

AWARD

FROM PAGE A1

Sure, she answers the phone, files cases, looks up old investigative reports and handles an avalanche of paperwork.

But, Holy Batwoman! Consider how she has gone beyond her job duties.

When the responsibility for liquor licenses fell on the detective bureau, Konfara streamlined the process by creating new forms that would be sent to local businesses.

"Sharon became the point person for the business owners," Ridener said, in his nomination of Konfara for her award. "She collected the fees and fingerprinted anyone that the state required to be fingerprinted. By this small change, Sharon freed up the detectives so that all they had to do was the actual background investigation. This was a huge help as the detectives' caseloads were ever-increasing."

Konfara also learned the detective bureau's new computer system thoroughly, help-

ing detectives solve cases by finding crucial addresses, pawn slips, and potential suspects.

"This helped detectives get on the right track to making arrests and solving cases," Ridener said.

To improve efficiency, Konfara rearranged the detective bureau, making investigative files more accessible and creating a private work area for evidence technicians. She set aside an area where children who are victims of crimes can color or play with toys when they come in to talk with detectives.

She also handles referrals for first-time juvenile offenders to youth assistance programs in Westland, Livonia, Garden City and Wayne.

In her spare time, Konfara enjoys gardening, camping with her husband, Paul, and caring for her dog, Dziwo, a 3-year-old Polish lowland sheepdog. She has a son, Jim Rowland, a granddaughter, Hannah Rowland, and a stepson, David Konfara.

Now, though, it's time to nitpick on Konfara's detective

skills.

She had been led to believe that it was a co-worker receiving the secretarial award during a special luncheon last Thursday. She didn't catch on even when her husband showed up.

"He sometimes picks me up for lunch, so I didn't think anything about it," she said. When her name was called, she said, "I was totally blown away. I was amazed."

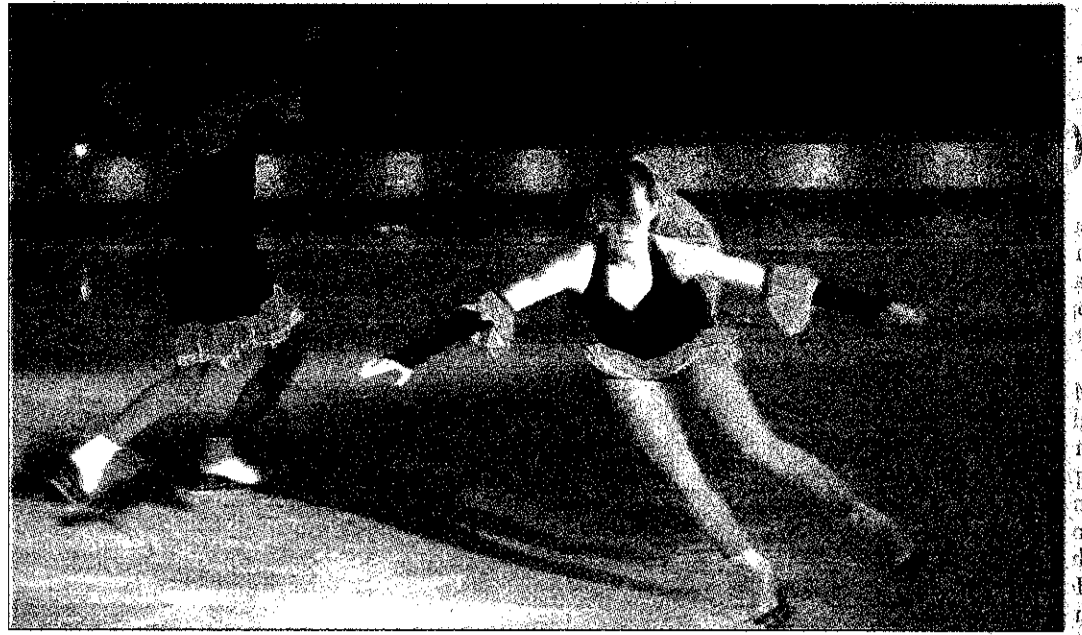
Although it's Konfara's turn to receive praise, she humbly turned the spotlight on the Westland detectives during an interview about her award.

"These are good people, and they are able to solve cases that would seem almost impossible to solve," she said.

But when they get a little too demanding, Konfara performs a trick with her "Detective" Sharon nameplate. Taped to the back of it is a piece of paper that can easily be flipped over to change her title.

"Just the secretary," it reads.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alyssa Berger of Westland perform to the number Salsa Mix with other skaters for the upcoming ice show.

ICE SHOW

FROM PAGE A1

did last year. You just have to get back up and finish."

Fellow soloist Courtney Canada of Redford is doing two ballet and one hip-hop numbers in the show. She's also offering moral support for her younger sister Camryn, 6, whose in her first ice show.

"I've been saying, 'Skate your little heart out,'" she said. "She's really excited." Courtney Canada has been skating since age 9. A member of the Westland skating club for three years, she hopes to some day be a skating coach.

Mika also hopes to parlay her training at the arena into work as a coach and as a performer in an ice show. For now, she's thrilled to be doing different things.

"I'm having fun with everything," she added. "My favorite thing about it is the ice shows and the coaching."

According to LeDuc, planning for the show started last October when interviews were done to pick the positions of director and assistant director.

This is her first time directing after serving as an assistant director and intern. Like many of the skaters in the show, she's also a veteran performer.

"I don't feel that nervous with the way practices are going," she said. "It's going good so far."

The show's assistant director is Becky Bockstanz, with Jessica Gutkowski and Shanon Frost serving as interns.

The skaters have been practicing since



Amanda Gutowski of Livonia performs her solo during dress rehearsal Tuesday evening.

March and the past few weeks have been putting in long hours at the arena. Parents have been busy decorating the arena and building the props for the show.

Their final dress rehearsal is tonight. "It's going to be exciting and different," LeDuc said. "Even if you don't have kids or don't have kids skating in it, it's a show that everybody can find something to like."

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Good stuff

The Westland Moose Lodge and its women's chapter recently donated 'Tommy Moose' stuffed animals to the Westland police and fire departments, to be given to children who are in situations that leave them frightened or traumatized. Cindy Walker, Moose Youth Involvement Committee chairwoman, gives the stuffed animals during a ceremony with, from left, Assistant Fire Chief Dennis Wysocki, Moose Lodge Governor Ron Farmer, and Ken Kline, instructor with the police department's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. In all, 12 stuffed animals went to the fire department and 12 to the police department.

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- Do you trust a board of directors that withdrew its application for conversion only after enough signatures had been collected to call for a Special Meeting?
- Do you trust a board of directors that has failed to provide assurance that the conversion attempt will not happen again?
- Do you trust a board of directors that spent hundreds of thousands of dollars of members' money for the conversion attempt without seeking member input first?
- Do you trust a board of directors that is now spending members' money to campaign for their own positions?
- Do you trust a board of directors that is using employees, during work time, to campaign for their positions?

