dense woods. Potential for land split also exists. Perfect home for an outdoor enthusiast. Home is older and has lots of charm. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - ARBOR WOODS - This stunning 4-bedroom, 2½-bath custom built colonial rests on one of the most picturesque settings you will find in the Ann Arbor School District. Enjoy views of nature, ponds, and wildlife from the oversized deck. Home features cherry kitchen with 9' ceilings, open family room with fireplace, dream master suite with large bath, nice sized kids' bedrooms, and walkout basement. \$289,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LAKE FOREST - Great 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most popular subs. This home is just perfect inside and out and features great room with vaulted ceiling and full height brick fireplace, large first-floor master suite, spacious bedrooms, and flex-use rec room in the lower level. Nice landscaping and huge deck. You will love it! \$269,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Classic 4-bedroom, 1½-bath farmhouse on 2.7 acres just 5 minutes west of Saline. This home retains much of its original character with hardwood floors and oversized moldings throughout. Great setting with 5 outbuildings of various size, vista views, and peaceful countryside abounds. \$225,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



CHELSEA SCHOOLS - Three-bedroom, 1-bath turn-of-the-century farmhouse on 3.7 peaceful acres including barn and pasture set up for horses. Wonderful grounds with fruit trees, gardens, and great privacy. Home is loaded with character and features hardwood floors, large kitchen, and family room with wood stove. Also available for \$250,000 with 10 acres. \$189,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Very unique and wonderful 2-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a quiet tree-lined street walking distance to downtown. This home has undergone extensive renovation and expansion. Features include upgraded kitchen open to the entire home, large living room, family room, master bedroom suite with attached bath, and finished basement. \$159,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - SALINE - This 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch has all the features you have been hoping for. Home rests on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with huge backyard, mature trees, and the largest deck you will find. The interior is nicely put together and includes living room, remodeled kitchen, good sized bedrooms, and finished basement with rec room and office. Attached 2½-car garage. \$149,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



YPSILANTI - Striking ranch on a very quiet street just a short walk to Depot Town. Wonderful fenced backyard with large deck and screened porch. The home has many updates and improvements including open kitchen with granite counter tops, large living room, and spacious bedrooms. \$139,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NW ANN ARBOR – This is one of the finest homes you will ever see. Striking Arch design with Idaho Blue Stone and Redwood exterior, exceptional landscaping, and covered outdoor patio with fireplace. Interior features cherry cabinets, floors, trim, and doors throughout. Gourmet kitchen, spa-like master suite, and finished lower level with rec space, sauna, and full kitchen. Five-car heated garage. \$1,350,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NE ANN ARBOR – This 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home is one of the finest custom built homes you will ever see. Incredible craftsmanship. Nestled on a wooded 2.4 acre lot. Extensive landscaping, patio, and putting green. Home has every amenity including a two-story great room, sun room, dream kitchen, luxury bath, and the ultimate finished basement. \$1,195,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR – Very special 4-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath custom-built, builder's own home backing to Polo Fields golf course. Gorgeous brick and stone exterior, extensive landscaping, and the finest covered patio with outdoor kitchen you will see. Interior is top-of-the-line in every way. Custom kitchen, extensive moldings, high ceilings, and luxury amenities in every room of the home. \$1,050,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NW ANN ARBOR – This gorgeous, custom-built home by Henry Landau rests on a 8+ acre country estate. Grounds include extensive landscaping, circle drive, and outbuilding. Home is rock solid with an all-brick exterior. Interior features include two-story living room, striking dining room with barrel ceiling, custom kitchen, dream master suite and finished walk-out basement. \$999,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



