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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After turning her life around, Kemba Battle (left) receives a check for \$6,054 from Tonya Cramier-Oncza, who coordinates a Westland-based Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

Opening another door

Self-Sufficiency Program helps 'graduate' achieve her goals

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A few years ago, Kemba Battle was an unemployed, single mother who had the ambition - but not the means - to achieve her goal of becoming a registered nurse.

What little money she had was used to pay her bills and put food on the table for herself and her son, DeAndrae. She could easily have become another welfare statistic.

But, with help from a Westland-based program, Battle earned her degree as a registered nurse and is now making \$35 an hour. She works as a traveling nurse for Medical Staffing Inc., taking her skills to hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, medical clinics and

hospice centers.

"I never settled with what I had," said Battle, a 33-year-old Detroit resident. "I always pushed for more."

The first door opened for Battle when she qualified in 1998 for federal Section 8 housing assistance, after a three-year wait. But, her life-changing opportunity came when she enrolled in the Westland Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program and developed a five-year plan for getting off welfare altogether.

The program, which now has 68 clients, helps people all across Wayne County by pairing them with a case worker who steers

PLEASE SEE GOALS, A4

HOW TO LEND A HAND

In all, 68 people from across Wayne County are trying to move from government assistance to independence with help from the Westland Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Tonya Cramier-Oncza, program coordinator, said her clients could use donations of computers in good working condition. Also, she is seeking financial planners who would like to volunteer their time to help clients plan for the future. For more information or to help, call (734) 595-0288, Ext. 235.

Council waits for update on Cooper School

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Ten months after work crews demolished the old Cooper Elementary School in Westland, a company planning to redevelop the site hasn't started any new construction.

But officials for Jonna Cos. will report on the project's status during a meeting at 6 p.m. Monday with elected officials at Westland City Hall, on Ford Road east of Newburgh.

Jonna hopes to build a senior citizen apartment complex, a medical office building and a golf driving range on the old Cooper site - a former landfill fenced off in 1991 after investigators found contaminants.

Company President Frank Jonna couldn't be reached for comment last week.

Council President William Wild said local officials have received few details about Monday's meeting, although he expects a progress report.

Since the former school was torn down last July on Ann

Arbor Trail east of Middlebelt, Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt said additional soil testing has been done.

"I still have a lot of questions myself," she said Thursday. "I want to know what they're finding and how they are determining how they'll deal with what they're finding."

Graunstadt was an original member of a citizens group that raised public awareness about environmental concerns that shut down the school 15 years ago. The group was called CHECK, or Concerned for the Health and Environment of our Community's Kids.

Graunstadt is hoping to receive some answers during Monday's meeting, which is open to the public.

The latest soil tests are expected to help Jonna determine how to proceed with preparing the site for redevelopment. Even last July, when the school was razed, officials said they couldn't predict when any new construction would begin.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

High schools get new gyms

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland's two high schools will be getting bigger.

The school district will be constructing new gymnasiums at the high schools, beginning with Wayne Memorial this spring.

"We're doing this because the physical education facilities and practice areas are limited," Supt. Greg Baracy said. "We have students practicing late into the night and on Saturdays and Sundays."

"Our preference is not to hold practices on Sunday."

The projects are part of the original sinking fund proposal. The work at Wayne Memorial High School will cost some \$4.3 million.

Each school will receive a second full playing surface. At Wayne Memorial, the new gym will be attached to the Alumni Arena and will be half again as big as the arena, Baracy said. The work should be completed by the end of this year or early next year.

"The addition should be ready

in January," said Doug Underwood, construction manager for McCarthy Smith Inc.

"We'll also do some work in the arena during the summer."

At John Glenn High School, the new gym will be attached to the school in the space between the football field and building on the east side. Work on it will start in the spring of 2007.

"We've been working on this for three years, hopefully we'll see the fruits of our labor in about eight months," Baracy said.

The addition of a second gym will "enhance the physical education schedule throughout the day" as well as accommodate a cardiovascular physical conditioning program adopted more than a year ago and provide more space for extracurricular activities and multiple activities on weekends, according to Baracy. It also will accommodate realignment of the girls sports seasons, if a judicial ruling stands, he added.

"We could have the boys on one and the girls on the other, playing simultaneously," he added.

Alert neighbor nabs man wanted for robbery

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man faces a court hearing Thursday on charges he went into a 67-year-old man's apartment, hit him on the head and robbed him of money.

Brandon Dickerson, 20, is scheduled to appear in Westland 18th District Court for a preliminary hearing on charges of armed robbery and felonious assault, police Sgt. Steve Borisch said.

Dickerson is charged in an incident that authorities said happened about 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, at Country Court, an apartment complex on Wildwood

north of Ford.

"The victim was sitting in his living room with the door ajar on a nice day, and (an assailant) came in, demanded money and hit him on the head with what he believes was a hammer," Borisch said.

The intruder "took the man's money and cane, and then hit him over the head with the cane," the detective said.

The victim suffered cuts on his head, but wasn't critically injured, Borisch said.

An alert neighbor saw the assailant go into the apartment and leave just as the victim came out with his head bleeding, Borisch said.

The intruder fled on foot, but was chased by the neighbor, who tackled him near Edison Elementary School and held him until police arrived, the detective said.

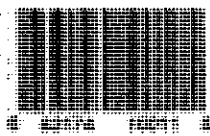
Dickerson is jailed in lieu of a \$50,000 cash bond as he awaits a hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

"He says he didn't do it," Borisch said.

A not-guilty plea has been entered in Dickerson's court record. If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

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Cruisers of the Week

The Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's Cruiser of the Week goes to Joe Rozanski of Westland, the owner of red 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle Super Sport.

The car has a 540 cubic inch Merlin with 800 horsepower and a custom mural paint job of a Chevy rat. Rozanski has done most of the work on his car himself, but has a special thank you for Ron's Custom Services.

The club's Member of the Week honors go to Jeff Noel of Garden City, the proud owner of a blue and white 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle.