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Member-owners of DFCU Financial have submitted written signatures to call for a Special Meeting. In accordance with the bylaws, DFCU Financial member-owners will have the opportunity at a Special Meeting to decide whether the board should be removed. There is a formal process to be followed. The chairman of the board of directors of DFCU Financial must call a special meeting within 30 days of receipt of the written request which was submitted on April 18, 2006. Written notice of the meeting must be given to each member at least seven days before the date set for the meeting.

Each director named in the notice will be given the opportunity to be heard at this special meeting. The members present at the meeting will then vote on whether or not to remove the directors.

In the event that the entire board were to be removed, the credit union's supervisory committee would immediately become the temporary board of directors and, as such, would be required to call a special meeting of the members for the purpose of electing an interim board. Such special meeting must be held not fewer than 7 nor more than 14 days from the removal of the board after giving notice of the meeting to each member. All directors elected at the special meeting may only serve until the next annual meeting when a new board would be elected.

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Fore! Angela Hospice golf outing swings into action

Angela Hospice supporters and business friends will once again head to the greens for the organization's annual golf outing benefiting programs for terminally ill patients and their families. The outing moves to Western Golf and Country Club in Redford this year, for the 18th annual event to be held Monday, June 5.

The event begins with a shotgun start at 10 a.m., 18 holes of golf with carts, box lunches delivered to the carts, a dinner celebration, dessert, and mini silent auction following golf.

"We're looking forward to a great outing at Western," said Alice Barringer, Development Manager. "We have a limit of 144 golfers, so individuals who would like to attend should

make sure to register soon."

Golfers can register in foursomes or as individuals at a price of \$200 per golfer. Packages for business partners and corporate sponsors are also available.

"There are many ways for individuals to show their support for this event," said Barringer. "Our volunteers are busy in the community helping to get the word out about all this event has to offer."

The popular "Winner Takes

All" Raffle is one way that volunteers are garnering enthusiasm for the event. For the price of \$20 a ticket, this raffle offers one winner the chance to win a myriad of prizes including a Tigers suite for 18, rides in helicopter and B-17 bomber, gift certificates to restaurants, malls, and more.

Volunteers are also busy signing up local businesses and individuals to sponsor hole signs on the course. Businesses can sponsor a sign

for \$150.

This event will help fund Angela Hospice programs not covered by insurance reimbursements. Since 1985, Angela Hospice has been providing home hospice services to patients throughout Southeast Michigan. Angela Hospice also offers specialized programs for terminally ill children, a prenatal hospice program, and a dedicated hospice care center, which provides a home-away-from-home

for hospice patients.

To learn more about supporting the mission of Angela Hospice and the annual golf outing, call (734) 953-6018 or log on to www.angelahospice.org.

Volunteers George Veach of Wayne and Kevin Bullock of Canton are part of the committee helping to plan Angela Hospice's 18th Annual Golf Outing.



Splendor of East highlights dance

The Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) presents its brightest and most lively spectacle to stage, "Splendor of the East 2006" this year, starring Powerdance, a modern jazz dance company direct from the Philippines, 7 tonight at Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn.

Splendor of the East is the largest performance-based celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in Michigan. In its fifth year, Splendor of the East has entertained and educated guests year after year. With this year's theme "Cultural Gems of the East: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" the audience will get a taste of vibrant and lively Asian cultures.

The main attraction of the evening will be Powerdance. A wonderful blend of movement, light and emotion, Powerdance demonstrates the complex variety of modern Asian dance. Among other forms, the unique dance company is able to exemplify the magic of black light theater, a genre which is unique in the Philippines as conceived by Douglas Nierras, Powerdance choreographer and founder.

Tickets for the event are now on sale at www.capa-mi.org or via the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center Box Office and range in price from \$20-\$30 dollars. Show time is 7pm. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more info, e-mail info@capa-mi.org.

The Ford Community and Performing Arts Center is located at 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn 48126.

Barbershop chorus performs

The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is preparing to perform their annual show around the theme of an old radio show at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh, Livonia.

Tickets are \$15, \$13 for students and seniors, and available by calling (734) 453 0574, or by sending mail to Robert Schuessler, 7732 Embassy Drive, Canton, MI 48187.

The concert includes songs from the "glorious days of radio" as well as traditional barbershop tunes ranging from spirited "up tunes" to romantic, patriotic and gospel as performed by the Renaissance Chorus in four part barbershop a capella style.

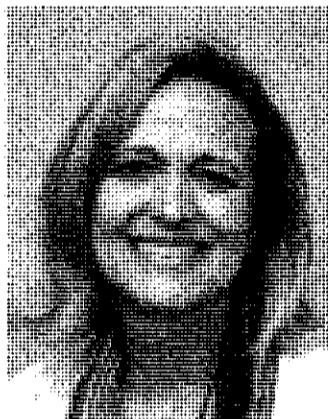
Alchemy, a guest quartet, will be featured along with a young men's ensemble from Franklin High School in Livonia.

On Monday, May 22, the chorus is inviting male singers to join them for a guest night. Anyone interested in becoming a member may attend the event at 7:30 p.m. in Kirk of Our Saviour Church in Westland. Formal training is not required and prospective members do not have to sight read music. If you have an ear for music, you can sing barbershop.

For more information, call Mark Pritchard at (734) 422-7468 evenings.



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Botsford's Infectious Disease Doctors:

- Diagnose and treat illnesses caused by various microorganisms or germs
- Track spread of infectious diseases as well as other medical issues of potential concern to the community
- Offer a renowned International Travel Clinic for world-wide travelers

What is an Infectious Disease doctor?

Infectious Disease (ID) doctors diagnose and treat conditions resulting from all types of infections. Like medical detectives, they work mostly behind the scenes. After extensively interviewing the patient, they review all available medical information including X-rays, laboratory reports, blood work and culture data, sometimes performing additional studies and sophisticated tests leading to a diagnosis and treatment of the illness.

What kind of illnesses do they treat?

ID physicians are asked to treat conditions resulting from various infections, including those caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites. Primarily, they see hospitalized patients for illnesses ranging from pneumonia, to unexplained fevers, to HIV/AIDS.

More common illnesses also seen are bone infections, serious blood infections, infections of the heart valves, and wound infections.

ID doctors are also antibiotic specialists who, through blood tests, cultures and other data, recommend the optimal antibiotics to treat the infectious organism.

Should I see an Infectious Disease physician?

First, you should see your own doctor who can often treat many common infections. However, your doctor may refer you to an ID physician when an infection is difficult to diagnose or does not respond to treatment. Or, you may be in the hospital with a severe illness when your doctor will consult with an ID physician to help diagnose and treat your disease. Most importantly, begin your care with your own doctor.

What other services do Infectious Disease physicians provide?

Our ID physicians are also knowledgeable about important issues such as Avian Influenza or bird flu, West Nile Virus, antibiotic resistance, and potential bioterrorism events.

Along with Botsford's administrative personnel, they may also offer recommendations as needed to provide the greatest level of health and safety for our staff and community.

International Travel Medicine, too!

Many Infectious Disease practices, including Botsford's Infectious Disease group, offer International Travel Clinics for people who plan to travel to foreign countries.

At Botsford's International Travel Clinic, vaccines and recommendations for healthy travel throughout the world are available to the public. Call (248) 471-8314 for more information or to arrange an appointment.