WALNUT RIDGE – Incredible contemporary gem in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods. This home features incredible flair and features. Highlighted by the one-of-a-kind kitchen with stainless steel cabinets, professional grade appliances, and concrete counter tops. Features include all maple floors on the first floor, two-story great room, and luxury master suite with dream bath and closet. \$735,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Incredible 6-bedroom, 5-bath, 2 1/2-bath home on an acre plus lot in Saline. This home is loaded with custom features and amenities inside and out. Exterior features extensive landscaping, spacious yard, large deck, and 2 patios. Interior includes gorgeous living room, cherry kitchen with granite, cherry paneled den, first-floor master, and incredible finished basement. \$699,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Spectacular 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath custom-built home on a spacious acre plus lot deep within the sub. Great setting with extensive landscaping, large deck, and big back yard. Home is sharp and features two-story great room, open cherry kitchen with granite, 3 fireplaces, first-floor master, and finished walkout basement. \$649,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – This stunning 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built home is just perfect in every way. The acre-plus lot provides ample landscaping, large decks, and birch tree forest. Interior is grand and features two-story foyer and living room, custom kitchen with granite, open family room, sun room, first-floor master suite, den, loft, and finished basement. You will love it! \$609,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



HUNTERS RIDGE – Incredible 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built ranch on a quiet cul-de-sac lot. This home features incredible size and proportion. Oversized rooms, high vaulted ceilings, and nice upgrades highlight this home. Interior features include open kitchen, great room with vaulted ceiling, luxury master bedroom, and finished walkout basement. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



CHELSEA SCHOOLS – Incredible 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home on Crooked Lake. Enjoy incredible panoramic views of this peaceful lake with an abundance of wild life, boating and swimming available. Home is gorgeous and features all maple floors and trim, great room with views of the lake, open kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$499,500. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - HURON RIVER FRONTAGE – Enjoy the peaceful flow of the Huron River from this custom built 5-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home. Incredible grounds highlight this home with extensive landscaping, large deck, and beautiful view. Home features great room with Brazilian cherry floor, spacious kitchen, luxury first floor master suite, den, and finished walkout basement. Dexter Schools. \$489,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Stately 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath custom-built home on a spacious acre plus lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. Great lot with view to open land, large deck, and extensive landscaping. The interior is sharp and features living room with vaulted ceiling, extensive hardwood floors, maple kitchen, sun room, luxury master suite, and flex-use bonus room. \$485,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



CENTENNIAL PARK – Great 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath colonial overlooking a pond in one of the most desired subs in Saline Schools. Walk to the elementary school and high school. The interior of this home is sharp and features two-story family room, open kitchen with cherry cabinets, formal living room and dining room, den, great master suite with vaulted ceiling and dream bath, and nice sized kids bedrooms. \$419,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



UPLAND HILLS - CHELSEA – This stunning, custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful settings you will find anywhere. Quiet cul-de-sac lot backs to 20-acre nature preserve. Enjoy panoramic views of nature, ponds, and trees. Interior is sharp and features great room with 12' ceilings, large kitchen with hearth area, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$419,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



BRIARHILL – This 4-bedroom, 3-bath colonial has undergone an extreme home make-over. Spectacular finishes throughout with all décor and upgrades. Great cul-de-sac lot with large backyard and deck. Features two-story living room and foyer, extensive hardwood floor, maple kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, family room with fireplace, den, and luxury walk-up master suite. \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP – Rare find!! Sharp 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built home on a peaceful 1.4 acre lot just minutes to downtown Ann Arbor, UM Hospital, and UM North Campus. This home is rock solid and features two-story great room, open kitchen with large island, spacious first-floor master suite, generous upstairs bedrooms include suite and Jack-n-Jill bath. Park-like setting. \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



WEST SIDE ANN ARBOR – Storybook brick and stone home on one of the most unique and beautiful lots on the west side. Enjoy your own personal oasis at this 1/2 acre setting featuring towering mature trees, extensive landscaping, and gardens. Home is solid but modest and loaded with character. Hardwood floors, extensive trim, and curved ceilings. \$299,900 Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - MALLARD COVE – This very sharp 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home features extensive renovation, perfect maintenance, and pride of ownership. Incredible landscaping, large backyard, and paver patio. The interior is highlighted by the new kitchen with granite counters, and high-end stainless steel appliances, family room with fireplace, sun room, master suite, study loft, and generous bedroom sizes. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Oversized 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath ranch on a private 2.75 acre lot just minutes to downtown Saline and US-23. Wonderful setting features mature trees, extensive landscaping, and in-ground pool. Interior is spacious and features sunken living room with fireplace, oversized family room with room for game table and TV area, open kitchen, nice master suite, and lots of storage. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



