







# A berry good place to start

Do you have some unidentified berries growing in your backyard? Have you gone for a walk in the woods and seen some wild berries growing along the path? Have you ever wondered if you could eat them?

Summertime brings an array of wild plants that can often be mysterious and confusing to people who like to know what is growing around them. Luckily there's help.

The "Great Lakes Berry Book: a Complete Guide to Finding, Harvesting and Preparing Wild Berries and Fruits in the Great Lakes Region" by Bob Krumm can help you identify the types of berries growing in your area. If you determine they are edible, the book also contains 115 recipes.

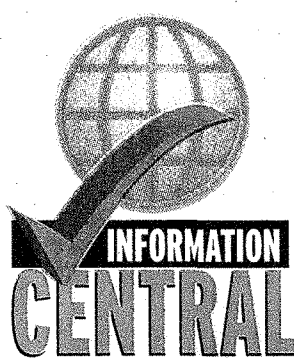
If you don't want to take any chances and would rather plant your own berries, the book, "Backyard Fruits and Berries: Everything You Need to Know about Planting and Growing Fruits and Berries in Your Own Backyard" by Miranda Smith should prove useful. "The Berry Bible: With 175 Recipes Using Cultivated and Wild, Fresh and Frozen Berries" by Janie Hibler will also provide you with lots of ideas to use up those berries.

For those of you who don't have green thumbs and don't really want to go into the woods to pick berries, you can just go to your local grocer and buy them. Then you can get a book like "Jams and Jellies" by Lou Pappas or "Pie: 300 Tried-and-True Recipes for Delicious Homemade Pie" by Ken Haedrich and have at it.

So remember these two things for a safe and delicious summer. First, if in doubt... don't eat it! Second, come to the William P. Faust Public Library for all your berry and cooking related needs.

The library's summer hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. And we're always open online at westlandlibrary.org

**Highlighted Activities**  
**D.I.Y. Getting Started - Researching Your Family's Heritage:** 7 p.m. Aug. 6.  
 With so much information avail-



able online and at the library, getting started on your family history has never been easier. This program will explore key resources, including census records and newspapers, online tools and databases to assist you in your research, and successful strategies for finding your elusive ancestors. Michigan/Genealogy Coordinator at the Library of Michigan, Kris Rzepczynski will be the presenter.

**D.I.Y. Auto Mechanics - Oil Change and Basic Electrical:** 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Performance Pavilion.

Mark Batko, experienced Automobile Technology instructor at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, will demonstrate general preventative maintenance and fluids for your automobile. Some will be able to work on their own vehicle under Mark's supervision. Sign up at the Reference Desk to reserve your place.

**Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the library:** Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

**Chess Night:** Every Thursday evening at 7 p.m.

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess masters are all welcome. No sign-up required.

There's still time to join the Adult Summer Reading Program, "DIY @ Your Library." Programs, prizes and reading now through Aug. 15.

**Information Central** was compiled by Reference and Young Adult librarian Bridget Sturdy. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.



Members of the Forum Fitness WAM 300 team include Steven Headland (top row from left), Steve Headland, Wendy Headland, the team's Wish Hero Sarah S. Keith Sarkozi, Steve Sarkozi, Heather Sarkozi, Teresa Hulack (bottom row, from left), Stacey Sullivan, Nicole Zeyen.

# Forum Fitness team rides in Make-A-Wish bicycle tour

A team of seven riders and two volunteers sponsored by the Forum Fitness Center were among 800 cyclists who rode 300 miles for the benefit of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Wish-A-Mile 300 Bicycle Tour, affectionately known as WAM, is in its 22nd year. It is the largest single Make-A-Wish fund-raising event in the United States, garnering \$1.52 million this year. The cyclists, 100 volunteers, six semi trucks, 5,000 bottles of Gatorade, 10 bicycle mechanics, 30 volunteer massage therapists, 15 volunteer medics all made the three-day, 300-mile journey from Traverse City to Chelsea July 24-26.

And it was all to grant 250 wishes to deserving Michigan wish kids.

The Forum team raised a total of \$7,300. For three days the team woke up at around 4:30 a.m. and hit the road by 6:00 a.m. They slept in gyms, lived out of duffle bags and showered in a semi-truck.

Their first stop in the 300-mile bike tour was Ferris State University after they put an amazing 100 miles under their belts. The team experienced some heavy rain early on but for the most part they were able to dodge the rain and rumbles.

After some much needed rest, the team headed out for day two ready to com-

plete their longest ride of 113 miles. During their stay in Dewitt, everyone enjoyed Saturday's award ceremony, the "Wammies." One of the ceremonies most moving moments was watching Wish Hero Amanda having her wish granted which marked the Michigan Chapter's 6,000th wish. Amanda's video of meeting Elmo earlier in the day was priceless.

The third and final day was a ride moved by pure adrenaline. With sore, legs tired backs and worn out knees the riders pushed through the last 87 miles and crossed the finish line, experiencing the Heroes Hurrah at the Chelsea fairgrounds.

During the Heroes Hurrah, families enjoyed a fun afternoon of face painting, cotton candy, games and music. Riders got to meet their Wish Hero and hear all about their wish. Afterwards they are rewarded with hugs, smiles, and a medal from their Wish Hero.

Team Forum Fitness Center relaxed later at a team barbecue and reminisced over the weekends events. Before their bodies even had time to recover they were planning fund-raising ideas for next year's ride. The team also has posted photos and comments about WAM on Myspace.com/forumfitness or at ForumFitnessCenter.com.

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# Still got it

## Older actors find a home with over-50 troupe

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Before Tom Strock got back into acting five years ago, the only on-stage action he'd seen was in high school productions of *Our Town* and *Time Out for Ginger*.

But considering Strock is 69 years old, the high school work came some time ago. Still, when he went looking for something to do a few years ago, he opted for the grease paint and stage lights.

Now Strock is a leading man, heading a contingent of senior actors in the new Still Got It Players' production of *Any Body for Tea*, which opens at Canton's Village Theater at Cherry Hill later this month.

Strock is among a dozen actors, all at least age 50, who comprise the Still Got It Players. "I've always admired actors," said Strock, who first joined the



Actors Lanna Collins of Garden City (from left), Linda Trygg of Westland, Joanna McKay of Canton and Robin Hoover of Willis rehearse "Funeral Tea."