Staff will review your itinerary, destinations and planned activities. With this information, along with recommendations from governmental agencies, staff then provides customized travel-related information and offers any required vaccinations.

What about the meningitis vaccine?

Meningitis vaccine is recommended for protection of students during their time at high school, college or at camps with large populations. Our clinic offers this vaccine as well; please call us to schedule an appointment.

Do you offer immigration vaccinations?

Yes, we offer all vaccinations required for those who need to stay up-to-date on their immigration status.

Whether it be infectious disease issues or travel medicine concerns, the Botsford Infectious Disease group is here - watching out for your health needs.

For a Botsford physician, call our toll-free HealthMatch number at 1-877-442-7900.

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infectious diseases



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Sheriff's Department offers free gun locks

In an effort to reduce the risk of accidental gun deaths in our community the Wayne County Sheriff's office is handing out 500 free gun locks to adults who keep guns in their home.

"Unfortunately, we know that if a child gets their hands on a weapon, the consequences can be tragic. We hope that getting these gun locks out to responsible gun owners will help prevent that kind of community heartbreak," Sheriff Warren Evans said.

This past weekend, a three-year-old Detroit boy, Joseph Link IV, was critically injured after apparently shooting himself with a family gun he found beneath a mattress. Each year in the United States dozens of children are killed by the accidental discharge of a firearm. In most cases, the child was playing with an unsecured loaded gun he or she found in their home. Although the sheer number of deaths may be relatively

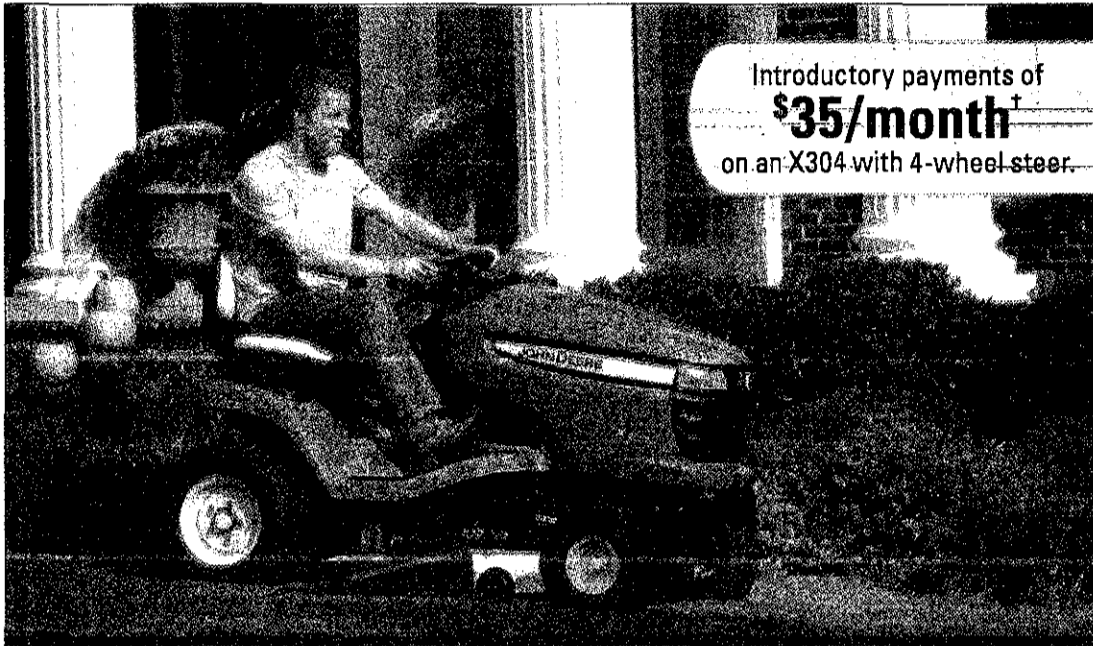
small, they are all preventable, according to Evans.

"These are all avoidable tragedies," said Evans. "We are providing these trigger locks so families can be safe from intruders and so parents won't have to worry about their own children's natural curiosity."

Evans said his office is distributing the locks in conjunction with Project ChildSafe, a nationwide program whose purpose is to promote safe firearms handling and storage practices among all firearms owners. Project ChildSafe recently donated the gun locks to the Sheriff's Office. Starting today, the gun locks are available at the following Sheriff's Office locations: Road Patrol Office, 3100 Henry Ruff, north of Michigan Avenue in Westland, phone or (734) 721-2222; Administration Building, 1231 St. Antoine near Greektown in downtown Detroit, phone: (313) 224-2222.



A Wayne County sheriff's deputy demonstrates use of a gunlock.



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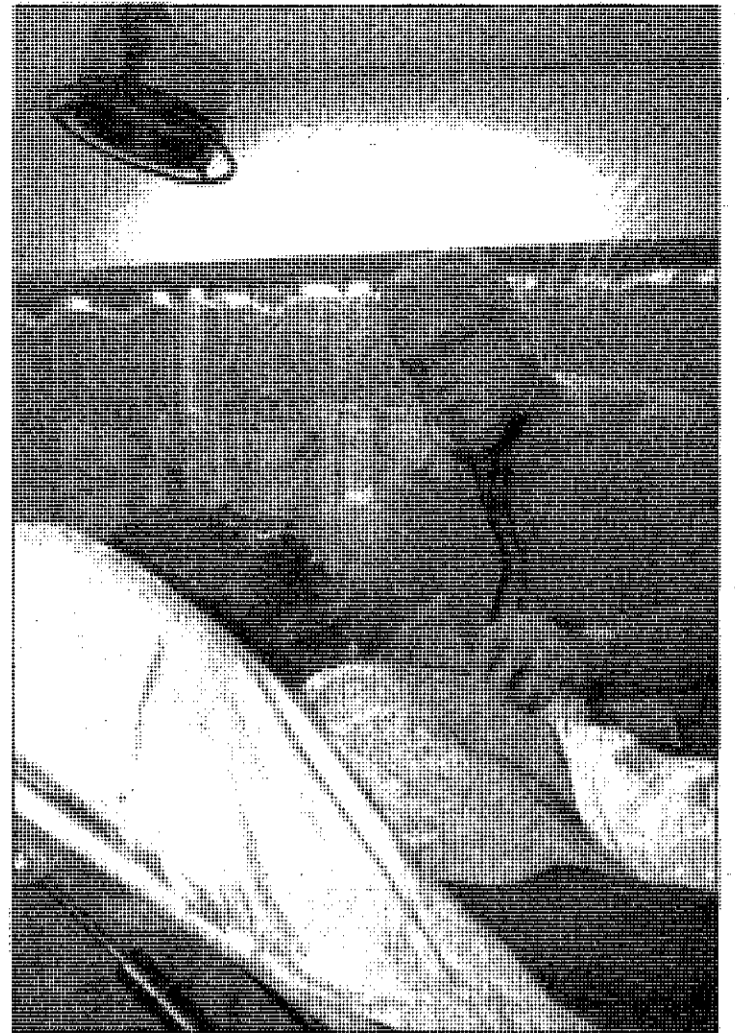
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Administrator Kerry Walsh, R.N. keeps Oakwood's ER running smoothly. The facility celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.