PINEVEW ESTATES – Custom-built 5-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home on a peaceful half-acre lot in one of Ypsilanti Township's best subs. The setting is gorgeous with extensive landscaping and large deck. The interior of this home features great room with vaulted ceiling, large eat-in kitchen, den, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS – Very sharp 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home in the very popular Ashford Village neighborhood. Great lot backing to open common area features extensive landscaping, large deck, and paver patio. The interior is very nice including a great room with vaulted ceiling, fireplace, and custom built-ins, open dining room, large kitchen, first-floor master suite, spacious bedrooms, and 2nd-floor study/loft. \$204,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR – Charming 3-bedroom, 2-bath contemporary styled home on a wonderful private lot in one of the Westside's most sought after neighborhoods. Enjoy the wonderful backyard setting this summer from the oversized deck. Home features great room with high vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, nice master suite, and great flex use bedrooms. Home has significant updates. \$204,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



MILAN SCHOOLS – Wonderful 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath country colonial resting on 2.7 acres backing to woods. The location of this home is great in Pittsfield Township just minutes to US-23, I-94, and Ann Arbor. Very well designed home with great interior décor, large living room, maple kitchen, huge screened-in porch, and nice master suite. \$199,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



PATTENGILL AREA – Sharp 3 bedroom, 1 bath ranch on a quiet tree-lined street walking distance to the elementary school. This home has been very well taken care of and features all hardwood floors, large living room, bright kitchen, spacious bedrooms, and partially finished basement. Lot feature extensive landscaping, deck, and garden area. \$197,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



MANCHESTER – This 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch style home includes 2,200 square feet of living space. Walk to downtown Manchester from this well maintain home on a quiet, tree-lined street. Features include large living room with coved ceilings, open kitchen, sun room that opens to an in-ground pool, and spacious bedrooms. \$139,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR – Great 3-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath ranch in quiet neighborhood setting on the south side of town. This home rests on a private lot backing to trees. Nice interior with many recent updates. Features include hardwood floors, spacious kitchen, and nice sized bedrooms. \$89,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



YPSILANTI – Rock solid 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath brick ranch in Gault Farms. Enjoy one of Ypsilanti's best neighborhoods from this well cared for home. Features include mature trees, covered patio, gleaming hardwood floors, oak kitchen, and finished basement. Roof, windows, and furnace are all newer. \$79,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR – Sharp 1-bedroom, 1-bath condo near U-M campus. Enjoy this quiet complex convenient to everything with in-ground swimming pool. This unit is in great shape and features a spacious living room, nice bedroom, and perfect condition throughout. \$59,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

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Martin Acres Fabulous Arts & Crafts style, 2-story, 4 bedroom, 3 bath home. Wonderful master suite, remodeled kitchen, formal dining, finished basement, large yard, 1.5-car garage. \$425,000. Lisa Jaworski-Ridha. #3104296



Fairview Heights Unique and sophisticated, urban style 2 bedroom, 2 bath home! Study with hardwood floors, 7 skylights, 3rd floor loft, built-in cabinetry/cut outs and 3-car garage. \$285,000. Lisa Jaworski-Ridha. #3104967



Whitewood Lake Waterfront! Buildable lot on Whitewood Lake, Portage Chain of Lakes. Enjoy beautiful sunsets and magnificent natural views from the front and back of the property! Great location! \$169,900. A. Edward Ridha. #3103462



Waterways Sub Exceptional 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath with study. Granite, island kitchen, hardwood floors, finished view out lower level with bar area. Backs to nature area. Multi-level deck. \$411,900. A. Edward Ridha. #3105117



Vernon Downs Solid brick 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in Dicken School District. Hardwood floors, newer roof and furnace. Screened porch, large backyard with mature trees, 1-car attached garage. \$179,900. Lisa Jaworski-Ridha. #3104715



