Lawn chemical fears: Real or magnified?

BY ALLEEN WINGHAM

OMEOWNER Dinna Bravo-Brantley has been noyou blinntley has been noout, change going onaround her us she strolls through
her subarham neighborhood.

"The lawns around here are certainly not looking as well as they
have in the past, I'm seeing a definite decline," said Bravo-Brantley.
Moir and more of the lawns, oncehisl, green and weed free, now appour sparse, and lackluster, showing
signs of pests or weeds.
"And we just dun't see the flawn
service trucks mound here like we
used to," she unified, which leads,
the to suspect that increased enviroumental awareness and "controtery about toxic chemicals," could
be causing people to shy away from
professional have treatments.
For the past few years, runnlings,
bout chemical laws treatments and

professional fawn treatments.

For the past few years, rumblings about chemical lawn treatment and the pros and cons of using certain fertilizers and sprays have been

But is the concern growing to become a pro-active issue among homeowners? Has business been affected for lawn service companies? And, perhaps most importunity, if people's fears of chemical treat-ments are growing, is the concern justified?

justified?

Rick Dyer, market manager for Bairfoot Grass, said the confroversy bas not affected hosiness. Dier insists that lots of geopleare misinformed and "often get confused" about the product composition and methodology of lawar acre companies.

"There seems to be the mentolity after the people are under the holife system—that man-made or synthetic broducts are indepthed earth friendly. That she mind set.

Local ordinances

About the "natural" products like organic fertilizers, which Bare

four Grass does offer as an alterna-tive, Dyer says that many people don't realize that those often con-tain synthesized additives like urea to break down the organic. True natural organics, such as the well-known Milorganite derived

from Milwauke sewage, are slow releasing and tend to be slow to re-act. Also, they are temperature de-pendent, he explains, and don't work at all if it gets too cold out;

pendent, he explains, and don't work at all it gets too cold autyside.

Furthermore, Dyer claims, when it comes to peat and weed control, no organic herbicides are avoilable. "no organic herbicides are avoilable." and nu effective pesticides are un the mixtee.

An he's confident that products used by Barefood Grass pose little if any environmental hazard. There is very, very little concern over therfilizers and other have care products getting into the water products getting into the water products getting into the water products getting into the man care products getting into the other and the state of the s

As for countywide action, about six years ago a "lawn spray list" was begun with the Oakland Coun-ty Health Division.

The list names dozens of area

residents who consider themselves chemically sensitive. The names are passed on to lawn spray compa-nies operating in the county who have the option of notifying those in the vicinity when they are getting rendy to apply chemical sprays. Unfortunately for those on the sensitivity list, the program is not their mandated nor considered effec-tive. The Health Division receives

numerous calls each keason from individuals who say lawn companies sprayed neighboring yards without giving advance warning. Yet Dr. Carolyn Bird, chief of medical services. Oakhand County Health Division, says little can be done about the situation. "We just tell them, Sorry, there nothing we can do to regulate this." "said Bird.



Reading Club event: The Farmington Community Library, Farmington Branch, will host the Mme, Ca-dillac Dance Theatre 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, at the library, 23500 Liberty, Farmington. The group the thorney, 25000 Elberty, Farmington, The graph will present a dance-drama "Jean Baptiste Pointe-du-Sable," a 50-minuté show with authentic cos-tumes (above) of the 18th, Century and dances of the period. For more information on this program for Summer Reading Club members only, call 474-7770.





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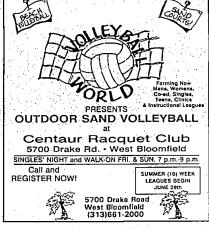
10-9, FRI. 10-10, SAT. 8-10: SUN 8:8







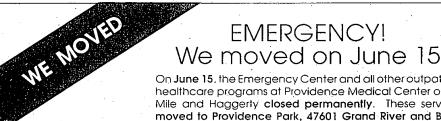














On June 15, the Emergency Center and all other outpatient healthcare programs at Providence Medical Center on 10 Mile and Haggerty closed permanently. These services moved to Providence Park, 47601 Grand River and Beck Road, just off of 1-96, at the Beck Road exit.

So beginning June 15, when you think EMERGENCY, think Providence Park, Our entire staff from Emergency Outpatient Surgery. Lab and X-ray are at our new location ready to provide you and your family with the Providence quality care you've come to expect from us over the past decade

If you currently see a Providence physician with offices in the facility at 10 Mile and Haggerty please check with that office for their moving date to Providence

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