Dr. David Weaver, Medical Director of Oakwood Canton's Emergency Room, examines patient Anthony Wade, who recently visited ER because he was having trouble breathing.

'The only game in town'

Oakwood Canton ER treats sick, injured from all over Wayne

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

You won't find George Clooney or Noah Wylie roaming the hallways, or any of the other actors playing fictional characters on NBC's television program, ER.

No, life in Canton's only 24-hour emergency room isn't so glamorous. But the staff at Oakwood Health Care Center-Canton say the scene there can be just as hectic, especially during weekend nights and on holidays. The doctors and nurses see it all — from serious head injuries and broken bones, to heart attacks and even the occasional gunshot wound.

"We encounter just about any scenario you can think of. There's really not a typical day," said Dr. David Weaver,

medical director of Oakwood Canton's Emergency Room. "One minute you have eight, nine, 10 people walk in at the same time, and then over the next hour — no one."

Oakwood, which sits at the corner of Canton Center and Warren roads, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Although the facility houses many specialists, the ER is a main focus of the hospital. Not only is it Canton's only ER facility, it is the only one in outer western Wayne County, drawing in patients from Canton, Plymouth, Belleville, Romulus, Livonia and even Novi.

Weaver says the ER staff members, who work in 12 hour shifts, are fully trained and equipped to handle most scenarios. In many cases, however, Oakwood doctors

and nurses stabilize patients so they can be transferred to other hospitals. In fact, Oakwood has a close relationship with University of Michigan Hospital, and even has a landing pad for the Survival Flight helicopter.

Weaver, who has been with the Oakwood system for 15 years at various facilities, became the ER director at the Canton facility about a year ago. One of the things he brought with him from Oakwood's main hospital in Dearborn is the 30-minute guarantee, which means patients will be seen by a physician — not just a nurse — within 30 minutes. The clock starts the minute the patient walks through the ER doors.

"ERs are in general known for long waits and lack of per-

sonal care. We found some patients got so frustrated they would just leave. That wasn't good for them and it wasn't good for us," Weaver said.

Oakwood keeps close tabs on how many people use the ER, and in 2005, some 20,000 patients walked through the door — the most in the hospital's 25 year history.

For local residents, like Canton's Janeen Foreman, there is a certain peace of mind that comes with knowing there is an emergency facility in the community.

Foreman, 40, has visited the Oakwood ER on numerous occasions over the years. The mother of two has had to bring her son in because his elbow popped out of socket on several occasions. She also had to bring in her mother,

who was visiting from Arizona, after she slipped and fell. And then, more recently, Foreman herself had to visit the ER on Christmas Eve after she became violently ill, losing 10 pounds in three days.

She has been impressed with the quality of service every time, especially on the occasion she was sick.

"When I went in on Christmas Eve, I was so cold, and this nurse kept bringing me heated blankets, which was the greatest Christmas present I could've asked for," she said.

Foreman said it is important that the community has such an ER.

"I've been in there with my children much more than I cared to," she said. "It's so close to us. It's nice having it

so convenient."

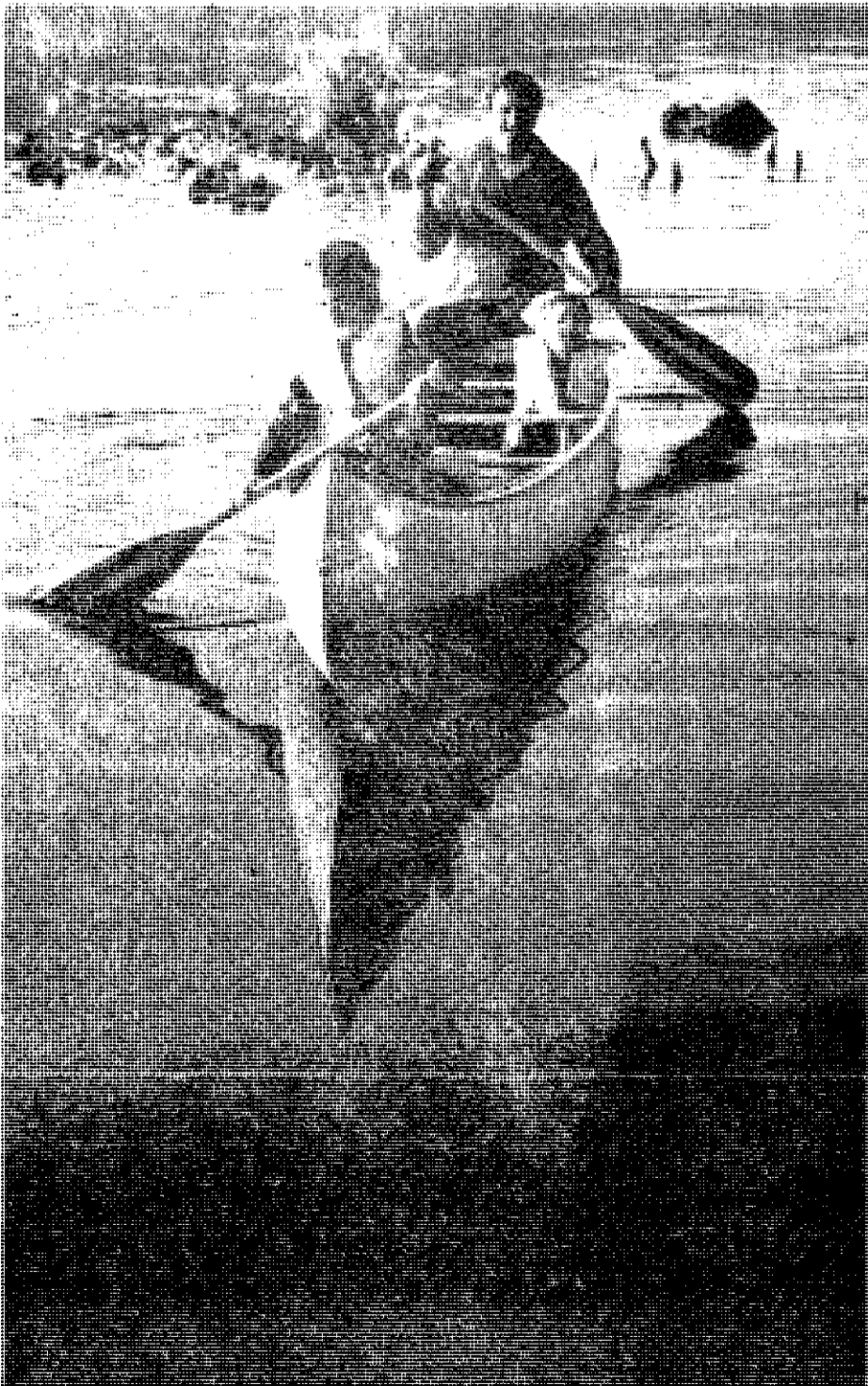
One of the main reasons the service is so good is the fact that there has been very little turnover with the nursing staff, according to nurse Corinne Boyd, a Canton resident who has been with the ER for 13 years and with Oakwood for about 30 years.