Ann Arbor Custom built contemporary home within minutes to town, backing to city preserve. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 1st floor master suite, study, open floor plan, soaring ceilings. \$414,900. A. Edward Ridha. #3104311



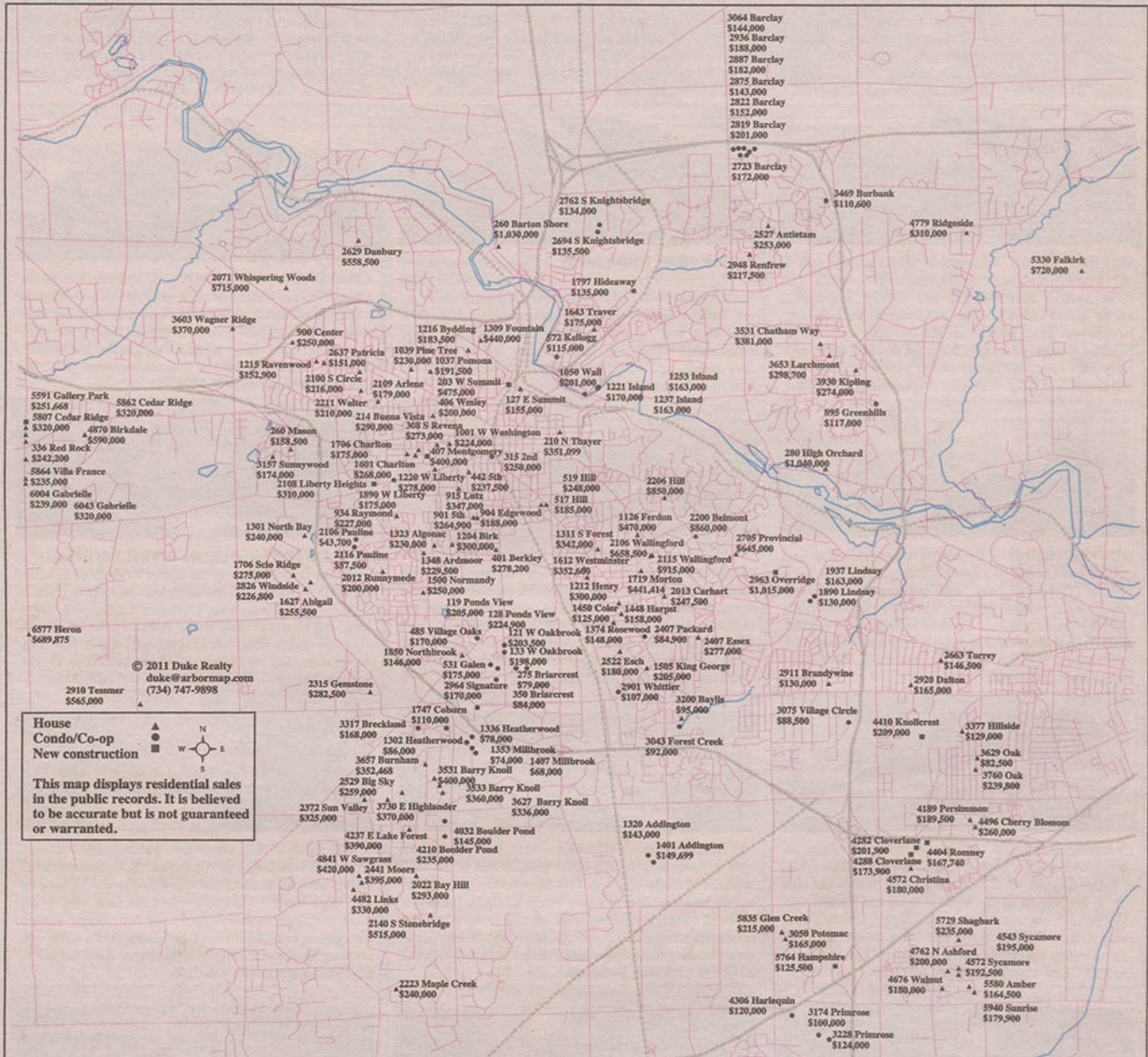
Dicken Elementary Sharp updated 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Sun-filled, open floor plan, hardwood floors, beautiful kitchen, walkout lower level, 2.5-car garage, potting shed. Great location! \$255,000. A. Edward Ridha. #3105233



