

PROJECT

FROM PAGE A1

Emily Wilkins and Ashlee Witkowski.
These are the first bat houses in the city...

funding the project through cookie sales and with the help of Harvey Anderson who works for Omni facility services.
Anderson is part of the cleaning crew at Ford Motor Company where Layne works.

holes to stabilize them. Layne and helper Tom Fields, the father of a troop member, were on hand to oversee the installation.
Throughout its six years, these troop members have been involved in many community service projects.



Girl Scouts from Our Lady of Sorrows are rightly proud of their bat houses.

can be earned by Girl Scouts at the Junior Level, is similar in importance as the Eagle Scout Award in Boy Scout groups.

Bat houses give helpful animals a warm place to roost

BY SUE BUCK STAFF WRITER

Amid submarine sandwiches and conversation recently, the girls from Our Lady of Sorrows Troop #2048, spent a "working lunch" at O-L-S with the Department of Public Services Director Kevin Gushman to explain their bat house project.
Because bats eat mosquitoes, and mosquitoes can carry West Nile Virus, the troop decided to build bat houses which they installed last month at Shivessee Park in Farmington. Co-Leader Laura Spencer helped them present their research.

to secure the houses, which weigh 15-20 pounds each.
The houses we have built are basically maintenance-free and should weather beautifully to fit in with the natural environment and will last for many, many years," Fields said.
"However, when a colony of bats does become established there they will leave guano (bat droppings) beneath the houses. This will need to be cleaned up on a periodic basis. Some people love to use guano as fertilizer for their plants."
In the Farmington area, the girls believe both large and small bats will be attracted. The big brown bat is the most abundant in North America and can be found as far south as Florida and as far north as Alaska. From head to toe, they are more than three inches; their wingspan is 13-14 inches. The little brown bat looks a lot like the big brown bat, Nicole Spencer said. They are

about two inches long from head to toe, with a wingspan of 9-10 inches. Their color ranges from pale tan to reddish or dark brown. Little brown bats are found throughout northern North America and as far north as Alaska.
At dusk they emerge from the roost and head for water, hunting a few feet above the water for most of the evening," Spencer said.
Bats prey not only on mosquitoes, but beetles, wasps, ants, flies and other types of insects. They are surprisingly efficient feeders, usually filling their stomachs within just one hour, Ring said.
In Farmington, the major threats to both types of bats are humans and mooseons, Spencer said.
Although it's true that bats can get rabies, they are not carriers of the virus, Long said. Anyone who sees a bat or any other wild animal lying on the

ground or otherwise acting strangely should call wildlife expert to take care of the problem. "If they cannot get to a phone," Long added, "it is best to leave the bat or other animal alone and let nature take its course."
Many people have bats in their attics or garages and aren't aware of it, said Lenecione. Most don't want bats in their houses, though.
"We want to provide a place for them to live where they won't freak people out," Lenecione said. "During the day when the park is full of people, the bats will be roosting and you won't even know they are there. And at night, they will swoop gently out of their home and pig out on the nasty bugs that can harm people and plants."

OBITUARIES

Bernard L. Blem
Services for Bernard Leo Blem, 77, of Farmington, were held June 18 at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington with the Rev. Gerald McEnhill officiating.

Mr. Blem was born April 3, 1926 in Detroit and died June 14, 2003 at home. He worked as a master plumber and was a member of St. Gerald Catholic Church.
He is survived by his daughters, Deborah (Bill) McCarthy and Cheryl (David) Clancy; brother, Donald; sisters, Shirley Carmichael and Kay Urbanik; and five grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Shirley; brother, Jim; and sister, Virginia.
Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

John A. Crotty
Services for John A. Crotty, 76, formerly of Farmington Hills, will be held at a later date.

Mr. Crotty died June 16, 2003 at his home in Sun City West, Ariz.
He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Skeeter; sons, John (Sue) and Steve (Tracy); grandchildren, Michael, Adam, Andy, Mikayla, Emily, Stephani, Kimberli, and Rocky.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

Steven J. Yambor
Services for Steven John Yambor, 90, of Detroit, were held June 16 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington

with the Rev. Victor Clore officiating.
Burial followed at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

Mr. Yambor was born Sept. 25, 1912 in Toledo, Ohio and died June 13, 2003 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. He enjoyed trout and fly fishing, playing cribbage and visiting family in the Upper Peninsula.

He is survived by his sons, Steven (Joy) and Michael (Deborah); brother, William Jambor; grandchildren, Kirsten, Kelly, Lauren, Paul, Anne, Michael, Andrew, and Jenna; great-grandchild, Ella June; and special friend, Hilda. He is preceded in death by his wife, Elmi.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ the King Catholic Church, 16805 Pierson Ave. Detroit, MI 48219.

Helen W. Greening
Services for Helen W. Greening, 86, of Madison Heights, will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Greening was born Jan. 6, 1917 in Springfield, Mass. and died June 16, 2003 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her sons, Gary (Carol) and Tim (Jill); and grandchildren, Jennifer and Christopher Greening. She is preceded in death by her husband, Harry.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Alexander Church Food Cupboard, 27835 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.
Arrangements made by Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Inside the houses are a series of long chambers where the bats can move closer to the top where the sunlight has warmed the roof and they stay warm," DiFiore said. "On very hot days, they can spread out throughout the chambers and move closer to the vents at the bottom of the houses."

The houses are painted a dark, gray-blue to better absorb the sunlight and keep the bats warm.
It is also best to place the houses near a water source because the water attracts mosquitoes and the mosquitoes attract the bats," said Witkowski.

The houses should be positioned so they are facing south or southeast, with at least six hours of direct sunlight daily, she said. Bats begin emerging from their winter hibernation from about mid-March to mid-May.

The girls needed a four-foot deep hole which was filled around the area with cement

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