"We have a lot of old timers here. We work as a team, and help each other out," she said. "My family comes here all the time. I just believe in this place."

The Oakwood Healthcare Center-Canton is located at Canton Center and Warren roads. For more information about the ER and all of Oakwood's facilities, visit the Web site www.oakwood.org.

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Authors, literary events at Ann Arbor Book Festival

The Third Annual Ann Arbor Book Festival, May 10 through 13, features a wide variety of events.

Hear an international cookbook author discuss her culture while you enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Go behind-the-scenes and see how books are preserved and repaired. Attend an author reception and rub elbows with your favorite writers while you

enjoy light refreshments. Reserve your spot for a Literary Symposium and learn how storytelling applies to teaching.

And, then there are the scores of authors that will be participating in this year's festival. Among them are:

■ Former Ann Arbor resident Charles Baxter, currently with the University of Minnesota, who will be

appearing on the Ann Arbor Anthology panel 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, May 11, at Rackham Amphitheater, 915 E. Washington St. Baxter has written four novels, four collections of short stories, three collections of poems and a collection of essays on fiction.

■ American journalist Bob Greene, best known as an award-winning columnist for the Chicago Tribune. His new

book *And You Should Be Glad: A True Story of Lifelong Friendship*, is a highly personal and moving true story of memory and friendship when one of four best friends is diagnosed with a fatal disease.

■ Mike Leonard, from the Today Show, with his new book *The Ride of Our Lives: Roadside Lessons of an American Family*, a touching and hilarious account of a

month-long road trip with his parents and children.

■ Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo, whose numerous fictional works include *Mohawk*, *The Risk Pool*, *Nobody's Fool*, *Straight Man* and *Empire Falls*. He also wrote the screenplay for the award-winning HBO production of *Empire Falls*.

■ University of Michigan graduate and *Wall Street Journal* columnist Sam Walker, whose new book *Fantasyland* tells the story of his experiences during a year in the fantasy baseball league trying to build the perfect team.

■ Cathleen Falsani, a columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*, will be interviewing folk/rock guitarist and singer/songwriter Bruce Cockburn. Cockburn has recorded over 25 albums and written songs, ranging from folk music to jazz-influenced rock to rock-and-roll, which often reflected his religious beliefs. Falsani's recent book, *The God Factor: Inside the Spiritual Lives of Public People*, features interviews with a variety of noted personalities dissecting issues of faith, ethics and personal spirituality.

All this, and much more, is on tap as part of the Third Annual Ann Arbor Book Festival May 10 to 14. Visit the Web site often for the latest information. www.aabookfestival.org.

The most visible event is the Street Festival 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 13, centered on North University Street between State and Fletcher streets. Numerous authors will be on hand to autograph their books. Displays, readings, panel discussions, presentations and other such activities are planned for the various pavilions, stages and indoor venues. The main pavilions are Children's, International, Lifestyles, Poetry, Comics, Library, School, and Body/Mind/Spirit. Several agent-author presentations related to book publishing and marketing your book are slated.

A couple of events have been scheduled leading up to the festival. Mike Lupica, sports columnist at the *New York Daily News* and an ESPN commentator, will appear 7 p.m. Monday, May 8, at Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Road. Lupica will be reading from his new young adult novel *Heat*, a coming-of-age novel about baseball.

May Bsisu, author of *The Arab Table*, will appear 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, at the newly opened LaShish Restaurant, 2370 Carpenter. Bsisu will take diners along a warmly personal path through the exciting culinary territory of Lebanon, Sudan, Arabia, Egypt and Syria. Reservations are required. Sign up online at www.aabookfestival.org or call (734) 369-3366.

The University Of Michigan Library Conservation and Preservation Lab, in Room 3202 Buhr Building, at 837



Green St., will host tours 3:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, May 12. Attendees will see paper washing, bookbinding, and other procedures that conserve or repair valuable books. Shannon Zachary, also known as "Dr. Book," will be on hand to talk with attendees who have items they wish to conserve. There is a \$5 charge at the door.

The general public is welcome to attend the free Opening Author Reception 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, May 12, at the downtown Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Light refreshments will be served. The 2006 Michigan Notable Books will be featured.

The Literacy Symposium 4:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, features the Cygnus Storytellers, discussing how the storytelling process applies to teaching narratives to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. This special presentation for parents, teachers, media specialists and other professionals requires on-line pre-registration at www.aabookfestival.org, or call (734) 369-3366. The fee is \$25. Staff development credit is available for teachers of the Ann Arbor Public Schools district.

Back by popular demand this year is the Bookstore Crawl, May 1 through 13. To participate, pick up a Bookstore Crawl Passport at a participating bookstore or library in and around Ann Arbor. Visit the stores and libraries listed on the passport and receive a stamp at each location. After you visit half of the shops, turn your passport in for a small prize. Or visit all the shops on your passport to be entered in a grand prize drawing. Passports may be turned in at the Information booths at the Saturday street festival, or through Friday, May 12 at Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Road, or Shaman Drum Bookshop, 313-315 S. State St.

The Ann Arbor Book Festival was created in 2003 to promote reading, writing, and literacy. The Book Festival is presented in association with the Ann Arbor District Library, The Ann Arbor News, Borders Books and Music, Edwards Brothers, The Exclamation Point, KatMaldal Design, Michigan Humanities Council, Michigan Radio, Shaman Drum Bookshop, The State Street Area Association, Thomson-Shore Printers, and WEMU 89.1-FM.