The club's first car show Wednesday, April 19, at the Romanowski VFW Post on Joy Road in Westland attracted 65 hot rods and custom cars and several motor cycles. The next show will be 5 p.m. to dusk Wednesday, April 26.



Joe Rozanski of Westland (left) is the Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's Cruiser of the Week, while Jeff Noel of Garden City is the club's Member of the Week.

Authority conducts waste drop-off day

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

There should be shorter lines and waits to drop off household hazardous waste in Garden City's City Park Saturday, April 29.

"We changed companies for this and the new company puts a lot more people on site. We had a lot of backups last year but expect better this year," said Steven Aynes, executive director of the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority which sponsors the annual drop-off day.

Last year, the drop-off day served 851 vehicles which was an increase of 150 from 2005. The turnout has been increasing most year, Aynes said, due to great awareness of the need to properly handle hazardous materials and moving the event to City Park at Cherry Hill and Merriman. The drop-off collection will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"That's a central location and we can loop more cars than we did on the driveway at the old (incinerator) plant," said Aynes. "The volume of material doubled last year. People are becoming more familiar with this event and save up the hazardous waste. The intent is to get more of that out of the landfill."

There's no charge for the household hazardous waste disposal but it is limited to residents of the five member communities of the CWCSA - Garden City, Westland, Inkster, Dearborn Heights and Wayne. Proof of residency will be required.

Materials brought for disposal must be put inside closed containers and then placed in a box in the vehicle trunk. Materials should not be mixed. Site personnel will remove the materials

from the trunk for disposal at specially designed sites.

Acceptable items include:

- Oil-based paints and varnishes.
- Cleaning solvents.
- Household batteries.
- Mothballs.
- Lead that is found in shot and sinkers.
- Gasoline and used motor oil - the containers must be left.
- Mercury from thermometers and thermostats and fluorescent light bulbs.
- Wood preservatives.
- Pesticides and weed killers.
- Oven cleaners.
- Transmission fluid/antifreeze.
- Pressurized cans.
- Smoke detectors.

Latex paint will be accepted but actually requires no special disposal and can be set out with normal trash as long as it isn't in liquid form. CWCSA recommends letting the latex paint dry out or soaking up the liquid by putting kitty litter, dirt or sand into the can. Items that will not be accepted include explosives; tires; electronics; and any recyclables normally accepted at local recycling drop-off centers.

The Wayne County Department of Environment is hosting additional household hazardous waste collections on Saturday, Aug. 19, and Saturday, Nov. 4. Locations are to be determined. Anytime during the year, CWCSA community residents can dispose of waste material containing mercury such as thermometers, switches, thermostats, fluorescent and incandescent light bulbs, high intensity and mercury vapor lamps at Battery Solutions Inc., 38680 Michigan Ave. east of I-275. They're open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and proof of residence must be provided.

DFCU bank bid ends, but protests continue

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Monday's announcement by the DFCU Financial Board of Directors to stop the not-for-profit credit union's bid to become a for-profit mutual savings bank is not stopping an effort by angry credit union members to remove the board.

DFCU, formerly known as Dearborn Federal Credit Union, voluntarily pulled its application based on member feedback and misinformation that circulated through the process. Credit union members were to vote on the proposal to convert into a bank by June 21.

In a statement, DFCU board chairman Howard Lowman said the management's goal was to educate credit union members about the conversion

before they voted, but limitations in the regulatory process made it "impractical" to fully inform members.

"Further, the result has been unnecessary confusion and concern among our members," Lowman said. "We look forward to returning DFCU to its normal business operations of providing highly personalized service and day-in and day-out good value."

The DFCU board advocated the change in legal structure to raise capital and expand services in the metro Detroit market in an effort to maintain long-term competitiveness. The institution's officials said the conversion would allow DFCU to sell stock, but members would retain voting rights and services would not change. A number of credit union

members voiced skepticism about the proposal, primarily because they feared it would lead to a decline in member services. They formed a group, DFCU Owners United, to inform fellow members about their concerns.

During recent informational pickets, the group collected more than 1,700 signatures from members to call a special DFCU board meeting. Only 500 signatures were needed, according to the institution's by-laws.

In a statement, Linda Malec, a former DFCU board chairwoman and spokeswoman for DFCU Owners United, said she was pleased the credit union yanked its application to become a bank.

"This was a significant first step, but members want more," Malec said. "Prior to and during the voting process, the credit union failed to explain

how member-owners would benefit.

"We have been stonewalled at every turn in our request for information about the due diligence process and to learn whether the decision for conversion was based on the personal interests of the directors, officials and employees of the credit union."

Malec added the protest group continues to hear from members who still want to recall the board of directors. At the special board meeting, yet to be scheduled, participating credit union members may vote to remove the board.

DFCU has 160,000 members and 11 branches, including locations in Livonia, Garden City and Canton. DFCU also operates an educational, student-run branch at Livonia Franklin High School.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

A public accuracy test will be conducted at the time and location listed, for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the tabulating equipment and programs which will be used to tabulate voted ballots for the School Election to be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2006 in Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan.

