

Granholm invited to speak at lunch

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

The fourth annual Leadership Luncheon of the Eight Mile Boulevard Association will be taking place in Farmington Hills this May. Featured panelists invited to speak are Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Nancy White, Macomb County Board of Commissioners chairwoman.

The Leadership Luncheon is

one of the region's premier public policy forums, and more than 500 people are expected to attend. Special guests also include the Democratic and Republican representatives from Michigan, Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties.

Topics this year include water and sewer infrastructure, trash disposal from Canada, urban sprawl, and business development.

Co-chair people of the event for the Eight Mile Boulevard Association are Brenda Lawrence, mayor of the city of Southfield, and Tom Storey, vice president of Government

Affairs and Community Relations, Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors of Detroit.

The event will be from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. May 16 at Vladimir's at 28125 Grand River at Eight Mile in Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$50 for members and \$60 for non members.

Organizers are encouraging guests to order tickets early as the event usually sells out.

Call the Eight Mile Boulevard Association at (248) 559-8633.

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Officials: School reports are mere snapshot

BY STACY JENKINS AND ANNETTE KINGSBURY
STAFF WRITERS

School officials all over the state are bracing for the release Monday of a new measuring tool for their schools.

As part of the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, the state of Michigan will release a list of schools that have failed to meet preliminary standards for adequate yearly progress.

But, local and county school officials warn there is more behind the reports than meets the eye.

"This does not mean a school is failing," said Larry Thomas, director of school quality for Oakland Schools.

"This is one assessment at one point in time to give us a measure."

Data due to be released tomorrow regarding Michigan's public and charter schools shows adequate yearly progress on the Michigan Education Assessment Program test.

All schools must show progress in the scores from year to year to achieve adequate yearly progress.

One hundred percent proficiency in all schools by the 2013-14 school year is the goal of the federal program.

Education Yes!, the Michigan model of the No Child Left Behind, is still being revised at the state level.

It initially proposed a grading system for every public school in Michigan, based on a variety of criteria that correlates with the national program.

The first round of AYP reports should be viewed merely as one way to evaluate schools, said Dan Austin, superintendent for Oakland Schools intermediate school district, who added Oakland Schools supports the initiative.

Monday's data will only be for elementary and middle schools and will be the first in a series of AYP reports. School officials said two vital components will not be included this time around.

This does not mean a school is failing. This is one assessment at one point in time to give us a measure.

Larry Thomas
Oakland Schools

Another set of AYP reports will be released in June and will include all criteria.

Normally, student participation on the MEAP, which must be at least 95 percent, and the percentage of sub-groups of students, such as those who are limited English proficient, will be considered in the AYP report.

Many high schools in Oakland County may not make AYP in the June report, officials said, because MEAP participation may not be 95 percent.

THE CONSEQUENCES

Sanctions for schools not meeting AYP for at least two years only apply to those that receive federal Title I money. The Title I program offers funding to schools for special student programs and services, based on the number of students who financially qualify for free or reduced lunches.

Sanctions for those schools include school improvement plans, offering parents the choice of moving their child to another school in the district that meets AYP, mandatory supplemental services for students and replacing school staff who are "relevant to not making AYP."

The severity of sanctions increases by the number of consecutive years the school does not meet AYP.

THE GOAL

The point of the No Child Left Behind program is to level the academic playing field across all socio-economic strata to ensure every child has the same opportunities.

While the details of the

legislation and the measuring criteria are somewhat complicated, Austin said it works toward a worthwhile goal.

"We have a deep belief all children can learn," said Austin, adding that Oakland Schools has committed to Gov. Jennifer Granholm to participate in statewide support in response to the initiative.

SOME KINKS

Michigan has been tracking academic progress since 1996 but on a different set of criteria, so the AYP report is a "totally different ball game," said Ernie Bauer, Oakland Schools research consultant.

While school officials support the idea of accountability and inclusion at all levels in public education, some administrators see flaws in the mandated system.

William Hamilton, assistant superintendent for curriculum in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District, sat on a panel Wednesday to discuss the program.

He cautions parents to take the first round of reports as an incomplete snapshot of the bigger picture.

"They really need to be communicating with their school officials and teachers to find out what it really means," he said. "So you need to look at the whole improvement picture with a great deal of caution."

David Beiter, assistant superintendent for curriculum in the Lake Orion School District, said the focus of the federal program is primarily on math and reading. That inherently takes money away from other areas of the curriculum, he added.

"That's bothersome to me, particularly in these budgetary times," he said. "You will see parents rising up as programs are eliminated because the focus is being shifted. Parents are our best avenue for approaching this."

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For more information on the following programs contact the City of Farmington Hills Recreation Division at (248) 473-1800.

■ **Amish Country**
Take a trip to the Amish flea market in Shipshewana, Ind. Travel by deluxe motor coach to browse and enjoy the sights and sounds of a different world.

Then at 4 p.m. it's on to Middlebury for a family-style dinner of chicken and roast beef at Das Dutchman Essenhaus. Trip dates are Wednesday, June 18 and Wednesday, Aug. 6. Cost is \$55 per person per trip. No refund unless trip is cancelled.

■ **Adult Softball, volleyball**
The City of Farmington Hills is accept-

RECREATION NEWS

ing new adult team registration for men's, women's and co-ed softball and sand volleyball. Registration is based on a first-come, first serve basis.

Leagues will play one night a week. For fees and nights of play call (248) 473-1800.

■ **Polaroid Road Rally**
Bring the whole family and enjoy a night of fun and adventure 4-7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 10. Each team of 3-4 members will take off in their vehicles to search for wild and crazy predetermined items to photograph. After the photo portion teams will meet back at the Costco Center for pizza and salad. Entire teams should register on the same team. Forms must provide a

Polaroid camera and film for at least 15 pictures. The cost is \$10 per person. Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

■ **Boaters Safety**
Passing this class will allow youth ages 12-16 to operate a motor boat of six-horse power or more. In addition, all people born after Dec. 31, 1978 must pass this course to operate a personal watercraft. No one under the age of 14 may legally operate a PWC. A child 12 and over may ride a PWC with an adult if both have passed an approved boater safety class. Session choices are 6-9 p.m. April 22 and 24 or May 13 and 15. Cost is \$5 per person and you must register in advance.

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Free Alzheimer's Caregiving Seminar

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Monday, April 14, 2003
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



Guest Speaker
Peter Rabins, M.D., M.P.H.

Arden Courts
Alzheimer's Assisted Living
32500 Seven Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48152

Dr. Peter Rabins is the renowned co-author of the book *The 36 Hour Day*, a family guide to caring for persons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. He has also written over 150 articles and book chapters about Alzheimer's disease. He is currently the Director of the Geriatric and Neuropsychiatry section in the Department of Psychiatry at John Hopkins University. Dr. Rabins has focused his career on the study of psychiatric disorders in older persons and the effectiveness of current therapies for Alzheimer's disease. And now, Dr. Rabins would like to share his Alzheimer's expertise with you.

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