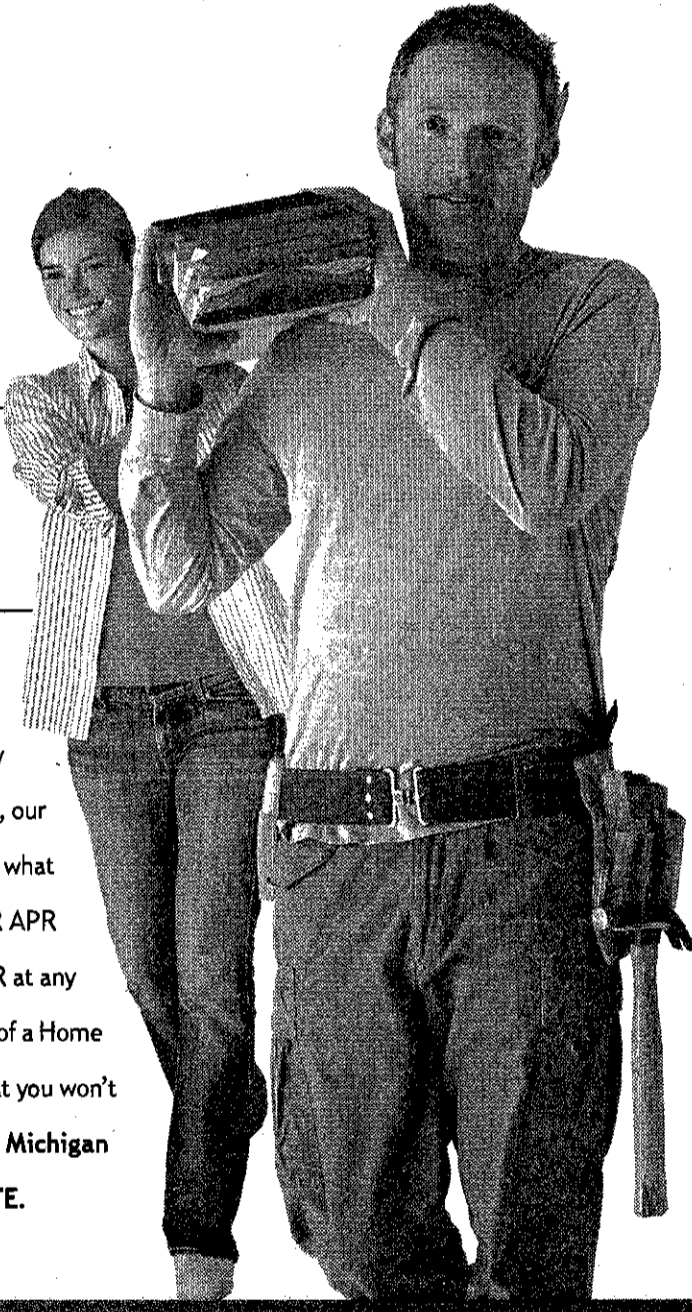


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An open letter to DFCU Financial

MEMBERS

We are extremely disappointed to learn that a small group of members has submitted a petition to recall our Board of Directors, which is a reckless and irresponsible act that is **putting our credit union and our jobs at risk.**

We, the employees of DFCU Financial, believe in and fully support our Board of Directors and management – and we say this of our own free will.

As employees who work hard each day to earn your trust and meet your financial needs, we hope you will take a moment to read how we feel about this risky and dangerous proposition. Below is just a sampling of what some of us have to say:

If our Board is recalled, our future and that of our members WILL be jeopardized. I encourage all employees and members to think long and hard before taking this drastic step. Do you want revenge, or do you want to maintain the success we are experiencing today? Save our Board!

Kelly Kidwell – 16 years

Life at DFCU Financial is better under the management we have now, which means employees are happier and the service we provide to the membership is greater. I can only hope that members will conclude that recalling the Board of Directors will have a profoundly negative impact on devoted, caring and happy employees like me. VOTE NO!

Steven Schulman – 14 years

We don't want our Board or our CEO to be removed from their obligations. We want to continue to grow, as we have been in the last six years, so we can offer more job opportunities and branches to serve our members in the ways in which we have grown accustomed.

Lynn Wall – 11 years

We're not just afraid of losing our jobs, but of destroying a great business that WE have been such a part of. We as members and employees are counting on the rest of our membership to do the right thing and take a moment to VOTE NO: NO CHANGE – NO RECALL.

Cheryl Stephenson – 22 years

In my years of service, I have always been proud of DFCU Financial for their commitment to our members. That will never change because as an organization, it is what we are all about. The current leadership made this organization what it is today: a strong viable financial institution that continues to grow and prosper. I do not feel that changing the current Board is good for DFCU Financial. Nothing will be gained, and much could be lost.

Teri Golles – 12 years

The current strength of the credit union is based on the people who are here and the decisions made in the last five years. To see the job accomplished by our CEO and our team, all you have to do is look at where we are today. This kind of success doesn't happen by accident. To remove those responsible for this success is reckless and the results will be catastrophic.

Cheryl M. Nelson – 3 years

I am proud to be a part of such an outstanding company. I was here when our CEO started, and I can honestly say that since he has arrived, our company has taken a turn for the better and it continues. You can see it in the branches; you can hear it in the members' voices. The growth we've achieved is incredible and an accomplishment to be proud of as an individual and an organization.

Rachael Shepherd – 8 years

We aren't only employees of the credit union; we are members as well. We care deeply about the future of our jobs and our credit union.

When the time comes to vote to recall our Board of Directors, we implore you to vote NO. By doing so, you guarantee that the credit union you have come to depend on will continue to be here – and we'll still be here – to serve you and protect your money.

Most sincerely,

DFCU Financial Employees

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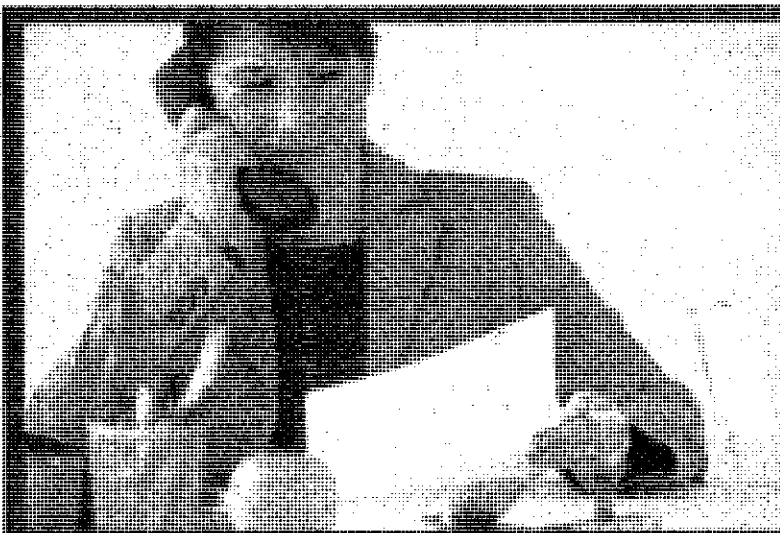
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For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.
To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

Shopping around: Cars, cash, jewels featured in Wayne County

NEED FOR SPEED

Detroit Speed Shops opened a new, state-of-the-art outlet in Livonia this week.

Located at 36534 Plymouth Road, the store carries a fully-stocked retail and wholesale parts showroom - featuring high performance accessories from manufacturers like Edelbrock, Holley and Mr. Gasket.

The outlet boasts a newly remodeled 9,800 square foot retail showroom and warehouse. The Livonia store also features a Customer Performance corner which allows visitors to experience the latest Play Station racing games, DVD's and more.

To celebrate the grand opening of the new Livonia store, owners will host a party and car show - with more than 200 vehicles on display - in conjunction with United Street Machines. The event is set for Saturday, May and will include refreshments. It is open to all. Additional Detroit Speed Shops locations include stores in Dearborn Heights and Roseville.

GOING GREEN

After nine years of experience in the field of finance, Jason Hunter has opened a branch office of Waddell & Reed Financial Services in Plymouth.

Hunter's mission in this venture is "to help my clients identify and prioritize the financial goals that are unique to their situation and recommend solutions designed to help achieve them."

New Grow Zones being developed in Hines Park

In collaboration with the Wayne County Department of Environment, Wayne County Parks will develop four additional grow zones this year at selected locations throughout Hines Park.

All projects are being funded in part by a grant from the Clean Michigan Initiative - Rouge Watershed Nutrient Reduction Program.

The first of the four new grow zones began work on April 29 at Nolar Bend Park, in Dearborn Heights at Inkster Road and Hines Drive.

Volunteers met at the site at 9 a.m. to help construct the new grow zone with Wayne County personnel from Parks and the Department of Environment.