Location: Civic Center (City Hall)
6000 Middlebelt
Garden City, Michigan 48135

Date: April 26, 2006
Wednesday

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Allyson M. Bettis
City Clerk
734-793-1620

Publish: April 20 & 23, 2006

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BUDGET HEARING NOTICE

Cherry Hill School of Performing Arts will be holding its annual budget hearing on May 2, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. The location will be at 28500 Avondale, Inkster, MI 48141. The budget is available for public inspection at the same address. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

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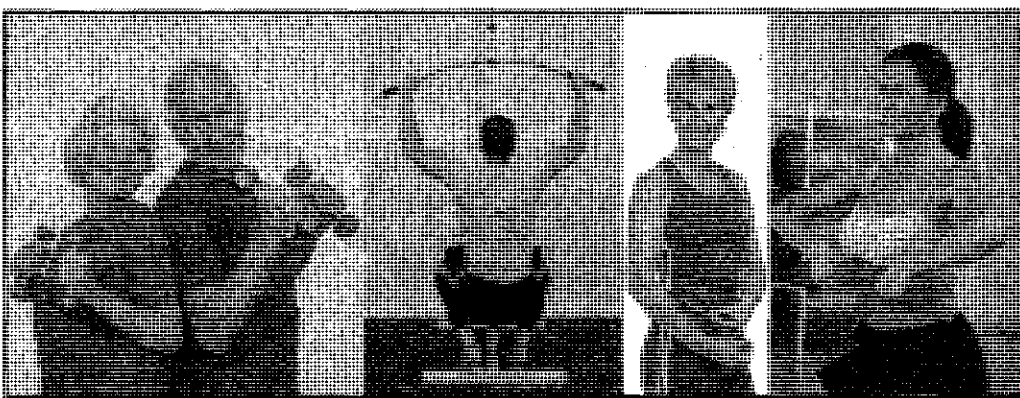
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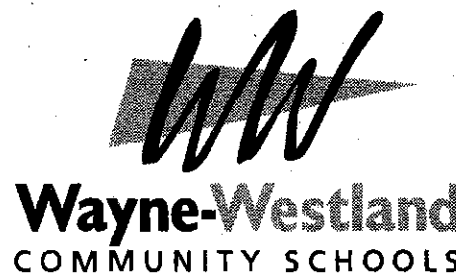
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GREAT FUTURES START RIGHT HERE

Debbie and Joe Barson are using an open house Sunday, April 30, to introduce people to the changes they've made at their Barson's Greenhouses at Merriman and Maplewood.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Barson's hosts seminar, open house

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

People with backyard ponds stocked with Koi carp can get the answers to their health questions during an open house Sunday, April 30, at Barson's Greenhouses.

Veterinarian Dr. Sandra Yosha of Lakeland, Fla., will be at the greenhouses from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to speak to people one-on-one about their Koi health questions.

"She's specializes in Koi and is interested educating people about their care," Debbie Barson said.

The open house will feature a 1 p.m. seminar on how to attract butterflies, a two-hour program on pests and diseases in and around the garden, also at 1 p.m., and perennial gardening presented by Jim Hoenerhoff at 2:30 p.m.

There will be a Kids Korner with balloon animals by clowns Herbie and Razzle, minnow races and face painting 1-3 p.m.

Hot dogs also will be sold at 25 cents each between noon and 2 p.m., and there will be special pricing and a day-long giveaways.

"It's the first time we've done something like this and we want to make it a fun day," Barson said. "We've repainted, redone and really fixed up the place. We've made a lot of changes and want people to come in and have a look."

Barson's has become known for its aquatic plants and fish, stocking Koi that it gets from growers in the Carolinas and Alabama. It has also carved out a niche with their perennial selection and its container gardens — 12-inch hanging pots and patio planters.

"Ponds have become our niche, and we're just trying to educate people," Barson said.

That's why they're offering a Koi and goldfish pond health seminar 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, featuring Yosha, a 30-year veteran in fish biology and medicine with 18 years experience treat-



Barson's has become known for its aquatic supplies including Koi like this 16-inch premium fish held by Joe Barson.

ing pet fish, Yosha will talk about filtration and water basics, water quality, nutrition for pond fish, Koi/goldfish diseases, parasite identification and control strategies and the anatomy of Koi.

Space is limited to the first 100 people who register in advance. The cost is \$50 per person with no charge for spouses. The fee includes lunch.

People can call the greenhouses at (734) 421-5959 or drop a check in the mail to Barson's Greenhouses, 6414 Merriman Road, Westland, MI 48185.

The Barsons have operated the greenhouses — 13 in all — for 26 years and include Spice the cat, several resident birds (Frita, a blue and gold macaw, a sun conure named Quin and several cockatiels) and Sam, a soft-coated Wheaten terrier puppy, among its greeters.

"People drive by and don't realize what we have here," Barson said. "We want to get the people to come in and see our new look."

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GOALS

FROM PAGE A1

them to schooling, job training, counseling and other services. They continue to receive housing assistance while they work toward their goals.

"Kemba is such a success story," said Tonya Cramier-Oncza, FSS coordinator. "I'm so proud of her."

Battle, sitting with Cramier-Oncza inside the Westland Dorsey Center where the program is based, beamed as she talked of how her life has changed.

"I've always felt that when one door closes, God will find a way for another one to open," she said.

Battle never went long without a job, even when she worked for little money. But the FSS program helped pay a portion of her rent while she held a job and

returned to nursing school. She worked her way up in her profession, first as a driver transporting patients and then as a licensed practical nurse until she became a registered nurse last July.

As her income rose, she began pulling away from rental assistance. Under the FSS guidelines, money she once spent for rent started going into an escrow account for her.

"It's almost like a 401(k)," Cramier-Oncza said.

Battle was released from the FSS program last October, and Cramier-Oncza recently gave her a check for the \$6,054 that she built up.

"This is for my girl," Cramier-Oncza said, handing Battle her check at the Dorsey Center.

Battle continues to set new goals.

She wants to help her 17-year-old son - a high school junior

who hopes to become a mechanical engineer.

"She has really set an example for her son," Cramier-Oncza said.

Battle also has been pre-approved for a \$200,000 mortgage, but she has just started to look for a home.

Someday, she'd like to start her own medical-related business or possibly get into nursing law.

Within a few years, Battle hopes to move to Dallas, Texas, where she has friends and family.

"It will be a brand new start," she said.

For Cramier-Oncza, Battle's success story just reaffirms that the FSS program she oversees is making a difference.

"It's like watching your kids grow up," she said.