Canton Senior Players in 2004. "It seemed like quite a challenge. I figured if I didn't get a part and it didn't work out, well, at least I tried."

It worked out fine for Strock

and the other actors in the group, the brainchild of 54-year-old director Debbie Lannen, who said she tired of watching play after play without any substantive roles for senior citizens.

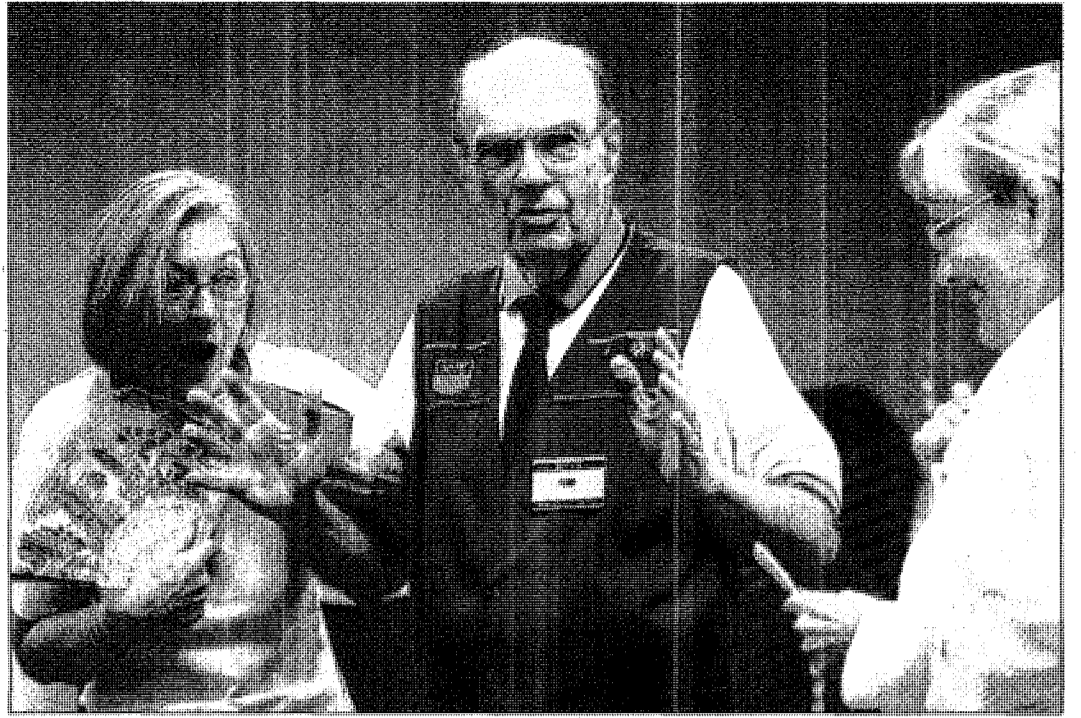
Lannen, a former dance studio owner who holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Wayne State University, said the Still Got It Players gives "something to do" to elder citizens who "aren't all ready to sit at home."

"A lot of times there aren't a lot of parts for the older actor," said Lannen, who directed the premiere of the musical *Father Bingo* at the Detroit Music Hall Center for Performing Arts. "This group is focused on finding roles for that age group."

There are a dozen actors filling 14 roles in the two initial plays. The group focuses first on its fledgling productions, both one-act plays (the other is *Funeral Tea*) designed, Lannen said, to make it easier for the older actors to memorize lines and stage directions.

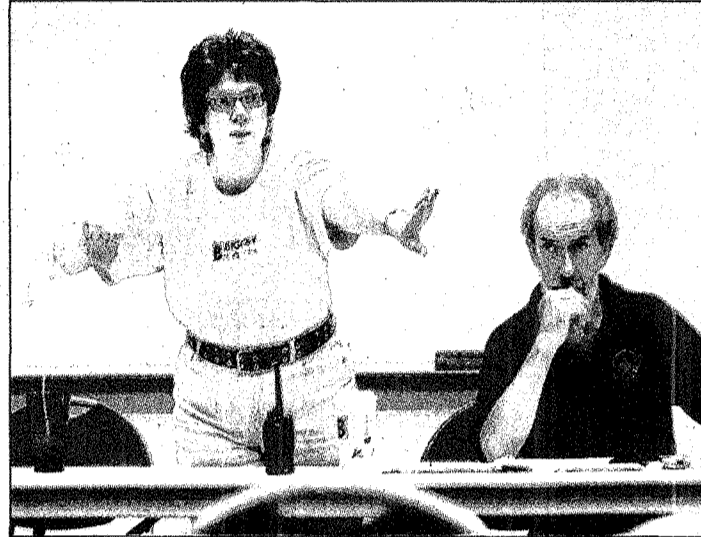
Linda Trygg of Westland said older actors can get a bit discouraged trying out for plays and seeing nothing but youngsters getting the roles.

"Half the time you go to rehearsals and you see a bunch of 20-year-olds," Trygg said. "You know you can't compete with that."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Still Got It Players actors Marion Busa of Canton, Tom Strock of Canton, and Lanna Collins of Garden City rehearse "Any Body For Tea?"



Director Debbie Lannen and set designer Michael Burden of Redford watch a rehearsal of "Any Body for Tea?"

That's because actors over 50 are in the fourth stage of what he says are five stages of an acting career, according to Michael Burden of Redford, the set designer for Still Got It's production.

"First is, 'Who's Michael?' followed by 'Get me Michael!'" Burden said, smiling. "The third stage is 'Get me a Michael type,' followed by 'Get me a YOUNG Michael' and then, 'Who's Michael?' again."

So far, the group is having fun with the production. The two plays — *Anybody for Tea?* by C.B. Gilford and *Funeral Tea* by Pat Wilson — put the focus on a couple of different groups of

ladies.

"In *Anybody for Tea?* is a wonderful group of elderly ladies dying to meet the handsome detective across the street, and the lengths they go to meet him are hilarious and quite unexpected," Lannen said. "*Funeral Tea* introduces us to a different group of eccentric ladies faced with the dilemma and privilege of finding the perfect resting place for a favorite uncle."