Grow Zones filter out excessive nutrients that come from fertilizers, goose droppings, and road debris. Grow Zones increase natural floodwater storage capacity by creating additional places for water to infiltrate into the ground.

Over 40 different species native to southeast Michigan will be planted including Eastern Red Cedar, Redbud, Big Bluestem Grass and Wild Geranium. They will be maintained and cared for by volunteers and the Wayne County Parks maintenance staff. Signs will be placed at each site to designate them as "Grow Zone" sites. These projects are part of the watershed wide effort announced by the Rouge River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Council, earlier this year, to promote 2006 as The Year of the Grow Zone.

The next scheduled Grow Zone planting project will take place on May 6 at the Bennett Arboretum site in Northville Township in Hines Park. Volunteers will plant a variety of native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. Remaining Grow Zones include Ford Road and Outer Drive in Dearborn Heights for May 24 and Nankin Mills in Westland to be planted at a date to be determined this fall. For volunteer and/or general information, contact Noel Mullett, Wayne County Department of Environment-Watershed Management Division at nmullett@co.wayne.mi.us or (734) 326-3936. Or contact David Robbins, Wayne County Parks, drobbins@co.wayne.mi.us or by phone at (734) 291-1990.

WHAT'S IN STORE

As a senior financial adviser, he specializes in education funding, financial and retirement planning, insurance strategies and investment.

Hunter, now a married father of three, earned his bachelor's degree in finance from Michigan State University in 1997. He has spent his entire professional career with Waddell & Reed.

Founded in 1937, the company has grown to include more than 200 offices nationwide.

The newest addition to Waddell & Reed is at 580 Forest Ave., Suite 7B in Plymouth.

For more information, contact Jason Hunter by phone at (734) 254-9999, by e-mail at jhunter@wradvisors.com, or visit www.jhunter.wradvisors.com.

Murray's Jewelry, located in Redford Township, announced last week it will soon be closing its doors for good. Owner Barry Murray has decided to retire.

JEWEL OF REDFORD

For 36 years the store, located within a Murray's Auto Parts store, has fostered a reputation as the go-to place for jewelry. Shoppers seeking out close-out deals and sale prices on watches, rings, gemstones and more can stop in, while the merchandise lasts.

Once it's gone, Murray's Discount Auto Parts will expand its operation throughout the building. Murray's Jewelry is at 27207 Plymouth Road in Redford. A second location, at 23400 Allen Road in Woodhaven, will also close.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. E-mail tips on your favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@hometownlife.com or call (734) 953-2054.

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Dithering on high gas prices won't make drop of difference

Gasping on high gas prices here? Try California's. I can speak from personal experience; my wife, Kathy, and I just returned from a quick trip to California where we attended a wedding. The lowest price we saw driving back from Monterey to San Francisco was \$3.27 a gallon, and in a couple of out-of-the-way places it was \$3.45.

Well, it's nice to find some reason to be grateful we live in Michigan. But gas isn't cheap anywhere and, not surprisingly, the high gas prices in recent weeks have unleashed a blizzard of inane quick-fix ideas from a raft of politicians who should know better.



Phil Power

Gov. Jennifer Granholm supports the idea of capping oil industry profits as a way to reducing gas prices. It's not clear to me exactly what the economic reasoning is behind this idea (also advocated by U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow), but I can understand the reflex instinct to do something when Exxon-Mobil announces an \$8.4 billion quarterly profit, fifth largest of any public company in history.

Not to be outdone, GOP gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos wants the state to stop collecting the sales tax on gas whenever the price goes above \$1.95 a gallon. Now DeVos is a businessman who ought to know something about supply and demand. Since the underlying reason for high gas prices is that the worldwide supply is insufficient to meet rising demand, DeVos needs to explain just how artificially capping the price reduces demand.

Not only that, but his suggestion would cost the state nearly \$300 million in tax revenue. How would he make that up? Stop funding Michigan State University?

There were even more silly suggestions coming out of Washington. The Bush administration offered a "gas tax holiday," in which consumers would get a rebate check for \$100. Democrats, predictably, want to repeal some tax breaks big oil got last year and add a windfall profits tax on the oil companies.

Naturally, both parties completely failed to explain how their schemes would reduce gas prices ... mainly because they wouldn't. Sigh.

Also last week, the president asked Congress to give it authority to raise fuel economy standards for cars for the first time in 20 years. In the past, the auto companies have blasted the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards as arbitrary and counterproductive.

But it will be a topic of conversation when the CEOs of Ford, General Motors and DaimlerChrysler meet the president May 18.

Don't expect any of them to have had a revelation. Chrysler President and CEO Tom LaSorda says gas prices will have to hover around \$4 a gallon for at least a year for consumers to change their established buying patterns.

If we are serious about doing something about oil prices, first of all, the auto industry ought to endorse – and the U.S. Congress should pass – an ethanol bill that's been kicking around for years.

I have three modest reactions to all the dithering.

If we are serious about doing something about oil prices, first of all, the auto industry ought to endorse – and the U.S. Congress should pass – an ethanol bill that's been kicking around for years.

That bill would require all new cars to be engineered to run on a mixture of ethanol and gas. Brazil has been doing just fine on ethanol for a few years now, and America ought to follow suit.

Second, although everybody recognizes that America is addicted to oil, nobody's been willing to do anything about it. Around four years ago, I joined with some pretty good economists in designing a federal laboratory – to be located in Michigan – to develop alternative energy supplies.

We thought it might be named to honor Congressman John Dingell's half-century in the House of Representatives, and we solicited support from the auto industry. Needless to say, it was like jogging through molasses, and the idea died stillborn.

The baby should be revived. Michigan is the home of more smart auto engineers than any place in the world. What both our state and nation need is a long-term, Marshall Plan-style program aimed at radically reducing our dependency on oil, imported or domestic.

It would cost a lot of money over a long period of time, but imposing a \$1 per gallon "Freedom Fuel" tax would finance it.

Would the politicians go along? Don't hold your breath. One thing you can depend on is that politicians in a democracy like ours will avoid doing anything far-sighted until the crisis is hard upon us.

So we'll muddle along, awash in inanities from both the right and the left, while gas prices remain high and probably will go higher.

And if – make that when – gas hits \$4 and stays there, the people will start modifying their driving and car buying habits and we'll start doing what we should have been doing years ago.

That will be the right medicine – but it will be far more painful and cost far more than it would if we begin now. Or, as you might say, a gallon's worth of prevention is better than a barrel's cost of cure.

So think about it.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economic and education issues in Michigan. He can be reached at ppower@hcnet.com.

The 'driving privilege' can become a tragic nightmare

Last year, a neighbor was killed in a moment of distracted attention. As she did on most Saturdays, she went out riding with the local bicycle club. Rather than return with the group, she and a friend decided to ride on to the next town, along a usually sparsely traveled road.

She was killed when a teenager took his eyes from the road to reach for something and swerved into my neighbor, who had stopped on the side of the road. In that brief flickering second, one life was gone and another was grimly changed forever.