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OTHE SENTINEL (PG-13)
12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35
FRISAT LS 11:55

INSIDE MAN (PG-13)
1:15, 3:35, 6:35, 9:15

SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG-13)
(SAT/SUN 11:30) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
FRISAT LS 11:30

OTHE WILD (G)
(SAT/SUN 11:05) 1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05, 9:05
FRISAT LS 11:05

THANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R)
12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
FRISAT LS 11:05

ICE AGE: THE MELTDOWN (PG)
(SAT/SUN 11:25) 1:25, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25, 9:25
FRISAT LS 11:25

TAKE THE LEAD (PG-13)
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
FRISAT LS 11:40

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY
COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual election will be held in the School District of the City of Garden City, County of Wayne, Michigan, on Tuesday, May 2, 2006, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

At the annual election there will be elected two (2) members of the Board of Education of the School District for four-year terms, beginning July 1, 2006 and expiring June 30, 2010. The candidates for said office to the Board of Education are as follows:

- TWO (2) FOUR YEAR TERMS**
(two shall be elected)
- George Kordie
Roy Watts

Each person voting on the above must be:
(a) A citizen of the United States of America over eighteen (18) years of age.
(b) A registered elector of the City or Township in which he or she resides.

The places of voting for the annual School Election to be held on May 2, 2006, will be as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Precinct 1 | Farmington School
33411 Marquette |
| Precinct 2 | Memorial School
30001 Marquette |
| Precinct 3 | Lathers School
28351 Marquette |
| Precinct 4 | Lathers School
28351 Marquette |
| Precinct 5 | Memorial School
30001 Marquette |
| Precinct 6 | Garden City Middle School
1851 Radcliff |
| Precinct 7 | Maplewood Center
31735 Maplewood |
| Precinct 8, 11 | Henry Ruff School
30300 Maplewood |
| Precinct 9 | Civic Center
6000 Middlebelt |
| Precinct 10 | Douglas School
6400 Hartel |

All polling places are handicapper accessible. If you anticipate difficulties at your normal polling place please phone the City Clerk's Office to arrange an alternate location. Absentee Ballots for this Election are available at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt, through 4:00 P.M., Monday, May 1, 2006, to anyone who meets one of the following requirements: Electors age 60 or older; Electors who expect to be absent from Garden City the entire time the polls are open on Election Day; Electors who are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; Electors who cannot attend the polls due to tenets of their religion; or Electors who are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial. Furthermore, any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.

In addition to our regular hours, the City Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, April 29, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the sole purpose of absentee voting.

Allyson Bettis
City Clerk
City of Garden City

Publish: April 23, 2006

CE0942722

AROUND WESTLAND

District office hours

The staff of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will hold office hours 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 27, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland.

McCotter and his staff can provide assistance with issues involving the federal government, including Social Security, Medicare, military and veterans' affairs, small business concerns and student loan repayments.

Fund-raising dinner

The friends and neighbors of Gary Pinko or sponsoring a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 28, at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

The dinner will benefit Pinko, a mail carrier with the Westland Post Office who has been battling cancer for five years. The cost is \$10 per person and includes a spaghetti dinner with soft drinks, 50/50 raffle, silent auction and entertainment by Earth Angels.

For more information, call Barbara Allen at (734) 722-5369 or Helen Stevens at (734) 728-9946.

MHS program

The Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland is offering spay or neutering of

cats and vaccinations for \$20 for families with financial difficulties now through May 31.

The center is at 900 Newburgh Road, south of Ford Road.

People must provide proof of financial need, such as 1

Open House

St. Damian Catholic School will be having a preschool and kindergarten open house 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 25. The school has preschool programs for three-four-year-olds and full-day kindergarten, both with three- and five-day options. Registration will be accepted at the open house. St. Damian is at 29891 Joy, Westland. Call (734) 427-1680 for information.

Mother's Day benefit

The YWCA Western Wayne County has Mother's Day Cards available for a minimum donation of \$25. Donations from the Mother's Day cards will help the YWCA to create more programs to help women and their families. Approximately 1,000 families benefit from the programs and services offered by the YWCA, and there are more who need help everyday.

For more information, about the Mother's Day Cards, or to purchase a card for one of the wonderful women in your life, call the YWCA Western Wayne Co. at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 20.

Healthy Living

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne is in line to host an Oakwood Healthcare System Project Healthy Living next month.

Project Healthy Living offers a wide array of helpful and practical health-related activities and provides a variety of screenings to adults 18 years and older.

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital event will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, April 26-28, at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren at Wayne Road.

Many of the health screening tests and services are offered free of charge. There is a nominal cost for some screenings and all tests are administered by healthcare professionals.

For more information, call (800) 543-WELL.

Recycling benefit

Madison Elementary School is collecting empty laser and inkjet cartridges and used cell phones between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Friday, April 28, at the school, at 1075 S. Carlson, south of Avondale, Westland.

The school participates in the FundingFactory Recycling Program throughout the school year and is expanding its collection to include the community in observance of Earth Day 2006.

Companies interested in demonstrating a commitment

to education and the environment also can participate free of charge in the FundingFactory Business Support Program.

FundingFactory will send each supporting business free, postage-paid shipping boxes for the return of collected cartridges and cell phones. By donating to Madison Elementary, businesses help them earn the technology and recreational equipment.

To learn more about supporting the school, call FundingFactory toll-free at (888) 883-8237 and mention Madison Elementary in Westland.

That's entertainment

The Westland Friendship Center will feature impersonators of Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond and other performers during a variety show 1-3 p.m. Friday, May 5, at the center, 1119 N. Newburgh.

Michael Carluccio as Frank Sinatra and former Westland City Councilman David James as Neil Diamond will be among the performers, according to senior center Director Peggy Ellenwood.

Tickets are \$6, and proceeds will go to the Westland Relay for Life - a benefit in June to help the American Cancer Society. The show is being sponsored by the Westland Jaycees. For more information, call the senior center at (734) 722-7628.

DEATHS

B

Anna "Ann" Mae Brecht Brecht, 90, died April 17.

