MoTech to open charter school for auto technicians in Livonia

By Mann Chestrey
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This September, high school
juniors can small in the first
trade charter school in the Detroit
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trae. The students will graduate
two years later with high-wage
skills critically needed in the sujunctive repair industry.
For more than 20 years, Livonie's MoTech Education Center
has taken high school graduates
and molded them into expert suto
mechanics. But the trade has become immensely more technical
and computerized at the same
time fewer and fewer young adults
are choosing this as a career field.
In fact, auto mechanics is now
so complex that even the name
has changed to automotive technician. And the shortage of certified technicians has become so
cute that suto-related businessces best the bushes to hire a certified technician.
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at taken schoulage of an educa-

acute that sub-related businesses beat the bushes to hire a certified technician. To ease this shortage, MoTech
has taken solventage of an educational trend being pushed by Gov.
John Engler — charter schools. It
has asked Central Michigan Ualversity to establish the Michigan
Automotive Academy at its school
statistic and the state of the second of the
Michigan Junior, expects to
receive its charter from CMU in
July and open its dors to its first
group of students Sept. 5.

"We can take up to 200 11th
graders," asid Tyla Wells,
MoTech executive director. "We
would like to see at least 60."
The juniors will leave thome high school behind, and
their last two years of high school
will be spent at the academy, Parents must provide transportation
to the school which starts at 7:30
a.m.

Tri-divided
School days are divided into
three pertar mornings spent on
such core curriculum subjects as
English, math, social studies and
science; afternoons spent on such
auto-related subjects as chassis,
electrical systems and engine
technology; and after-school
hours spent on a mandatory, parttime job at a local business. Be-

tween their junior and senior year, students also must take a mandatory suto-related summer fob.

"Our core-curriculum subjects are technology-based," said Marshall Pitler, MoToe admissions representative. "In English, they won't be learning about Shate-spears, but how to interact in the school, more than 75 Michigan sutomotive businesses and industries, the Automotive Service Association of Michigan, MoToch and the Michigan Automotive Academy will be an open dearning and the Michigan Automotive Academy will be an open the part of high school students and their parents 6-9 pm. Thursday, July 13, at MoToch.

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"The auto repair industry has taken on a new sophiatication," asid James Davis, ASAM board chairman. "An automotive technical needs advanced technical residual needs advanced technical training and computer literacy. According to the AAA, the nation faces an immediate shortage of more than 60,000 automotive technicians to work on vehicles which have worked into highly computerized machines. In addition to mechanical service and repair needs, today's technicians must be able to perform a growing number of accurate disposite procedures on automotive computers and components, as well as read and interpret extensive wiring diagrams.

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"Even though the automotive industry continues to make dra-matic technical breakthroughs in the design of the present-day au-tomobile, the auto repair industry is losing ground in the amount of

repair technicians in the field,"
Davis said.
When Livonia's charter academy opens in September, MoTech will become a two-lier school: the publicly funded academy and the privately funded MoTech Education Center.
The academy will get at least \$5,000 from the state for each junior, and in subsequent years, each senior, enrolled. High achool graduates who attend the other to pay \$5,100 for a 45-week course, Pitter said.

said.
Students who plan to go to college to study engineering, auto design or other auto-related fields can use the two-year program as a stepping stone, and be able to get a well-paying job to put them-selves through college, Pitler said.

The program is designed to pre-pare students to pass four state motor vehicle certifications, a prerequisite for independent re-pair work in the state.

pair work in the state.

The ideal candidate for the charter school, Wells said, is a junior, male or female, who might not want to go to college for four years, who doesn't want a fast-food-type job, and who likes to tinker with cars. "They must have a desire to work in the suto field. We can teach them the rest from ground zero."

The students will use all the training equipment owned by MoTech and now used by the young sults attending the school.

For further information call

For further information, call MoTech at (313) 522-9510 or (800) 852-8405.

Three cut-ups open pool



At Boschview SC: A "Grand Reopening" was held recently at Becchview Swim Club of Farmington Hills. The day started with Bill Robertson (left) of Robertson Brothers, the West Bloomfield firm that did the renovations, Shelly Robertson, daughter of John and Kathy Robertson, and Farmington Hills Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi snipping the ribbon. A pancake breakfast for the membership followed. The Becchview pool was renovated to add a new vacuum sand filter, stainless steel gutters, new steps into the pool, 7-foot-deep competition lanes and a 12-foot diving











berships have opened up at The Heathers Club in Bloomfield Hills. You can take advantage of this opportunity and join the private club that's the talk of the town. Play a championship nine hole golf course patterned after Scottish links. Enjoy a Club House with dining room/ bar/ grille and pro-shop. Other facilities include pool with enormous sun deck and tennis courts. Planned social activities offer a chance to meet some great friends. Best of all, they'll tailor a payment plan just

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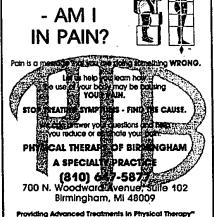
> • Tee times readily available time from dawn to dosk

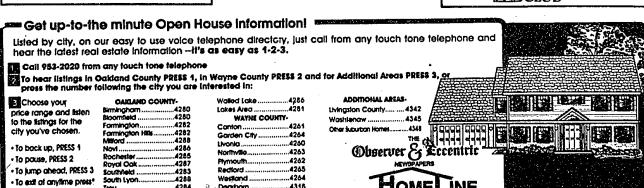
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