Robin Hoover, 50, of Willis, Mich., (between Belleville and Ann Arbor) joined the Spotlight Players for their production of *Pajama Game*, the first acting experience of her life. Being a part of the Still Got It Players

### TAKING THE STAGE

**What:** Still Got It Players productions of "Any Body for Tea" and "Funeral Tea"

**When:** Aug. 26-27, 1 p.m.; Aug. 28-29, 7 p.m.; Aug. 30, 2 p.m.

**Where:** Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton

**Who:** Still Got It Players features actors from Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Garden City, Westland and Northville

**Tickets:** \$15 for adults; \$13 for seniors/students under 19

**Info:** www.spotlightplayersmi.org or call (734) 734-480-4945

fulfills a lifelong wish.

"I always wanted to act, but I was the youngest of 11 children, so there was never time," Hoover said. "When I turned 50 I said, 'I'm doing it.' My kids thought I was crazy, but I didn't care!"

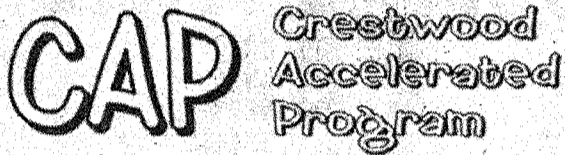
Lannen, the veteran director, is glad to see her dozen actors having fun.

"They seem to be enjoying it," she said. "They're volunteering to do things, bringing in props from home, things like that. They're excited when they get here."

She stops and smiles. "It's a new activity," she added. "It gives us something to do besides bingo."

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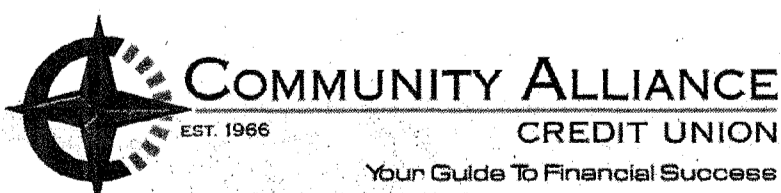
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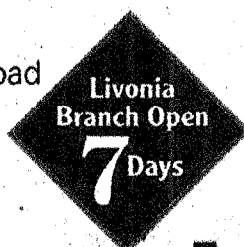
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SECTION B

# HOMETOWN LIFE

Jim Toth, editor, (313) 222-6785  
jtoth@hometownlife.com



## Livonians lead field at tourney

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jimmy Johnson proved Wednesday that getting around a golf course takes more than a driver.

The 17-year-old left-hander, who will be a senior this fall at Livonia Franklin High School, successfully defended his Boys 16-17 age group title with a 75, the top round on the day in the Motor City Junior Championship hosted by Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course.

Johnson captured his division by a four-stroke margin over Canton's Kyle Korte and Livonian Adam Yarber, both of whom carded 79s.

"I'd been hitting the driver good, but I was a little off today," said Johnson, who shot 37 on the front nine and 38 on the back side. "I played it safe. I hit a lot of irons off the tees. I didn't want to do anything stupid."

Despite a triple bogey, a double and a pair of bogeys, Johnson was able to recover with three birdies on the front nine including the par-5, 478-yard No. 1; and a pair of 390-yard par-4s, No. 6 and No. 9. He also birdied the par-4, 379-yard No. 14.

His 75 was four strokes better than his summer best of 80 shot recently at adjoining Fox Creek Golf Course. During the summer season, Johnson is employed and hones on his game at Livonia's other public course, Idyl Wyld.

"I've worked a lot on my putting," he said.

But during his spring season at Franklin, Johnson admitted "I was a little under average."

Please see GOLF, B3



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth YMCA coach Rory McCosky, of Livonia, works with young baseball players on the importance of crouching down to be in the "ready position." McCosky teaches fundamentals of the sport to kids between ages 3-7 in his back-to-back classes.

## 'Y' NOT BASEBALL?

Plymouth YMCA baseball program helps teach youngsters basics of sport

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Farrand Elementary School's dusty playground diamond is a long way from Comerica Park in more ways than one.

But that doesn't matter to the youngsters — such as those in the Avila family — who are learning all about baseball this summer thanks to a six-week Plymouth YMCA program.

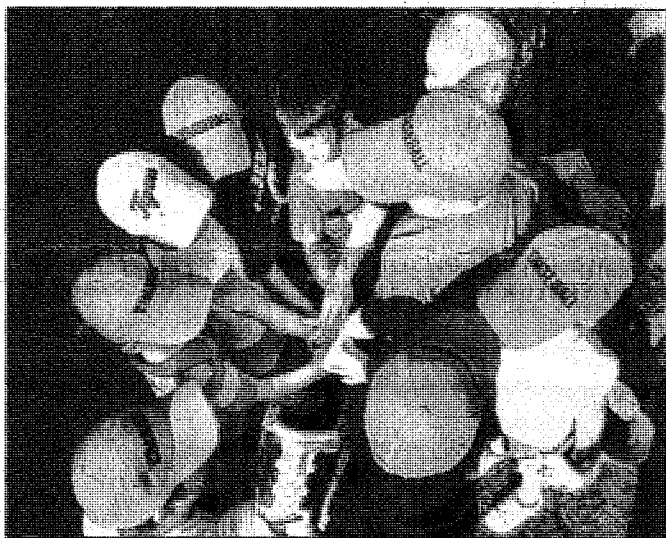
That program includes Monday T-ball sessions for kids ages 3-to-5 immediately followed by youth baseball classes for kids who are just 6 and 7 years old. There are practices and games the rest of the week on the fields behind the Plymouth school.

"I think a lot of parents enjoy the philosophy that the Y has," said Plymouth YMCA program director Jennifer Paffi. "We focus on athletes first, winning second."

"... I think a lot of people like the atmosphere of the Y, and definitely our focus on keeping it fun so that kids want to continue to play sports."

Paffi didn't have to look too far around the Farrand backstop to see examples of happy moms and dads watching their kids soak in the basics of an outdoor sport sometimes overlooked in this era of Guitar Hero and skateboarding.

Please see BASEBALL, B2



Youngsters enjoy building that good-old team spirit during the Plymouth YMCA T-Ball class at Farrand Elementary School.

## SIDELINES

### O&E golf tourney nears

Registration is continuing for the annual Women's Observer & Eccentric Open to be held Saturday, Aug. 8, at Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course. Entry fee is \$50 (does not include cart) for the event in which all entrants must have a current USGA index to participate.