Gertrude T. Brzezinski Brzezinski, 87, of Redford Township, died April 14.

C

Robert B. Calkins Calkins, 76, of Rochester Hills, died April 6.

D

Paul E. Dugan Dugan, 79, of Rochester Hills, died April 4.

F

Lucille Foster Foster, 79, of Richmond, died April 10.

H

Everett L. Hampton Hampton, 86, of Utica, died April 5.

Almee Hart Hart, 28, of Auburn Hills, died April 2.

Helen W. Heffernan

Heffernan, 81, of Bloomfield Hills, died April 17.

Arthur Howard Howard, 93, of Beverly Hills, died April 17.

M

Robert E. McTaggart McTaggart, 82, of Rochester Hills, died April 11.

N

Linda M. Nowicki-Worley Nowicki-Worley, 36, of Rochester Hills, died April 11.

P

Sean M. Pettibone Pettibone, 29, of Ann Arbor, formerly of Troy, died April 20.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages, on page C4.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

When was the last time you really thought about our planet?

Well, now is the perfect time because Earth Day is here! Earth Day was founded by Gaylord Nelson. Nelson had worked for years in the U.S. Senate trying to raise awareness of environmental concerns, and in 1970 decided to create a day for the sole purpose of focusing on our impact on the planet.

Earth Day did not originally take place every year. It wasn't until 1990 that Earth Day became an annual event. Now it is celebrated every April 22, in countries all over the world.

At the library, we have books on Earth Day for all age levels. For the

very little ones, we have books like the non-fiction *Earth Day* by David Marx, the J EASY book *Earth Day-Hooray!* which some children will be able to read on their own, and the video *Earth Day Birthday*, a cartoon featuring dinosaurs traveling the earth, learning how to reduce pollution.

For beginning readers, we have books such as *Earth Day* by Linda Lowery and *Celebrating Earth Day* by Janet McDonnell, which includes a story about Earth Day and some craft and activity ideas.

Speaking of Earth Day crafts, kids and parents who are a little more hands-on can try either of these two

books: *Every Day is Earth Day: A Craft Book or Earth Day Crafts*. And of course, you can also find books written for adults right along side the books for younger readers.

To learn more about Earth Day, you can come to the library to check out any of these titles, or visit internet sites such as <http://www.earthday.net/>. This site provides information about Earth Day and even has a link to a quiz that allows you to see how earth-friendly you are.

Duct Tape for Teens: 2 p.m. April 30. Hey teens, get stuck on duct tape.

Master the art of tape creations with duct tape maestro extraordinaire William Beacom.

Who needs Gucci or Coach when you have duct tape?

Microsoft Word for Beginners: 7 p.m. May 1. Learn the basics of Microsoft Word, a word processing program that lets users create a variety of documents, including letters and resumes.

Information Central is compiled by Bridget Sturdy, reference librarian, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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Back Pain?
Southfield, MI - According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques vary. But thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report", call toll-free, 1-888-744-2225. (Toll-free, 24 hour recorded message)

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Lean N' Tender
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Family Pack
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USDA Select Boneless SIRLOIN STEAKS only \$3.88 lb.
3 Steak Family Pack
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Honey Ham Brown Sugar Ham
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Bar • B • Q Chicken Breast
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United Way to honor volunteers

United Way for Southeastern Michigan will recognize nine individuals and two groups for their outstanding volunteer service and commitment to others at the annual "Celebrate Volunteers ... Recognizing HomeTown Heroes" luncheon set for Monday in Detroit's Marriott Renaissance Center.

More than 1,000 people are expected to attend the luncheon, billed as one of the largest events of its kind in the nation.

Receiving awards are Patricia McCracken of Livonia, Acts of Kindness Award; Jo Ann Wallace of Southfield, Bernie Firestone Labor Award; Louis Mahoney of Bloomfield Hills, CorPLUS Award; Ernie Cooper of Lathrup, Village and Jean Kolod of Rochester Hills, Heart of Gold Award; employees at Daimler Chrysler Financial Services in Farmington Hills, Outstanding Business Award.

Also slated to be honored are Girl Scouts of Macomb-Otsikita Council for the Postponing Sexual Involvement Teen Mentor Program which spreads the abstinence message to young girls; Joyce Siegel of Huntington Woods and Mark Williams of Detroit, Heart of Gold Award; Melvina Anderson of Detroit, Young Adult Award of Excellence and Ali Ayoub of Dearborn, Outstanding Youth Award.

In addition, the Junior League of Birmingham will recognize 80 individuals who make up this year's Governor's Honor Roll.

"All of this year's honored volunteers show tremendous commitment to their communities," said Michael J. Brennan, president and CEO, United Way for Southeastern Michigan. "They are shining examples of the caring spirit this region demonstrates in creating a lasting impact on individuals and organizations in southeast Michigan."

Patricia McCracken of Livonia will receive the Acts of Kindness Award, sponsored by



McCracken

Smooth Jazz V98.7 FM. The award is presented to a person who has demonstrated help and kindness benefiting groups and/or individuals throughout metro Detroit. The station selected the winner among the many metro Detroit residents featured in its weekly Acts of Kindness segment throughout the year.

McCacken says she volunteers because "it makes her heart feel good," and she's been at it more than 20 years. A secretary at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Detroit, she has taken charge of her department's Care and Share program for the past two decades. The program collects money and other items to donate to a veteran and his or her family during the holiday season.

This past year, McCracken organized the donations that were given to a local veteran who also takes care of his seven grandchildren. She also volunteers at blood drives the VA Hospital holds three times a year, and serves hot meals to homeless veterans during the winter months.

Each fall, she supports United Way by helping with the Combined Federal Campaign in her office. Outside of her work at the VA, McCracken has volunteered to teach Bible study for the past 15 years at Redford Church of Christ. McCracken was nominated by her co-worker, Mary Ann Rambus. McCracken also received the Bronze Presidential Service Award for volunteering more than 170 hours in the past year.