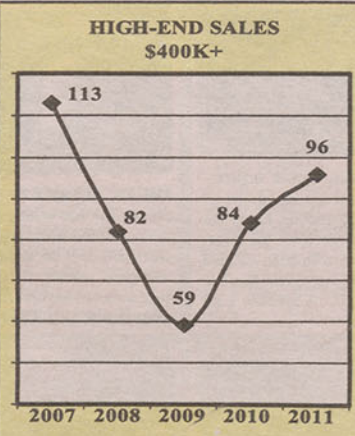
Wines Elementary Refreshing 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,678 sq. ft. home. Complete kitchen makeover (Alton Brown - Food Network). Large windows, finished view out lower level, expansive deck, more! \$464,900. A. Edward Ridha. #3103990

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JUNE 2011 HOME SALES



Sales of existing high-end homes jumped during the first half of 2011 in the Ann Arbor School District. The dramatic surge is captured by the high-end sales chart below, which tracks the number of existing homes that sold for more than \$400,000 in the first six months of the year going back to 2007. The ninety-six high-end sales in the first half of 2011 represent 21 percent of all single-family home sales in the period, as illustrated in the chart below that. During the first half of 2009, by contrast, high-end sales made up just 14 percent of the action in this corner of the market.



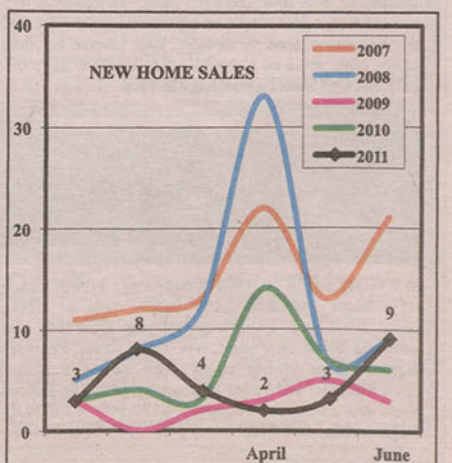
The revival of the auto industry contributed to the party atmosphere, but other factors also helped. Interest rates on "jumbo" loans are low, and prices for big homes fell during the recession, making them attractive

targets as the recession eased its grip. We also should account for how government programs influenced people in the upper income brackets. The Federal Reserve's quantitative easing stimulus policies lifted the value of stocks that the wealthiest own, pumping up the net worth and liquidity of the best situated. Plus, the government lifted the ceiling on jumbo loans temporarily. These things all motivated the most wealthy to get moving.

Sound familiar? Last year, the government's tax credit program produced a similar bump in sales of more affordable homes. You can see evidence of this parallel effect in the center chart—the end of the tax credits helps explain why sales overall slipped 10 percent in the first half of 2011 compared to the first half of 2010. This month's map includes nineteen ex-

isting homes that sold for \$400,000 or more. Three additional high-end sales on the map were the result of new construction. Two were built by Tom Fitzsimmons' Huron Contracting Co.; one at 407 Montgomery and another at 203 West Summit Street. The third new arrival is located at 2963 Overridge, south of Washtenaw.

Sales of new homes during the first half are tracked on the right-hand chart. So far, we've identified twenty-nine sales in public records this year. In comparison, thirty-seven new homes were sold during the first half of 2010.



