

Community network has all the answers

GUEST COLUMNIST



ALICE MCCARTHY

Have you ever wondered where to find a comprehensive community events calendar, where to find a tutor to help your child with math, where to find a piano instructor for your son or daughter, or where to turn if you suspect your teenager is using drugs?

In January 1997, The Community House in Birmingham began sponsoring the Community Network, a comprehensive information and referral service that answers questions concerning parenting issues, community events, and services. Purpose of Community Network is to link people with community resources that are available to them.

The service provides information which enables individuals to make informed choices regarding the many agencies and organizations at their disposal. Call (248) 594-6400 with your questions.

The Community Network is a free service with information on cultural, educational and recreational activities and events. Included is information about local businesses, government agencies, health services, leisure services and entertainment, educational information, service organizations, clubs and other groups. The Community Network also publishes a calendar of events for community and social activities. This popular service helps non-profit agencies and organizations avoid conflicts with others as they make plans for fund-raisers and special events. The Community Network is particularly helpful to parents because it lists informa-

tion on education, legal services, health care, mental health care and counseling. The service also has more than 50 listings for leisure activities, including summer camps, ice skating, fishing and hiking.

Using key words, trained volunteers can quickly retrieve information to answer your questions over the telephone. Future plans for Community Network call for kiosks to be placed in several high-traffic areas in downtown Birmingham so people can directly access the database.

A future Website will also provide broad access to the information on thousands of events, programs, services, and calendar items. During its first six months of service, The Community Network has logged about 100 calls per month.

The Advisory Committee and the program are manned entirely by volunteers (approximately 30 volunteers at this time).

If you would like to work as a trained volunteer on the Community Network, contact Pat Walsh at (248) 694-6401. Walsh is the director of Community Network, and she helps to recruit and train these volunteers. Computer experience is not necessary. Leslie Drolet is in charge of community relations at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham 48009, phone (248) 694-6405.

All About Families runs every other week in The Eccentric Newspapers.

Birmingham resident Alice McCarthy, Ph.D., is a nationally known parent educator, writer and editor. She is the mother of five children and grandmother to eight young children.

To leave a message for McCarthy, from a touch-tone phone, call (612) 953-2047, mailbox 1894, or write her at The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

To access McCarthy's columns on the Internet via O&E Online, her address is: <http://observer.eccentric.com/main/mcc/mccin-dex.html>

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Mihalich-Gross

Jennifer Joslyn Gross and Robert Michael Mihalich were married June 7 at Stowe Community Church in Stowe, Vt.

The bride is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Cordell Gross of South Burlington, Vt. She is a graduate of the University of Vermont and Georgetown Law School. She is an attorney with the law firm of Goodwin, Procter and Hoar in Boston, Mass.

The groom is the son of Jenny Mihalich Christian of Beverly Hills and Michael R. Mihalich of Clarkston. He is a graduate of Detroit Country Day School and the University of Vermont. He is attending Tufts Medical School. A reception was held at Edson Hill Manor in Stowe. The newlyweds honeymooned in Santorini, Greece, and they are making their home in Boston.



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Darnell-Law

Julie Law of Gainesville, Ga., became the bride of Laurin J. Darnell during a May 10 ceremony at Addison Oaks. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Law of Birmingham, Ala. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Darnell of Rochester Hills.

The bride is working as an elementary teacher and studying for her master's degree in education.

Her husband is a graduate of West Point Military Academy and is in the U.S. Army.

Following the wedding there was a reception at Addison Oaks.

Mr. and Mrs. Darnell are making their home in Gainesville, Ga.



Foster-Berkaw

Mr. and Mrs. Welby Foster of Parma announce the engagement of their daughter, Dawn Suzanne Foster, to Ryan Robinson Berkaw of Marietta, Ga., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Berkaw of Ann Arbor and Mrs. Cynthia Berkaw of Troy.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Western High School and Spring Arbor College.

Her fiance is a graduate of Troy High School and Spring Arbor College. He is employed by IBM.

An August wedding is planned.



Submitting announcements

Local engagement, wedding, anniversary and birth announcements run in the Thursday and Sunday editions of The Observer & Eccentric.

Residents of the Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Southfield areas should send their engagement, wedding, anniversary or birth announcements, with or without photograph, to: Attn: Brides, The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Residents of the Troy and Rochester areas should send information to The Eccentric, 1814 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills 48307. Residents of the Farmington area should send information to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335.

Preprinted forms that outline the information needed for your engagement or wedding announcement are available at Observer & Eccentric offices.

If you have questions regarding your announcement, call Sue Willis in Birmingham at (248) 901-2560; Debbie Douglas in Rochester at (248) 651-7575, or Katie McManus in Farmington at (248) 477-5450.

For a recorded message with complete information on submitting announcements, call (248) 901-4730 for The Eccentric and (313) 853-2065 for The Observer.