Susan Mackinowicz, a special education teacher from Woodhaven and resident of Chesterfield Township, is the two-time defending champion in the event.

For more information, along with pairings and starting times, call (248) 476-4493 (after noon Wednesday, Aug. 5).

### MU adds Lucko

Madonna University men's golf coach Steve Mato announced last month that he has signed a pair of transfers out of Oakland Community College including Livonia Churchill grad Tommy Lucko along with James Uelmen of Royal Oak Dondero.

Lucko and Uelmen join Ronnie Pollack, Jr. (Southgate), Kevin Robinson (Churchill), Tyler Skiba (Ossineke) and Erik Taurence (Wyandotte) as 2009-10 MU recruits.

Lucko, a two-time MVP during his days at Churchill, is a two-time Michigan Community College Athletic Association medalist along with being named to the NJCAA Division II Ping All-Region, All-MCCA and All-Eastern Conference teams.

He posted the 20th lowest average in the NJCAA in 2009, carding a 72.9 average per round. He played in the NJCAA Division II Nationals and was also invited to participate in the prestigious

Please see SIDELINES, A3

## Lakers capture Metro title; Suburban Ice to take over reins

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

From beginning to end, the 2009 Metro Summer Hockey League at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills featured very competitive action from all seven teams. But the Lakers finished what they started, as the regular season winners also spanked the Wolverines, 9-3, in the playoff championship tilt July 26.

"They (the Lakers) were the first place team most of the year," said league president Keith Pietila, who is stepping down after 16 seasons at the helm. "And it's probably been a few years since the best regular season team won the playoffs, too."

Pietila, a Brighton resident, said he is relinquishing league

### METRO SUMMER HOCKEY

controls to Suburban (located near Halsted-10 Mile) and is confident the quality of the circuit will be maintained in 2010 and beyond.

"Suburban's going to run it," Pietila emphasized. "It's taking up too much time for me. But the league's going to be exactly the same as it's been through the years."

High-quality players from all over Wayne and Oakland counties lace them up for the summer league, including Wolverine Lake's A.J. Jenks, who plays for the Plymouth Whalers.

In the championship game, the Lakers broke out to a 4-0 lead after one period and built up a 6-

0 cushion, more than enough to withstand a second-period surge by the Wolverines.

For the victors, Livonia's John Mays had the hot hand. He scored three goals and set up another. Tallying two goals each were Novi's Ryan Timar (who also collected a helper) and Brighton's Thor Skalski. Other Lakers to score included James Dragescu (Dearborn Heights) and Brandon Contratto (West Bloomfield), who each drew assists as well.

Tallying a goal and an assist for the Wolverines was Farmington Hills' Adam Phillips.

In net for the championship victory was Josh Block, of Northville.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



The Metro Summer Hockey League champion Lakers celebrate July 26 at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills. In the front row, from left are: James Dragescu, John May (Livonia), Josh Block (Northville) and Alfonso Kolis (Howell). In the back row, from left are: Brandon Fritz (West Bloomfield), Drew Sennhenn (Wixom), Houston Staub (Ann Arbor), Paul Arnott (Holly), Thor Skalski (Brighton), Brandon Contratto (West Bloomfield), Andrew Kruczynski (Westland) and Ryan Timar (Novi).

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PAUL WORLEY

Livonia Franklin's Jimmy Johnson birdied the par-3, No. 14 hole en route to the Boys 16-17 age group title following a round of 75 during Wednesday's Motor City Junior Golf Championship held at Whispering Willows.

GOLF

FROM PAGE B1

"I want my senior year to be my breakout year," he added.

In the Boys 14-15 divisions, Livonia's Chris Theile shot an 81 to edge Alex Watson of Commerce Township by a stroke for the title.

One of the most impressive rounds on the day was turned in by Livonia's Brian Sexton, who carded 40-39-79 to seize the Boys 14-15 crown.

Sexton, who will be a freshman this fall at Churchill, was playing in only his first tournament of the summer.

"It was my putting and my drives," said Sexton, a hockey player who stands 5 feet, 3 inches and weighs only 105 pounds. "Today I was straight and long. My driving was on."

On the 165-yard, par-3 No. 17, Sexton won closest to the pin honors by placing his tee shot within 4 feet, 5 inches.

"I'm surprised I played that well because I did not play that well on the practice round (Monday), I shot an 87," he said. "I started out shaky. I had a double-bogey and bogey, then a bunch of pars and a birdie."

Meanwhile, the top round among the girls field was posted by Livonia's Jordyn Shepler, who will be a sophomore this

fall at Churchill.

She posted a 47-46-93 to win the 14-15 age division, four strokes better than West Bloomfield's Madeline Asta.

But Shepler was not completely pleased with her game.

"I putted horribly - both short and long putts - I had 40 putts," said Shepler, who has been a regular this summer on the Meijer Junior Tour. "I missed a one-footer, and that's just not right. It was hard adjusting to the greens. I just have to practice more. Putting is killing me."

Shepler, who took up golf after doing jazz, ballet and tap dancing, made up for her short-game deficiencies by booming drives an average of

265 yards.

"I use a TaylorMade men's shaft where you can adjust the head - and I love it," Shepler said. "One time I hit it 300 yards (on the Meijer tour) and drove the green - but then I three-putted."

Livonia Ladywood High's Val DeMilia, who resides in Salem Township, took the Girls 16-17 crown with a 98 to edge Westland's Sarah Linder, a 2009 Churchill graduate who is headed to Rochester College.

Livonia's Jaelyn Burdette, also headed to Churchill as a ninth-grader, took the Girls 13-and-under title.

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

GOLF RESULTS

2009 MOTOR CITY JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS July 29 at Whispering Willows BOYS 16-17: 1. Jimmy Johnson (Livonia), 75; 2. (tie) Kyle Korte (Canton) and Adam Yarber (Livonia), 79 each; 4. (tie) Cooper Christie and Drake Hermann, 80 each; 6. (tie) Trevor Birdwell and Dylan Orr, 81 each; 8. Thomas Firavich, 84; 9. Brandon Kozyn, 85; 10. (tie) Travis Hall and Josh Perrin, 86 each; 12. Aaron Nicholas, 90; 13. John Selinski, 91; 14. Cody Nalez, 93; 15. Jared Cusmano, 97; 16. Matt Wilson, 100; 17. Matthew DeFore, 106. Closest to the pin (No. 7): Cody Nalez (Livonia), 6 feet, 2 inches.