—Kevin Duke



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Travis Pointe Tastefully updated detached condo with 3,500 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Open floor plan, first floor master suite, media room, hardwood floors, 4-season room, brick patio. \$489,900. Robyn Javornisky 734-678-8075, 734-669-6812. #3104349



Winans Lake Frontage One-of-a-kind stone and cedar home located 20 minutes from Ann Arbor. Quiet 1.1 acre landscaped setting overlooking lake. Extensively remodeled and updated in 2003. Walkout. \$499,000. Pat Durston 734-260-9247, 734-669-5981. #3103457



Ann Arbor Custom built home on private 1 acre setting at the end of cul-de-sac surrounded by nature. Walkout lower level, wrap-around deck. Energy efficient. Easy access to downtown Ann Arbor. \$500,000. Brent Flewelling 734-646-4263, 734-669-5828. #3103605



Diuble Meadows Custom Ann Arbor Showcase 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath features hand hewn beams, stone fireplace, custom light fixtures, 1st floor master, over 3,600 sq. ft., 3-car garage. On 1 acre. \$599,990. Maura Rains 313-717-7788, 734-669-5821. #3104568



Stonebridge Golf Course Beautifully appointed, 4,470 sq. ft. custom home. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 1st floor master, cook's kitchen, finished walkout lower level with family room, study and kitchen, 3-car garage. \$679,500. Kim Peoples 734-646-4012, 734-669-5883. #3102948



Glenborough Wooded setting, open views. 4,427 sq. ft., 2-story foyer and family room, cherry kitchen, master with den, 2 staircases, 9 ft. ceiling in daylight lower level, 3-car garage. \$850,000. Shiao Ling Chu 734-604-7000, 734-669-5831. #3104791



Skyline High School Rare 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath Tudor style in northwest Ann Arbor. Exquisite cul-de-sac site w/patio, pergola and lap pool. Walk to Huron River and Bird Hills Park. ThinkMichal.com. \$495,000. Michal Porath 734-395-0650, 734-669-5996. #3104443



Sharon Unbelievable European designed timber frame. Secluded in 11 acres of woods and wildlife galore. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 19 ft. ceilings, custom kitchen. Decking, landscaped. \$499,000. Deborah Engelbert 734-368-3683, 734-433-2183. #3103715



King School Stunning Metcalf contemporary home. 2,978 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, many built-ins, passive solar heating, huge master. Great views of wooded lot from 2-story atriums. \$524,000. Susan Gartin 734-645-7219, 734-669-5958. #3103722



Huron River Custom built Queen Ann Victorian 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath with Huron river frontage! Gourmet kitchen, maple floors, walk-out. Screened porch, deck and patio. Almost 2-treed acres. \$625,000. Susan Snyder 734-395-6924, 734-761-9429. #3103762



Scio Township Spectacular, bright, open home with finished walkout! 12 minutes to downtown Ann Arbor. Up-to-date with quality architectural details. Great views. Backs to 20 acre preserve. \$849,000. Fran Jones 734-994-6505, 734-669-5925. #3100885



Scio Township Indoor sports complex with bathing facilities, suana and exercise area with fireplace are part of this all-brick home backing to 10-plus acres of park preserve. Minutes to downtown Ann Arbor. \$979,000. Rob Ewing 734-216-5955, 734-669-6834. #3104263



Ann Arbor Hills Classic 3-story, brick 4 bed room, 2.5 bath on hilltop with great views! Family room with many windows, hardwood floors, large remodeled kitchen. Partially finished walkout. \$499,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #3103002



West Ann Arbor Updated home on park-like 1.56 acres. New maple floors, baths and updated kitchen! Large Andersen replacement windows and skylights. Master suite addition fit for a king! \$499,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040, 734-669-6857. #3104266



Northeast Ann Arbor Grand proportions throughout this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on 2-plus acres. Gourmet kitchen, 1st floor master. Finishes include limestone, hardwood, granite, mahogany doors. \$599,000. Sheila Shulman 734-646-8800, 734-669-5852. #3102677



Walnut Ridge Beautifully maintained Walnut Ridge home. 3,900 sq. ft. luxurious master suite, 2-story great room, hardwood, granite, stainless steel appliances. Professionally landscaped. \$660,000. Matthew Miller 734-476-4869, 734-669-6288. #3104623



Matthael Farm Awesome! Renovated 6,048 sq. ft. ranch home with finished walkout. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, state-of-the-art kitchen, apartment above garage, screened porch. Private setting. \$850,000. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909, 734-669-5959. #3100799