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Raade-Scouler

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Raade of Stevensville announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Ann of Farmington Hills, to John David Scouler of Grand Rapids, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Scouler of Rochester Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Lakeshore High School and Central Michigan University. She is employed by Melisso in Livonia.

Her fiance is a graduate of Rochester High School and Central Michigan University. He is employed by Steelcase in Grand Rapids.

An August ceremony is planned at St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Joseph.



Schaefer-Shellenbarger

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Schaefer of Rochester announce the engagement of their daughter, Christy Lynn of Chicago, Ill., to Daniel Aaron Shellenbarger, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Shellenbarger of Rochester Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Rochester High School and Miami University. She is employed by 3 Com Corp. in Chicago.

Her fiance is a graduate of Rochester Adams High School and the University of Michigan. He is employed by Z S Associates in Evanston, Ill.

A December ceremony is planned at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.



Simply Sizzling

SUMMER FUN

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"The Ultimate Adventure"
Also the Ultimate Gift
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SKY DIVE
INSTRUCTION
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Exciting racing vehicles on display. Bring your camera, sit inside a real car, video racing games and slot cars. Hordes of horsepower, dirt bikes, featuring the widest variety of motorsports collectibles.

Visit America's Motorsports Hall of Fame local exhibit at the Novi Expo tower 25 miles Northwest of Detroit • I-96 at Novi Road (Exit 162) Open Daily 10-5

1-800-250-RACE www.msafh.com

Mention this ad, receive a free gift

Child safety skills taught

Saving children's lives is the focus of a one-session program offered in Birmingham.

The course provides parents and grandparents of infants and young children with the skills to respond quickly to choking and other child emergencies.

Basic techniques of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the Heimlich maneuver for choking are taught as well as home safety tips.

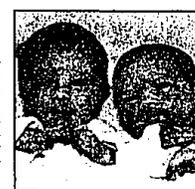
The program is from 6:30-9:30 p.m. July 17, 24 and 31 at William Beaumont Rehabilitation and Health Center, classrooms C and D, 746 Purdy in Birmingham. The fee is \$20. Call 1-800-633-7377 to register.

BIRTHS

Madison Elise and Carly Blair Gomez

Paul and Kim Gomez of Troy announce the birth of their twin daughters, Madison Elise and Carly Blair, born June 10, 1997.

Grandparents are Camiel and Barbara Coussens of Troy and Fred and Carol Gomez of Gladwin. Great-grandmother is Irene Gomez of Ferndale.



Childrens' '97 Directory

Children have many special needs...and because parents don't always have a lot of time, the Observer & Eccentric has created this unique directory to make life just a little easier. For more information about advertising Call June at 313-953-2099

Apparel

Save us on a child
Kid's Staff with Previous Experience!
Great Prices on Gently Used Kids' Stuff
5804 Sheldon Drive • Canton
313-489-6669

Day Care

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Free Spirit Day Care & Learning Center
Ages 2 weeks to 17 years
• Lesson Plans Used
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8555 Roggerts Rd., 1 mile N. of I-64

Simply the Best

HOME DAY CARE
State Licensed - Meals Provided
Ages Infant-13 yrs. 7 am-7 pm
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Personal Editions
★ Your Child's Christmas In January!
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★ Each Book! 10% OFF!
★ All Books! All Books!
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French, Science, Music, Gym and Art
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Little Angels

INFANT/TODDLER CENTER
Ages 6 Weeks thru 5 Years
Nurse on Staff
39821 W. Five Mile (E. of Haggerty)
Plymouth, MI 48170
(313) 420-9026

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CHILD CARE
Licensed Home Program
Montessori Preschool
Monday-Friday 7:00am-5:30pm
Southfield (In-Home) (313) 353-2224

Learn & Grow With Your Child
WILLOW CREEK
Co-Op Preschool 313-326-0078

Waldorf Kinderhouse Day Camp

June 26 - August 15th Half day or Full Day
Call (810) 537-7761 for information

CHILD'S ACADEMY DAY CARE CENTER

Infants • Kindergarten Readiness
Certified Staff • State Licensed Facility
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Academic Programs • Montessori Methods
Foreign Language • Computer Science
Nutritional Meals
(248) 569-9424
20377 Southfield Rd. • Lathrop Village

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Just for Kids
Licensed Since 1984
"Where Kids Can Have Fun!"
Quality highly effective child care
Mon.-Thurs. 8am - 10pm
Fri. 8am-1am • Sat. 9am-1am
Sunday Noon-5pm
2 months to 18 Years of Age
7305 Oak Lake Rd.
N. of 14 Mile Rd. 737-5437
KIDG
3810 W. Maple Rd.
at Lathrop 248-540-5702

ENTERTAINMENT

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• Mini Golf and FUN
OPEN DAILY
10:00 a.m. to midnight
Boy Tro, Get One FREE
Mountain Golf
or Go-Karts
10-1-97
WATERBURY
4355 Highland Road
73 Mile W. of I-75
(248) 683-9200
WESTLAND
3820 Ford Road
East of I-75
(313) 728-7222