GIRLS 16-17: 1. Valerie DiMilia (Salem Township), 98; 2. Sarah Linder (Westland), 99; 3. Stephanie Panaretos, 104; 4. Erin Lixie, 105; 5. Carmella Hawkins, 107; 6. Georgia Patrick, 108. Closest to the pin (No. 7): Erin Lixie (Plymouth), 23-0. BOYS 14-15: 1. Chris Theile (Livonia), 81; 2. Alex Watson (Commerce Township), 82; 3. Cory Dare (Westland), 83; 4. (tie) Curtis Coscarelli, Dominic Dilisi, Andrew Newman, Nick Proben and Craig Whately, 86 each; 9. Ben Proben, 87; 10. David Nietzke, 88; 11. (tie) Eric Hill and Andrew Ioanno, 90 each; 13. Jim Patterson, 92; 14. (tie), Alec Lasley and Ryan

Linn, 93 each; 16. Brian Roulier, 94; 17. Ryan Zahn, 95; 18. Josh Maxam, 96; 19. (tie) Alec Clevenger, Avery Harris and Steven White, 98 each; 22. Vishaal Amin, 101; 23. Marco Yaquinto, 102; 24. Max Mills, 109; 25. Nick Nelson, 113; 26. Dominic Isopi, 120. Closest to the pin (No. 17): Cory Dare (Westland), 1-9. GIRLS 14-15: 1. Jordyn Shepler (Livonia), 93; 2. Madeline Asta (West Bloomfield), 97; 3. Christian Briden, 110; Kathleen Karczewski, 120; Katie Gubachy, 130; Nicolette Nasar (West Bloomfield), 12-7. BOYS 12-13: 1. Brian Sexton (Livonia),

79; 2. Chad Macorkindale (Livonia), 83; 3. Austin Harris (Livonia), 88; 4. Matthew Goldi, 91; 5. Ryan Riva, 105; 6. Ryan Gilwa, 110; 7. Matthew Rist, 111; 8. Jason Wysocki, 112; 9. Jack Pierson, 114; 10. Jack Jurszyszyn, 115; 11. Tye Verleye, 122. Closest to the pin (No. 17): Brian Sexton (Livonia), 4-5. GIRLS 13-AND-UNDER: 1. Jaelyn Burdette, 116; 2. Olivia Asta, 122. Closest to the pin (No. 7): Olivia Asta (West Bloomfield), 40-9. CLOSEST TO CENTER OF FAIRWAY BOYS: Jack Pierson (Livonia), 2 feet. GIRLS: Erin Lixie (Plymouth), 2 feet.

SIDELINES

FROM PAGE B1

Horton Smith Invitational. Uelmen, a native of Ferndale, was named Player of the Year at Dondero in 2006. He also made All-MCCAA, All-Eastern Conference and earned NJCAA Ping All-Region squad honors.

Burns honored

Trinity College (Conn.) men's ice hockey senior William Burns (Livonia) graced the 2009 ESPN The Magazine At-Large Academic All-District first-team and the 2009 New England Small College

Athletic Conference (NESCAC) All-Academic Team for the second straight year.

Each student-athlete voted to the ESPN The Magazine All-District squad must maintain at least a 3.20 g.p.a. and each NESCAC All-Academic honoree must be varsity letterwinner and maintain at least a 3.35 grade-point average.

Burns, a defenseman from Catholic Central, played in all 29 games and anchored a defense that limited opponents to 2.47 goals per game enroute to a 16-9 record. During his career, Burns notched three goals and seven assists in 78 games.

SOCCER SIGNUP

Applications for youths ages 5-18 looking to participate with the Farmington Soccer Club in the Western Suburban Soccer League are being accepted through Friday, Aug. 7. The team is affiliated with Michigan State Youth Soccer as well as United States Youth Soccer Association and US Soccer. Cost is \$95 which includes full uniform and socks.

Registration forms are available at both Farmington libraries and online at www.myfarmingtonsoccer.com.

For more information, call (248) 471-2019.

Advertisement for newsboys concert series featuring Belle Tire and DTE Energy Music Theatre. Includes photos of the band and promotional text.

Large advertisement for Belle Tire Concert Series at Meadow Brook Music Festival. Features a detailed concert schedule for August and September, including acts like AC/DC, Randy Travis, George Thorogood, and The Moody Blues.

Advertisement for Family Fun Contest. Promotes a contest where families can win a \$60 gift certificate from Beans & Cornbread Souful Bistro by submitting photos of family fun activities.





# NEIGHBORS

## Adult readers' picks run the gamut in summertime

BY JULIE BROWN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

From "beach books" to weightier tomes, area adults like their summertime reading.

Rebecca Havenstein-Coughlin, department head for adult services at the Canton Public Library, reports Janet Evanovich's *Finger Lickin' Fifteen*, a mystery, is popular this summer.

"I know people get hooked on her. She's very funny," said Havenstein-Coughlin, who is hooked on Evanovich's Stephanie Plum private investigator series.

"James Patterson's *Swimsuit* is getting a lot of press," she said of that fiction title involving a murderer. "There's a lot of interest in that."