Ives Woods Beautiful, sophisticated 3-story, 5 bedroom, 2 full, 3 half bath colonial. Pristine and updated with 3,719 sq. ft., study, fireplace, newer kitchen. Professionally landscaped. \$985,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #3104980

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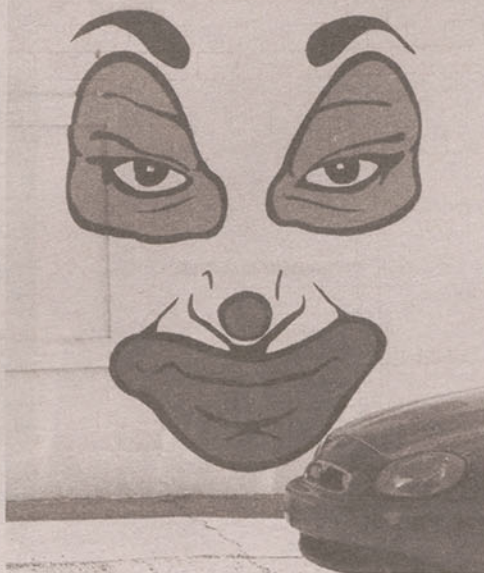
I SPY I TERRANEAN RES

by Sally Bjork

"Finally one I know!" exclaims Kara Rumsey about July's I Spy. "I see it every Saturday when I go to the Farmers' Market." It's the "lemonade ... hut," writes Sarah Lillie—"a very cool bright yellow ... stand that Joel Henry-Fisher built for his kids!" shares Ginny Russell-Sheldon. "It's in my son's front [yard] at 110 Felch St.," writes Joel's mom, Vicky Henry. "When his daughter wanted to set up a lemonade stand," she continues, "he made her a lemon!"

"The lemon and the corn [June's I Spy] can practically see each other," notes John Bingamon. "We could use some refreshing lemonade in this heat!" writes Cherie Holodnick, whose son lives nearby. "You should see the adorable kids who sell the lemonade at that stand," beams grandmother Kari Magill, who encourages "folks to drop by and have a thirst quenching treat!"

Our winner, drawn randomly from the sixteen



Here yesterday, gone today; from what wall did this face vanish?



correct entries, was George Fisher. "I see the lemon every time I pick up my grandkids," he writes. "It's fun to see passers-by whip out their phones for a quick photo." George will enjoy his \$25 gift certificate at Seva "with the owners and operators of the lemon."

To enter this month's contest, use the photo and clue above to identify the scene and then follow the instructions in the box at the bottom of the page.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

"The Fake Ad this month is on page 58 for the 'Prenup Clean-Up' teeth cleaning with Drs. Barbor, Webster, and Seagh," emailed Kristen Schleick, underlining "arborweb," the name of the Observer's website and the clue hidden in every Fake Ad.

"Since my husband is a dentist in Ann Arbor, I knew right away that Drs. Barbor and Webster didn't practice in the area," said Debbie Ash. But "Don't they share office space with the divorce law firm Bicker, Back & Forth?" asked Siri Gottlieb. "I have been seeing Doctor William Seagh for about three years now, and I highly recommend him," wrote Sue DeMars. "At the end of every appointment, I say, 'We'll see ya, Will Seagh!'"

"Once again the fake ad was more reasonable than some non-fake material in the Observer," wrote Andy Yagle. "Without 'arborweb' and the accompanying article, I would have guessed 'Shoot to Kill—Wild Hogs' on page 13," where we reproduced an ad distributed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

We had 121 entries this month, 116 of them correct (a border within the Fitness Together ad on p. 52 led an unusually large number of entrants astray). Ana Sofia Moreno won our drawing and is taking her gift certificate to Ten Thousand Villages.

To enter this month's contest, find the Fake Ad in this issue and follow the instructions in the box below.

To enter either contest, send email with the subject "Fake Ad" or "I Spy" to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Fax: 769-3375. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received by noon on August 10 will be eligible for this month's random drawings. Winners will receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

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Events at a Glance

Daily Events listings begin on p. 47.
Films: p. 49. Galleries: p. 53. Nightspots
begin on p. 44.

