

# Clarenceville latch-key in the works

**By Marie Cheestney and Tom Henderson staff writers**

Nov. 1 in the Clarenceville School District. The before- and after-school program will be at Botsford and Grandview elementary schools.

## He's tuning up for Ironman showdown

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Even a birthday present membership to Vic Tanny from his wife left DeRooven unmotivated. He would go to Vic Tanny once every three weeks, and just walk around, not really working out.

"I started for myself," he said, when he finally started running. "The fitness craze (in the United States) was just starting."

"I just wasn't feeling that great (on the job and in his everyday life)," DeRooven added.

AFTER RUNNING his first quarter of a mile, he said, "I thought I was going to have a heart attack."

After three weeks, DeRooven's quarter of a mile run was increased to a full mile, without stopping. Although he was a novice runner, DeRooven started thinking about the annual Detroit Free Press marathon.

"I never dreamed why or how people did it (the marathon)," DeRooven said. He set entering the race in 1980 as a personal goal. And he "began to enjoy it (running)."

"I was hooked (on running) after a few weeks," DeRooven said. "I'm very goals oriented."

Pursuing personal goals and achievements are an important part of DeRooven's approach to life. As he put it, "Just let your mind do it (get into running)."

RUNNING is "relaxing and a relief from stress," DeRooven said. "After a while you just get into a rhythm."

Individuality and personal triumph are most appealing to DeRooven.

In 1982, DeRooven began reading articles in Sports Illustrated about the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii. "The wheels began to click," he said, and the goal of participating in the Ironman Triathlon took shape.

"Here's a new challenge," he remembered. "I never swam a lap in my life."

Swimming and bicycling were both unknown sports to DeRooven. He had to master both before he could consider the Ironman. "With running, I had reached a plateau. It (running) wasn't happening in terms of competing."

"The triathlon was like starting all over again."

IN FALL 1982, DeRooven started preparing for his first triathlon the next summer. He began swimming and riding the same way he started running, without any instruction.

In summer 1983, DeRooven entered three Midwestern triathlons. "It was the most fun I've ever had in my life," he said. His triathlon skills, he said, are "completely self-taught."

"I saw the Ironman on TV," DeRooven said. "So far, it was out of my scope. I never thought it would happen."

For runners, a marathon is the ultimate goal. In comparison, the Ironman is the ultimate experience for triathletes. About 12,000 applications pour in every year for only 1,250 places, DeRooven said.

Different routes to enter the Ironman are available.

You can qualify by placing in the top half of your division or age group in 60 qualifying triathlons on

Redford Township, sent out a newsletter two weeks ago, asking parents if they would be willing to pay for such a program.

Just 21 responses were returned before the board of education meeting last Thursday, but 15 of the letter-writers said they would be willing to pay for the program. Four others said they would be willing to pay when their children are old enough, Superintendent Mike Shubler said.

"Given the short time they had to respond, we were pleased," Shubler said. "We expect to have between 10 and 15 students in the program in each building."

THE PROGRAM would need 10 children in each school to be financially solvent, said Joanne Boer of the Livonia YMCA.

The latch-key program will cost \$1.75 an hour for the first child, with a maximum of \$5.50 a day. The second child will be charged \$1.25 an hour, with a maximum of \$4. Each additional child in a family would be charged \$2 a day.

In September, several mothers criticized an earlier proposal in which the first child would be charged \$1.25 an hour. "It's too high. I only make \$5 an hour," said one mother. "It would take almost half of what I'm making."

Said another: "I don't think you'll get enough to make this run."

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