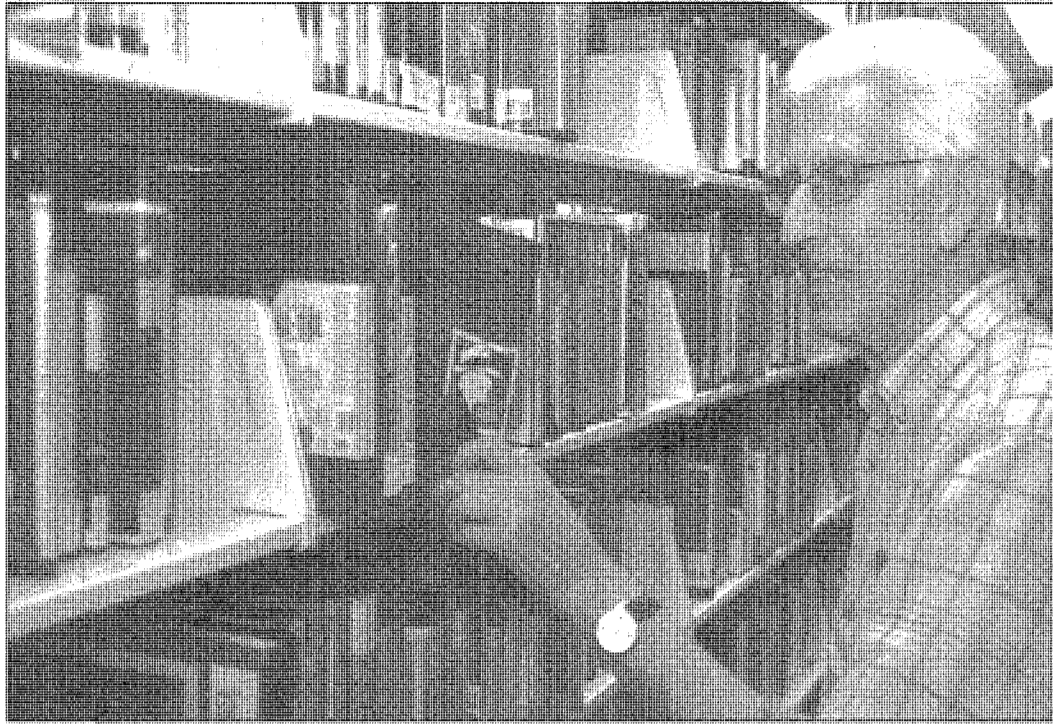
She agreed summer's a good time for fun reading, with more than 1,000 adults in Canton's summer reading program. "I think a lot of people are taking staycations," Havenstein-Coughlin said. "Sometimes people look at summer as a time to do a little more light-hearted reading."

On a more serious note, Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers* is circulating well at Canton. That nonfiction work focuses on what makes a high achiever different.

For fun, Canton readers often pick comedian Chelsea Handler's *Are You There, Volodka? It's Me, Chelsea*.

Local readers tend to follow national trends in picking best sellers, she said, "and probably pick up some paperback best sellers as well."

An author who's an Oak Park native, Michael



Bob Cormendy of Westland picks a book at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. Reading's a popular pastime with many adults in the summer.

Zaedorian, wrote *The Leisure Seeker*, also popular and with a lot of Michigan references. "It's a delightful little work of fiction," said Havenstein-Coughlin, adding it's not a light-hearted read.

### REDFORD READS

Kim Potter, director of the Redford Township District Library, also recently read Evanovich's *Finger Lickin' Fifteen*. "Her books are just so funny," Potter said of the series. "I tend to go to the new book section."

She recently read *Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer. That's not a typical choice

for Potter, who likes mysteries, but it was a good story. Mostly told through letters, it takes place in 1946 and tells of life on Guernsey, a British island, during the German occupation.

Redford library staffers have talked about starting an adult summer reading program and hope to do so next year. Potter's colleague Brooke Somerville, a librarian, reports these popular titles at Redford:

For fiction at Redford, it's *Finger Lickin' Fifteen* by Janet Evanovich, as well as *Living Dead in Dallas* by Charlaine Harris (book 2 in the Southern Vampire mys-

tery series, featuring telepath Sookie Stackhouse. This is the book currently being featured in season 2 episodes of the HBO program *True Blood*.)

*My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult is regaining popularity because of the current movie version, starring Cameron Diaz and Abigail Breslin. In that story, the Fitzgeralds conceive daughter Anna to be a donor match for their oldest daughter, Kate, who has leukemia. Anna loves her sister but the medical procedures she endures to help Kate have caused her to hire a lawyer to gain medical emancipation and control over her own body. Redford nonfiction top

### LIVONIA LIT

Livonia's adult summer reading programs have varied over the years, and are popular although less organized than the children's programs, said City Librarian Kathleen Monroe.

She chose to read Debbie Macomber's fiction, with *Summer on Blossom Street* the most recent.

"Usually, I tend to read more period historical things," Monroe said. Macomber's books are more contemporary and Monroe enjoys them.

There are several book clubs for adults at Livonia, and a key part of that library's mission is encouraging adult use and learning.

"I think it's a little bit of

everything," Monroe said of summer reading. "They revisit things they really like."

Some summer reading takes adults away from daily life, while other books focus on how-to help or coping with issues.

"There are a lot more people using the library right now," said Monroe, noting circulation's up 15 percent from last year at this time. She agreed staycations are popular, with fiction, DVDs and books on CDs circulating.

"We're here and we're still serving the public," Monroe said of the Civic Center Library and three smaller branches.

### PLYMOUTH PROSE

Plymouth District Library patrons have been drawn to the adult summer reading program this summer, which, like many libraries, features drawings for prizes. Susan Stoney, public relations specialist at Plymouth, noted there's both a quick form for adult readers to rate and review a book, as well as a challenge of reading a dozen books from different genres.

"We have had good response with it," said Stoney, adding more will come in as August progresses. "People have been chipping away at that list."

Stoney and colleague Sue Patterson, an adult reference librarian, report these popular picks among Plymouth adult readers: *Finger Lickin' Fifteen* by Janet Evanovich; *The Doomsday Key* by James Rollins; *Knockout* by Catherine Coulter; *Swimsuit* by James

Please see **BOOKS, A7**

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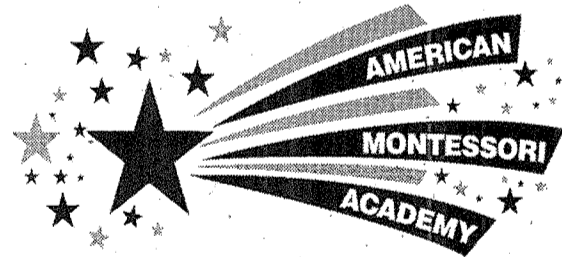
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# Graceful greyhounds, pocket pals ready for adoption

If you're intent on adopting a guinea pig, hamster, gerbil rat or rabbit, the Michigan Humane Society's Small Animal Adoption Day is where you'll want to be, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 8, at its Berman Center for Animal Care, 900 Newburgh, south of Ford Road, in Westland.