Employees at DaimlerChrysler Financial Services in Farmington Hills will receive the Outstanding Business Award, sponsored by United Way for Southeastern Michigan and the Southeast Michigan Corporate

Volunteer Council. The award recognizes businesses that contribute to social and economic development through volunteering. A \$1,000 gift is awarded to the agency of the winner's choice.

This year's honorees gave up a holiday party last year to benefit The Boys and Girls Republic in Farmington Hills.

More than 60 employees came out during the winter's only snowstorm in December to give the agency an "Extreme Makeover." In one day, the volunteers painted the interior of the six residential cottages on the organization's campus. After painting, the volunteers hosted a pizza party and spoke to the youth about their careers in the automotive and finance industries. They gave mock interviews, offered success tips, and shared personal and professional experiences.

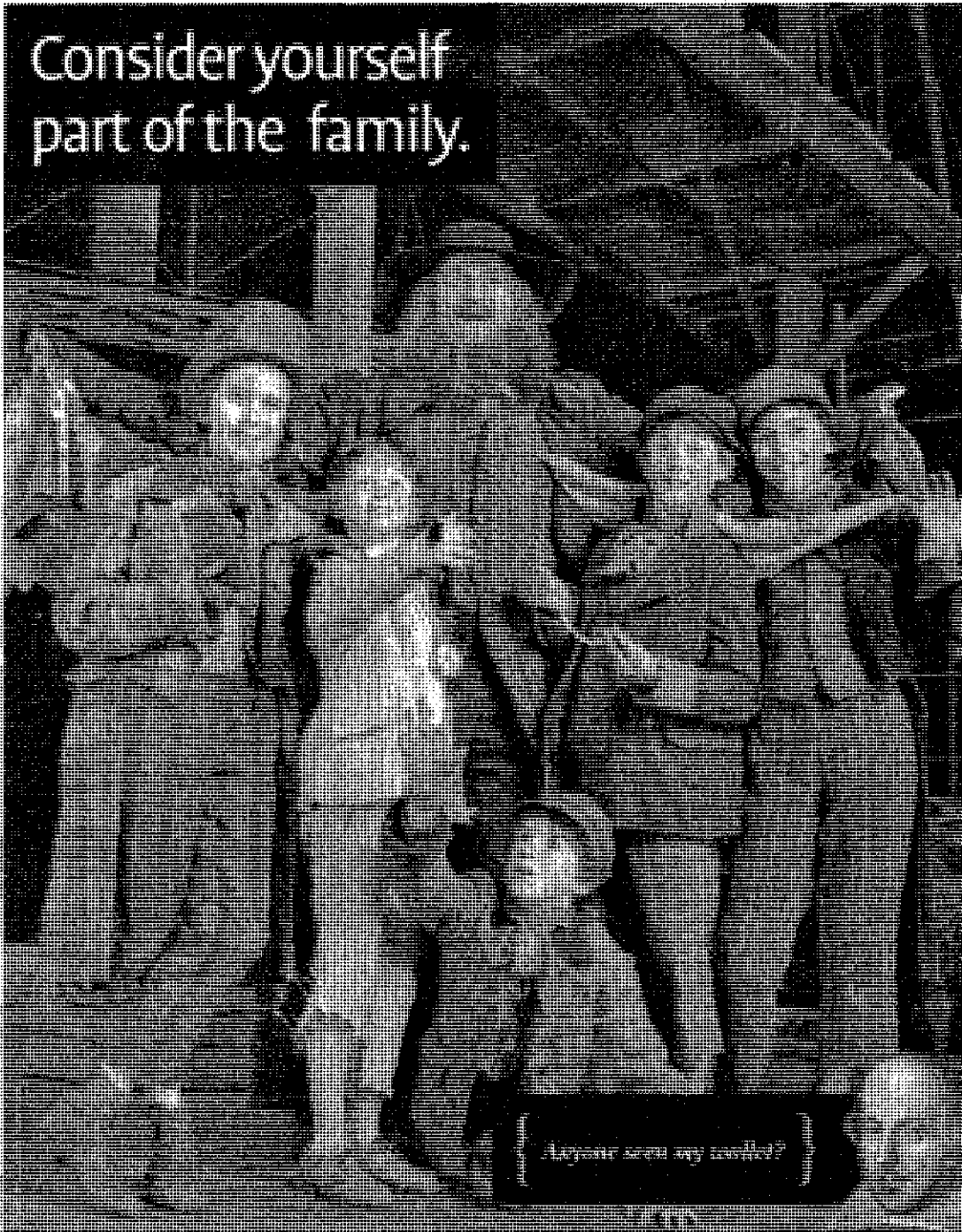
According to the agency, "the volunteers' time was invaluable, by accomplishing needed projects, but also helping their youth realize and explore future careers and opportunities."

At the end of the service day, the company donated new sheets and mattress pads, items for the agency's Token Economy Store, and new carpet for each of the cottages.

DaimlerChrysler Financial Services was nominated by Stephanie Appel of Boys & Girls Republic. The company also received the Gold Presidential Service Award for the 20,000 hours it gave in the past year.

United Way for Southeastern Michigan is led by a diverse group of volunteers from business, labor, government, human services, education and the community. For more information go to www.uwsem.org.

To nominate someone for a future award or to learn more about year-round volunteer opportunities, click on www.uwsem.org or call United Way's George W. Romney Volunteer Center at (313) 226-9430.



Oliver!

Season begins Monday!

Music, lyrics and book by Lionel Lin. Produced for the Broadway stage by David Merrick and Donald Albery. Adapted from the novel by John Galsworthy. The Playwrights Guild of America. Directed by Michael Blouie. Book by David Merrick. Lyrics by Donald Albery. Music by Lionel Lin.

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A vulnerable governor tacks back to a bipartisan mode

The piranhas are circling around Jennifer Granholm's rowboat, sniffing a whiff of fatal vulnerability.