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- University Choral Union Summer Sing, Aug. 1
- St. Francis Church organ concerts, Aug. 1, 8, 15, & 22
- Cellist Katri Ervamaa & pianist Joel Hastings, Aug. 1
- PhoenixPhest! chamber music concerts, Aug. 8–11
- Cabaret singers Betsy Haller & Mike Mosallam, Aug. 28

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

See *Nightspots*, p. 44, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, & other clubs

- Fred Knapp Trio (jazz), Aug. 9
- New West Guitar Group (jazz fusion), Aug. 12
- Ken Kozora's Energetic Sphere and Skebo/Michalowski Duo (avant-jazz), Aug. 16
- Quartex (jazz), Aug. 17
- The Holland! (folk fusion), Aug. 18
- Sanctuary Blues (Christian pop), Aug. 19
- Bridgewater (pop-folk), Aug. 20
- Janelle Reichman Quintet (jazz), Aug. 26

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Posing* (New Theatre Project), Aug. 2–7, 12–14, & 19–21
- *Consider the Oyster* (Purple Rose Theatre), every Wed.–Sun.
- *Five Hamlets* (Brass Tacks Ensemble), Aug. 4–6
- *The Strangest Kind of Romance* and *The Devil & Billy Markham* (Carriage House Theatre), Aug. 4–6
- *Marie Antoinette: The Color of Flesh* (Performance Network), every Thurs.–Sun.
- *Goodnight, Desdemona* (*Good Morning, Juliet*) (Penny Sheets Theatre), Aug. 5–7 & 11–14
- *Twelfth Night* (Blackbird Theatre), Aug. 19, 20, 26, & 27
- *Inherit the Wind* (Carriage House Theatre), Aug. 19–21 & 25–27
- *Hairspray* (Gabriel Richard High School Dramalums), Aug. 25–28
- "Stars of the Russian Ballet Gala" (Academy of Russian Classical Ballet), Aug. 27

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Comic Mark Poolos, Aug. 5 & 6
- Comic Ty Boeh, Aug. 12 & 13
- Comic Billy Ray Bauer, Aug. 19 & 20
- Comic Ty Barnett, Aug. 26 & 27

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Convention & Visitors Bureau block parties, Aug. 3 & 15
- Bank of Ann Arbor Sonic Lunch, every Thurs.



JAY BLAKESBERG

The legendary Taj Mahal brings his trademark trove of traditional African American music to the Ark for a rare club show on Wednesday, August 10 (see *Nightspots*).

- Chelsea Sounds & Sights, every Thurs.
- Michigan Roots Jamboree, Aug. 5 & 6
- Saline Summerfest, Aug. 5 & 6
- Crossroads Summer Festival, Aug. 5, 12, & 19
- Dexter Summer Concert Series, Aug. 5, 19, & 26
- Riverfolk Music & Arts Festival, Aug. 5
- Dixboro Fair, Aug. 6
- Companion Bird Club Exhibition, Aug. 7
- Milan Bluegrass Festival, Aug. 11–13
- Dexter Daze, Aug. 12 & 13
- Waterloo Farm Museum Antique Tractor, Truck, & Farm Equipment Show, Aug. 13 & 14
- Kerrytown District Nashbash, Aug. 18
- Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, Aug. 19–21
- Saline Historical Society Vintage Truck & Tractor Show, Aug. 20
- Ann Arbor Ski Club Corn Roast, Aug. 21
- Slow Food Huron Valley "Old Fashioned Picnic at the Farm," Aug. 21
- Chelsea Community Fair, Aug. 23
- Super Kicker Rodeo, Aug. 26–28
- Bonsai Society show, Aug. 27 & 28
- Saline Community Fair, Aug. 30 & 31

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Novelist Ellen Baker, Aug. 29

Miscellaneous

- Great Lakes Discraft Open, Aug. 6

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *Oklahoma!* (Children's Creative Center), Aug. 17–21

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Rick Burgess Music Scholarship "Jazz in the Alley," Aug. 4

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