MHS adoption counselors and small animal experts will be on hand to create great matches between adopters and their new furry family members.

MHS encourages responsible adoption decisions based on research and commitment, rather than impulsive decisions.

Many small companion animals generally require less of a space, time and financial commitment than cats and dogs. However, the personality traits and care needs are different for each species:

- Hamsters and gerbils may be too small for young children, but can make nice pets for older kids.

- Guinea pigs are bigger and can make good pets for just about all ages. The more they are gently handled, the more social they can become.

- Domestic rats can make wonderful pets for children because they are clean, smart and tend to enjoy being handled.

- Rabbits are intelligent, fun-loving and affectionate and can make great family pets. They need more exercise and social time with their family than many other small companion animals.

Adoption fees range from \$3 for hamsters to \$15 for guinea pigs. Rabbits may be adopted for \$30, which includes the spaying or neutering of rabbits



Members of Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption pose with adoptable dog at the 2008 Woodward Dream Cruise.



**PET PROJECTS**

6 months and older.

To "meet" some of the adoptable small animals, visit [www.michiganhumane.org](http://www.michiganhumane.org) and click on "adopt." (866) MHUMANE.

## CRUISIN' GREYHOUNDS

If you prefer fast dogs to fast cars, drop by Weir Manuel Snyder Ranke Real Estate's parking lot during the annual Woodward Dream Cruise, Aug. 15.

Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption will be on hand from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with adoptable greyhounds. The firm is located at 298 South Old Woodward in Birmingham.

Visit Greyheart on the Web at [www.greyheart.org](http://www.greyheart.org)

## BARK AT THE MOON

Have fun with your dog and help the Friends of Canton's

Dog Park at its fund-raiser, 6:30-9 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14, in Heritage Park, located west of Canton Center road and south of Cherry Hill Road.

Heritage Park Ball field #2 will be fenced in to simulate an off-leash dog park. Donations will be accepted. For more information, call (734) 394-5310.

The Friends of Canton's Dog Park and Canton Leisure Services have teamed up to raise the \$50,000 needed to create the park. It will be located adjacent to the Bartlett-Travis House at 500 N. Ridge Road.

## MILESTONES



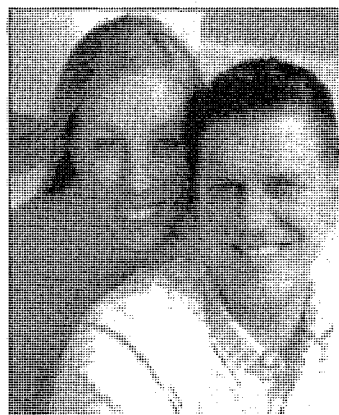
Weessies-Allan

Stephanie Lynne Weessies of Farmington Hills and Ahmad Mikel Allan of Dearborn announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Thomas and Karen Weessies of Farmington Hills, is a 2009 graduate of Wayne State University. She plans to attend graduate school in 2010.

Her fiancé, son of Emaddin and Valerie Allan of Dearborn, also graduated from Wayne State University in 2009 and plans to attend graduate school in 2010.

A July 2010 wedding is planned at Wellers' of Saline.



Gruska-Schowchow

Kimberly Anne Gruska and Andrew Schwochow announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Gary and Sally Gruska of Livonia, graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a master's degree in computer information systems.

Her fiancé, son of Jerry and Judy Schwochow of Willard, Ohio, graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in psychology.

An August 2009 wedding is planned in Plymouth.

Amanda Mae Ross and Thomas Edward Godward Jr. announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, of Farmington Hills, is the daughter of Spencer and Donna Ross of Westland. She graduated from John Glenn High School in 2001 and Kettering University in 2005. She is a project engineer for Nissan Technical Center North America.

The groom-elect, of Farmington Hills, is the son of Thomas and Janet Godward of Poland, Ohio. He graduated from Poland Seminary High School in 1998 and Kettering University in 2003. He is a senior engineer for



Ross-Godward

Badenoch LLC.

An October 2009 wedding is planned in Farmington Hills.

## BOOKS

FROM PAGE A6

Patterson; *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane: a novel* by Katherine Howe; *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult; *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett; *Dead and Gone* by Charlene Harris; *The Neighbor* by Lisa Gardner; *Wedding Girl* by Madeleine Wickham; *The Shack* by William P. Young; and *First Family* by David Baldacci.

The release of *The Time Traveler's Wife* film (the author is Audrey Niffenegger) this month will likely lift that book's circulation, Plymouth staffers report, just as the film version of *My Sister's Keeper* did.

### WESTLAND WORDS

Marilyn Kwik, department head for adult services at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, is enjoying Barbara Nadel's *The Ottoman Cage*, a mystery set in Turkey in modern times. She agreed James Patterson's *Swimsuit* is popular with readers this summer.

Patterson wrote popular books with co-authors, she said, including *Run for Your Life* with Michael Ledwidge and *The 8th Confession*, with Maxine Paetro, the latter a part of the Women's Murder Club Series.

For fiction, Westland readers like *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. "They're looking for easy readers, something that doesn't take up a lot of their time," said Kwik, noting adults have more time to read in summer. Another popular fiction pick at Westland is *The Shack* by William P. Young.

"It's about life-changing

events," Kwik said, noting it has a religious element.

Westland's summer reading program for adults is also popular, with a Do It Yourself @ Your Library theme. Patrons track what they've read and get tickets for weekly prize drawings.

Programs have ranged from fixing your PC to crafts and floral arranging. Adults have learned about researching family history this summer, as well as indoor painting from a Lowe's staffer and container gardening from Joe Barson of Barson's Greenhouse.

Programs run through Aug. 15, Kwik said, so there's still time to participate. The library Friends and businesses like My Lady's Florist have been a big help, and Kwik points with pride to a program under way at the nearby Friendship Center on memoir writing for seniors. There's also been a library program on stretching food dollars.

### GARDEN CITY

Garden City's library director, James Lenze, also reports a busy summer. "Fiction and mysteries are very popular," he said. "Our large print collection has been circulating well."

*Finger Lickin' Fifteen* is also much-requested at Garden City. That library's board offers a book club, and has read titles from recent years including Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees* and Barbara Kingsolver's *The Bean Trees*.