Polls are showing the Democratic governor and her presumptive Republican opponent, businessman Dick DeVos, running neck and neck with about 42 percent of potential voters each. Granholm's approval rating is also running below 50 percent, which doesn't bode well for her re-election.



Hugh Gallagher

In two recent meetings, Republican spokesmen were buoyant about this year's prospects for keeping control of the Legislature and retaking the governorship.

GOP pollster Steve Mitchell and Maxine Berman, Granholm's director of special projects, gave their prognostications to the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce recently. While Berman promised that the governor would put on a "quality campaign," Mitchell had the numbers. The polls show that most Michigan voters think the state is moving in the wrong direction and a large percentage have lost confidence in the governor.

GOP state Chairman Saul Anuzis met with *Observer & Eccentric* editors and was similarly upbeat for his candidate's chances. Anuzis points to Michigan's grim economy and what he sees as Granholm's inability to get major players to the table. He concedes the governor's charm and "movie star looks," but thinks she's lost her early touch.

As Anuzis sees it, Granholm worked well with the Republican-majority Legislature in her first two years, but hasn't been as astute in the last year. Of course, you could also see it a different way. The first two years, the Republican legislators were looking toward the mid-term elections. They and the governor needed to show that they were "working together for Michigan." The last year, the Republicans might have been more interested in setting the table for their gubernatorial candidate, who would be even more receptive to their views.

DeVos has been effectively using his Amway fortune to present a flurry of very early campaign ads showing him as a great family guy, a wonderful employer, a generous community benefactor and a businessman's businessman. As with the GOP's plan to replace the Single Business Tax, details of DeVos' plans for the state are yet to come. As Anuzis allowed, too many details this soon might turn away some voters.

As the polls show, this Getting to Know You approach is paying off with voters.

This would have seemed unthinkable a year ago. At that time, DeVos was a scary figure to many on this side of the state. He was per-

Yet, in spite of the flaring partisanship of this election year (with both a governor and U.S. senator appearing vulnerable), the state's business needs to go forward and the governor and Republican legislators need to appear above all that.

ceived as too conservative. He was pictured as someone who took a large share of his business to China. He was seen as a threat to public education because of his support for vouchers. Democrats were gloating at the prospect.

They're not gloating anymore. Yet, in spite of the flaring partisanship of this election year (with both a governor and U.S. senator appearing vulnerable), the state's business needs to go forward and the governor and Republican legislators need to appear above all that. This week, Granholm's office sent two press releases that put the emphasis on bipartisanship (remember, the theme from her first two years in office).

On Thursday, she signed the new state high school curriculum. The governor takes credit for setting the change in motion by having Supt. of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan develop the new curriculum for approval by the state Board of Education. But the release ends by acknowledging that the final bills were sponsored by Republicans Sen. Wayne Kuipers and Rep. Brian Palmer.

Later Thursday, the governor's office released a joint statement from the governor and Republican Majority Leader Ken Sikken and Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche on an agreement to funnel \$400 million into road programs. The agreement is expected to move forward mass transit projects for Grand Rapids and the Ann Arbor-Detroit rail project, provide \$15 million to Travel Michigan for marketing and fund several road projects, including major work on U.S. 131 and I-75 between Eight Mile and M-59.

Announcements like these seem like old times, though such cozy relations can't last long in an election year.

As for the polls, Granholm can take heart from the history of two politicians in 1948. Harry Truman and G. Mennen (Soapy) Williams were down in the polls and not expected to win. *The Chicago Tribune* famously jumped the gun election night to proclaim "Dewey Wins" and the relatively unknown Williams was running against a well-known governor and what seemed a Republican tide.

We know how those contests worked out. No doubt, the GOP won't take early polls too seriously.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer & Eccentric*. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149 or by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.hometownlife.com.

Four Out of Five Cases Use it as a Last Resort and More Than 90% Get Well!

Through the billions of dollars spent every year on drug ads, we have become programmed to respond to our illnesses with custom-made medications. If they don't work, we go straight to prescription medications. When the drugs fail to return us back to health, there are no other choices than to try dangerous experimental medications or to perform surgery.

Hello, my name is Dr. Daniel Laframboise, and I'd like to share some incredible information with you. Most people report feeling totally helpless when they go to the doctor because, if they don't choose drugs, what else is there to do? More and more people are learning about a new and different choice for their life and health. Those with the toughest cases that don't respond to traditional care are now achieving extraordinary results and regaining healthy lives. So how could this choice be used as a last resort?

What You Weren't Supposed to Find Out Is Your Body Can Completely Heal Itself...

Chemistry doesn't control your body - intelligence does. Your innate (inborn) intelligence creates all the chemistry and keeps it in balance. More than two million functions are performed every minute in your body. The brain and central nerve system carry "wellness messages" to each of the seventy trillion cells that make up a human being. As long as you have 100% nerve supply, you are likely to experience normal, healthy function. The problem exists when abnormal stress enters your body and

causes an interruption to the nerve system. When healthy nerve flow is interfered with or "trapped," the body's chemistry goes out of balance and normal body function is jeopardized. By removing the nerve interference, the intelligence of your body is allowed to automatically re-balance body chemistry and to generate extraordinary healing capabilities. Amazingly, stress most often attacks the spine, creating misalignment and then affecting the nerve system (a condition known as



subluxation). This revolutionary approach to achieving and sustaining optimal health has spawned the fastest growing drug-free health profession in the world. Millions of people worldwide, including your neighbors right here in Livonia, have adopted a new philosophy for the health and well being of their families.

One Important Check-Up Could Make the Difference Between Chronic Suffering and a Healing Breakthrough

Abnormal body functions like asthma, allergies, headaches, chronic pain, fatigue and lowered immunity could be

associated with a disturbance in nerve flow.