Hugh Gallagher

Over spring break, a Westland teenager was charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving a death. Authorities in Florida say Jeremy Peer, 18, a Livonia Franklin High School senior, drove off a road and killed a 33-year-old woman as she walked with her husband on a road in Panama City Beach.

The details are still being sorted out and Peer is out on bond and back attending school.

But it is safe to say that the life of this young man will never be the same. A joyful senior trip to Florida ended in a tragic accident and a charge of making a seriously bad decision.

He is a star athlete and an excellent student with a 4.3 grade-point average and a scholarship to Adrian College. His football coach Chris Kelbert describes Peer as a model student and "outstanding leader."

But for now, his future is on hold. He faces an arraignment in Florida in May, after which a pretrial hearing will be set.

We've all had those moments. We grope to answer our cell phones or try to pop in a CD or a tape. We turn our heads to watch something along the road or we turn to tell the children to keep quiet.

We've all had a fender-bender or two or swerved just in time to avoid hitting something and breathed a sigh of relief or a silent prayer that something more serious didn't result from our inattention.

These accidents are more likely to occur to young drivers. But others are more likely to be killed in those accidents when young people are behind the wheel.

AAA Michigan reports that a new study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety finds that nationwide, young novice drivers "comprise slightly more than one-third of all fatalities in crashes in which they are involved; whereas nearly two-thirds of those killed are passengers in the novice driver's vehicle, occupants of other vehicles and pedestrians."

In Michigan, AAA reports, 1,168 people died in crashes involving a novice 15- to 17-

year-old driver from 1995 to 2004. Studies find that teenagers have higher crash rates than older drivers and that the teenage drivers are more likely to be at fault in their crashes.

year-old driver from 1995 to 2004. Studies find that teenagers have higher crash rates than older drivers and that the teenage drivers are more likely to be at fault in their crashes.

AAA is providing free copies of a new DVD produced by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, *Young Drivers: The High-Risk Years*. The DVD explains why crash rates for teen drivers are high and provides guidelines for parents. Free copies are available at AAA's 43 full-service branch offices in Michigan. A list of the offices is available online at www.aaa.com.

In addition to the DVD, AAA is also providing a parent-teen contract to help parents set limits on their teen's driving and a parent-to-parent contract "to help start a dialogue with other parents on restricting teen passengers and driving during nighttime high-risk periods."

AAA is pushing to have Michigan's graduated licensing law changed to limit the number of teenage passengers riding with novice drivers.

"Regardless of what the state law says, parents should carefully consider if and when to allow their teen to transport other teens or ride with other novice teen drivers," said Richard J. Miller, manager of community safety services for AAA. "Even if it means playing 'chauffeur' for one more year."

According to police, the driver in Florida was alone, but the accident occurred at 10 p.m. in an unfamiliar place, two high-risk situations, especially for a young, inexperienced driver.

Young people need to learn how to drive. In our world, the automobile is a necessity. But most parents dread the day their child begins the "privilege" of driver's training and the day he/she takes that first solo drive or, worse, that drive with friends. We wait nervously, hoping and praying that they'll be responsible and that everyone around them will be responsible.

Because we know what can happen. In a brief moment, the world can change forever.

Hugh Gallagher is managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by email at hgal-lagher@oe.homecomm.net or by phone at (734) 953-2149.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Student volunteers Millie Li of Canton, Jason Baker of Westland, and Plymouth YMCA staffer Jenny Roszel pack goodie bags for the marchers.

Walkers flood Hines Drive to aid March of Dimes

BY DOUG JOHNSON
CORRESPONDENT

Beth and John Russell of Canton were among the 2,500 walkers who gathered Saturday at Nankin Mills recreation area in Hines Park for the March of Dimes fundraiser, WalkAmerica.

On John's shoulders was Maggie, 2½ years old and one of the miracles of neonatal care at the University of Michigan and research funded by MOD.

The Russells are MOD ambassadors, willing spokespersons for the March of Dimes which funds research and programs for babies born

too soon and/or too small.

"We walk in memory of our twins (Joshua and Julia) who were stillborn at 21 weeks, and in honor of Maggie," Beth Russell said.

Another Canton resident, UAW president Ron Gettelfinger, spoke to the crowd and led the walkers who were blessed with near perfect weather.

"I really like the March of Dimes," Gettelfinger said after finishing the walk. "This is a great opportunity for us to give back to the community. Anything to help premature babies. It's great to take part in this."

Gettelfinger also marched Sunday in the WalkAmerica event in Detroit at Hart Plaza. There were also walks at Metro Beach and in Troy Sunday.

The Westland WalkAmerica event stepped off promptly at 9 a.m. and many of the walkers made it for the full six miles - about three miles from Ann Arbor Trail and Hines to just past Newburgh Road (Sumac Pointe) in Livonia and back.

Another walker, Jen Alessi from Farmington Hills, was there with her two daughters, Kailey, 7, and Nicole 3, and husband Larry.

"I have walked the six miles the last two years myself. Both of our children were helped by the March of Dimes," she said.

Lisa King of Westland, who was with the Ford Customer Service Division team, had a special reason to walk.

"I was actually a premie baby when I was born," said King, who weighed about three pounds at birth. She has a girlfriend in Ohio who participates in WalkAmerica every year.

"It was a beautiful day," King said Saturday at her first WalkAmerica. "It turned out to be a pretty awesome day."

The local walk was headed by MOD event coordinator Lesley Nadeau. She said about 100 volunteers and corporate sponsors like Ford, Pepsi, and Flagstar Bank and organizations like UAW made a smooth event possible.

"There are lots of families today and everyone is enjoying the great weather and walking for a great cause."

Among the people helping with the opening ceremony were two Grant Elementary fourth-graders, Livonia residents Ryan Deloge and Emily Crombez, who sang the national anthem a capella.

Walkers pay a fee and get pledges to raise money for the charity. It is possible to come to the event and just walk to show support.

An arc of baby pink and baby blue balloons greeted the crowd at the staging area. Lots of walkers were pushing babies in strollers or pulling them in toy wagons. Most were done with the walk by 11 a.m.



John and Beth Russell, with daughter Maggie, march. The Russells, a March of Dimes Ambassador family, live in Canton.

Cheryl Southern of Royal Oak, a FedEx staffer in Novi, was there with daughter Melissa, also a Royal Oak resident and nursing assistant at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. The younger Southern has worked with newborns.

"It was great," Cheryl Southern said of WalkAmerica in Hines Park. "We had a lot of fun." Some of her colleagues dressed as paparazzi for the day and others as celebrities.

She helped at a checkpoint, passing out water, snacks and Mardi Gras beads. "That always puts a smile on the kids' faces," said Southern, whose employer is among event sponsors.

"You feel good that you can help them," she said, adding that this year, her third for WalkAmerica, had the best weather.

"And the turnout was really good," Southern said. "We had good volunteers from the company. We always have fun."

Founded in 1938 under the leadership of Franklin Delano Roosevelt to fight polio, the March of Dimes today works to prevent birth defects and premature births. About 500,000 babies are born too soon each year in the U.S., about one out of eight.

The southeastern Michigan March of Dimes headquarters is at 27600 Northwestern Highway in Southfield.

Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this story.

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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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