Lenze agreed adults look for fun stuff this time of year. "They tend to look for lighter reading in the summer," he

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### HAND SURGERY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

In the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, hand surgery is salvage surgery. For the most part, hand surgeons undertake operation to repair the damage done by arthritis will do the surgery only under the condition, that if the surgery fails, the patient is no worse than before the surgery.

The first reason for this conservative approach to hand surgery is that in the hand, bone stock is limited. The bones of the hand and wrist are thin and small compared to the bone structure of large joints such as the hip and knee. A second operation is possible in the large joints because the amount of bone is sufficient to permit the placing of another stem to hold the replacement joint in place. In small joints, the bone remaining after the first operation is not enough to anchor another replacement joint.

A second reason hand surgery enjoys limited success is because of the interaction of finger joints with the muscles that activate these joints. Years of arthritis cause these small muscles to lose muscle mass that even hand exercises cannot bring back. The effect is to make it unlikely that replacement joints, even if perfectly placed, will be able to grasp, flex or hold to the extent needed for practical functioning.

What hand surgery can do is relieve pain and improve the appearance of an awkward-looking hand.

[www.drjweiss.yourmd.com](http://www.drjweiss.yourmd.com)

# HEALTH & FITNESS

## Camp offers hands-on lessons in medicine

BY SHARON DARGAY  
OSE STAFF WRITER

Monica McCoskey of Farmington Hills deftly started an IV line last week. She operated and spent time in the emergency room.

She even immobilized a hand and wrist in a plaster cast. Granted, the IV needle pierced a rubber arm, the surgery was virtual, and the cast went on her own hand — which wasn't even fractured — but Monica said the medical lessons gave her a realistic look into health professions.

"I really want to be a pediatrician when I get older, or something in the medical field. I've been saying that I want to be a doctor since I was little and now I feel like I really want to be," said Monica, 12, who spent last week at Camp Scrubs, a Schoolcraft College summer day camp.

The career exploration camp is part of the college's annual summer Kids on Campus program that offers academic and "just for fun" courses in the arts, computers, science, math, chess, architecture, aerospace and manufacturing for two weeks in July.

"We used to do a class format and now we're doing camps," said Michelle Bialo, program manager. "The classes met for two hours, Monday through Thursday for two weeks. Now, instead, we're doing camps Monday-Friday for one week, but it's 9 a.m.-3 p.m. every day. It's a better opportunity to really learn the subject."

### BUSY WEEK

The 7-9th graders in Camp Scrubs needed every minute of the expanded daily schedule to digest all that instructor and nurse Dawn Buerkle taught them. Buerkle started teaching the course four years ago and devised a curriculum that gave campers "a little bit of exposure to multiple things."

"We try to touch on a variety of different medical careers they might come in contact with," said Buerkle, a former nursing student at Schoolcraft who works in oncology at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

She helped campers cast their own



Amani Echols, 12, of Farmington Hills (left) does a "high five" with Julia Meireles, 14, Plymouth while wearing their hand casts created at Camp Scrubs.



Camp Scrubs at Schoolcraft College in Livonia includes a lesson in applying a plaster cast.

wrists and hands Thursday, working outdoors with a bucket of water and yards of dry plaster wrap.

"We went to St. Mary's Hospital yesterday, Huron Valley ambulance came out. They started IVs and this afternoon they're going to do injections. We do lemons. It makes the classroom smell so nice," she said with a laugh, adding "One day this week we tested urine and they were all like 'Oh, that stinks!'"

The group viewed slices of the human brain during a pathology lesson at the hospital; practiced CPR, and tackled simulated knee and hip surgery, among other procedures.

"They got to do laparoscopic surgery. They used real instruments and got to watch the (monitor) screen and pulled out fake tumors. They've gotten quite a variety of activities."

### CAREER PLANS

Vikas Venugopal, 14, of Northville, assessed his cast and decided it needed a few more layers to keep the wrist immobilized.

"This is my first time here," he said. "I kind of want to be a doctor when I grow up, a pediatrician. So I thought a medical camp would be useful. It's a really cool field."

Alan Williams, 11, of Plymouth Township, previously took video game and Web design camps at Schoolcraft, but Camp Scrubs fit perfectly with his career aspirations.

"I want to be a pediatrician, so I need to learn how to do casts," he said.

Emil Meireles, 11, of Plymouth, said the trip to the hospital operating room "was cool because that's where the surgeons are" and that's his dream profession.

For Monica McCoskey, getting into the popular summer camp was almost as tough as matriculating at medical school.

"It seems a lot of people like it because I tried to get in for three years."

This year's Camp Scrubs cost \$199. Look for next year's Kids on Campus brochure in early summer or visit [www.schoolcraft.edu](http://www.schoolcraft.edu).



Lauren Easterbrook, applies plaster to Maggie Adzina, 13, Plymouth

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## Project seeks to curb hospital readmissions

Botsford and Providence Hospitals are among 15 health centers in Michigan that will participate in a three-state collaborative project aimed at reducing hospital readmissions.

The targeted "rehospitalizations," are unplanned and not scheduled, but are clinically

related to the initial admission. The pilot project, named State Action on Avoidable Rehospitalizations (STAAR), seeks to reduce 30-day rehospitalization rates (patients who are hospitalized again within 30 days of discharge) by 30 percent.

It will focus on improving

patient care transitions — moving a patient from hospital to home care or another care setting — through enhanced patient communication and timely follow-ups after hospital discharge.

"Michigan hospitals realize that the recovery process has only just begun when patients leave our facilities and return to their lives," said Spencer Johnson, president of Michigan Health & Hospital Association, (MHA). "How patients transition from hospital care to their home or long-term-care facilities is key to the effectiveness of their treatment. By identifying and working to reduce avoidable rehospitalizations, Michigan hospitals will benefit not only our patients and communities, but other states will be able to learn from this initiative."

The pilot project hospitals have pledged to commit significant staff time, resources and leadership. Each hospital will focus on enhancing assessment of post-discharge needs, teaching and learning for patients by the acute-care team, communication at discharge between the hospital and the provider assuming care for the patient, and timely follow-up after hospital discharge.

Hospitals in Michigan, Washington and Massachusetts are participating in the STAAR project and Michigan's efforts are being coordinated by Michigan's Quality Improvement Organization, based in Farmington Hills, and MHA, in Lansing.

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