If you or a loved one is suffering needlessly, you have another choice. You can make the decision that millions of people around the world and many here in Livonia are making every month. It all begins with a thorough history and consultation, including a complete spinal exam, vital nerve testing and specific weight-bearing x-rays. Normally, this evaluation would cost up to \$310. However, through this special offer, you can receive this complete evaluation for just \$35.

Because of the response expected from this incredible opportunity, we can only guarantee availability for the first 20 people who call and schedule an appointment. Don't wait to call us before spreading the word to another family member or friend who may be ready to take advantage of such a generous offer. Call ANDAN Chiropractic Clinic today! We are located at 18444 Farmington Road in Livonia (midway between 6 & 7 Mile Roads).

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Advertiser

Volunteers at VA help veterans adjust to life

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is well-known for its collection of household discards. We regularly get calls asking if we have anything for their next pickup in our neighborhood, and sometimes we do.

Plymouth Township resident Roger Kehrier is hoping to expand awareness of another Purple Heart endeavor, in which he and others bring activities to the Veterans Administration facility in Ann Arbor.

"In February, we had a Super Bowl party," said Kehrier, veterans affairs/volunteer services representative. There's a July party in the works for baseball's All-Star Game.

Activities include bingo and chess or poker tournament variants for the veterans. Volunteers will order pizza for the VA patients, drawing around 40 for bingo and good-sized crowds for movie nights.

"We do other things across the spectrum of the hospital," said Kehrier, a Vietnam veteran who served in the Army 1965-71 and in the Army Reserves 1980-98.

He appreciates the support of such groups as the Plymouth-Canton Civitans and the Lions. "The bottom line is to try to get the word out" on volunteers, who must be age 14 or older.

Prospective volunteers should call Beverly Leneski at the VA, (734) 761-7995, for an appointment. There will be an interview and brief written test.

Last year, the Purple Heart got 26 students from Ann Arbor schools to volunteer in the summer. There are scholarship opportunities as well, said Kehrier, adding the group's present in five VA hospitals and two veterans homes in Michigan.

"You're putting something back in the community," Volunteers have worked with Iraq war veterans who are severely injured.

"You get to meet them. You get to hear their story. Basically, you make a friend," Kehrier said.

Volunteers help the veterans learn what government assistance is available, something Kehrier believes is much better now than when he left the service in the Vietnam era.

He's found that volunteers who are having a rotten day soon forget their troubles when they go to the VA. "When you leave, I defy you to

The wars of my lifetime have been politically unpopular on the homefront in marked contrast to the experiences of my father-in-law and late father, World War II veterans. I remember especially the anger directed at Vietnam era veterans, and the difficulty many of that day had separating the war from the warrior.

have anything but good thoughts and a smile on your face."

Some older veterans have been at the VA much longer, and welcome strangers as visitors. In addition, Plymouth-Canton students have made friends from Ann Arbor Huron and Pioneer high schools they otherwise wouldn't have met.

Volunteers also come from western Wayne County communities including Redford, Wayne and Westland, with some going to the Detroit VA facility to volunteer. Kehrier noted the unpopularity of the Vietnam War; many veterans wish to put it behind them, but he'd like to get them involved at the VA as well as the younger people.

He and others go into patients' rooms at the VA, asking such basics as if their water is cold enough or if they'd like a snack. Such thoughtfulness is well-received and Kehrier and the others are glad to do what they can to help.

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If you've got the time and inclination, why not consider volunteering at the VA? It's not the volunteer job for everyone, but many will do just fine in that setting and as Kehrier says brighten the days of veterans who are otherwise all too easily forgotten.

Julie Brown is presentation editor for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at jcbrown@hometownlife.com.

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Botsford docs go on medical mission

A team of 25 physicians and volunteers affiliated with Botsford General Hospital provided medical care to thousands of men, women and children in rural Guatemala during a recent medical mission.

The trip was led by Botsford General Hospital's president and CEO Paul LaCasse, D.O., and his wife, Annette LaCasse, D.O.

The trip was part of DOCARE, a nonprofit organization that brings needed health care to people in remote areas of countries in the Western Hemisphere who would not otherwise be able to receive such medical attention.

During the trip, the Botsford doctors traveled to Antigua, Guatemala and each day went to various small towns including San Andreas,

Chichiconstanango and Chimaltango. The group also went to Guatemala's capital, Guatemala City. They treated more than 5,000 patients in a two-week time frame.

The physicians cared for families including children of all ages, pregnant women, middle-aged men and women and the elderly. They treated patients with skin disease, fungal infections, sun rashes, psoriasis, eczema, malnutrition, congenital and malformations of the central nervous system and heart, ear nose and throat infections, allergies, asthma, gastritis and parasites.

"This trip is an incredible, once in a lifetime opportunity to help people who truly have nothing," said Ben Rossi, D.O., a Botsford resident. "We become immersed in a completely different culture and

see diseases that we have only read about. The people are wonderful and very appreciative of the care we provide."

Prior to the trip, the group raised funds to cover transportation and housing costs and to purchase medications to treat Guatemalan patients. Donors included other Botsford physicians, nurses and members of the community.

Plans are under way for another medical mission in 2007. Donations to support that trip can be sent to Botsford General Hospital, Guatemala Medical Mission, 28050 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. For questions, contact Sonja Amos, Medical Staff Services director, at (248) 471-8823.



Botsford General Hospital residents and interns volunteered to provide medical services to people in rural Guatemala. Back row left to right: Shane Matheny, Jamie Taweel, Ben Rossi, David Kanze, Jon Snyderman and Gassan Alaouie; front row left to right: Michael Raphael, Kiran Saraiya, Genevieve Buenafior, Lesa Chopra and Hazel Robles.

Got Game?

Yep, got scores, too.

SPORTS

Herniated Disc Technology Discovered by NASA Scientists

Ann Arbor - A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering new hope for sciatica sufferers. Discover how research has proven non-surgical decompression 86% successful in treating debilitating back pain. Find out how NASA's accidental discovery led to the most promising treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" Call 1-800-469-3618 for the toll-free recorded message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com

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