



Pressure situation: Student Kim Livingstone practices chest compressions on what is presumed to be an injured infant.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Life skills: John Zylka, a Farmington Hills firefighter and advanced emergency medical technician, guides the sixth-grade Life Skills class. Kids learned the skills in a 4-to-1 student-teacher ratio.

## Power learns power 6th-graders take pulse on CPR

By SUN BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Power Middle School students are prepped for emergencies.

Sixth-grade students in the Life Skills classes recently spent a week learning infant/child cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) under the guidance of professionals.

"It was a huge success," said Power Principal Norm Luebke. Taking part were the Metro-

Save-A-Life Company, the Farmington Hills Fire Department, Botaford General Hospital, the Farmington Public Safety Department and Community EMS.

The course involved video-based, infant/child CPR, rescue breathing and emergency steps. Videos showed actual graphic medical emergencies including heart attacks and cardiac arrests from shows such as Rescue 911 and Code 3.

Kevin Bersche, a Hills EMS coordinator, explained that instruction was difficult at times because each class period lasts only 43 minutes. Adult/child CPR is usually taught all at one time, he said.

"I'd like to see them get training in adult CPR also," Bersche said. "Sixth-graders are just getting into baby-sitting."

The program was sparked initially when Jennifer Aitschul, a

Power Middle school student, asked her father, Sandy, who works for Metro-Save-A-Life Company, to speak to her class recently.

"It was a natural progression," Bersche said.

Jennifer wasn't in these sessions, but her father, who has assisted at special events in the metropolitan area, donated his time, along with other professionals.

## Doctor pays 'house call' in park, saves man's life

By BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to some fortunate timing and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, a Livonia man will be giving his daughter away in marriage Friday.

It was getting late and dark on a night earlier this spring, and Dr. John R. Schairer who had driven out to Kensington Metro Park had just decided that it was too late — about 9 p.m. — to get started on his evening run. Schairer is a veteran of nine marathons.

As he started out of the parking lot, a woman ran up to his van, shouting that a man had stopped breathing. Could he help?

"At first I wasn't sure it wasn't some kind of a set up," said Schairer, a cardiologist who practices at Botaford General Hospital in Farmington Hills and has offices in Livonia and Garden City. "But I went with her into a wooded area and there he was. It was totally dark."

He was Ken Andrzejewski, 54. The Livonia resident had stopped breathing and his heart had stopped. Schairer started CPR and asked another man who came along to call for an ambulance.

The ambulance came, but only after missing the turn at the big park. It took about 20 minutes.

"I really didn't think he was going to make it," confessed the doctor. "It had been about 20 minutes."

Once the ambulance arrived, the EMS technicians were able to start Andrzejewski's heart after five tries with the defibrillator. Knowing that serious brain damage can occur with four to five minutes of cardiac arrest, Schairer was concerned.

"The EMS people were great," he said. "We went to Providence in Novi, and I stayed until about 2 a.m."

As it turned out, Schairer's quick work and Andrzejewski's luck that the doctor could make the unscheduled house call were fortunate.

"It's a miracle," said An-



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Life saver: Said Dr. John Schairer, "At first I wasn't sure it wasn't some kind of set up."

drzejewski's wife Sally. "It was a matter of being in the right place at the right time."

And even Schairer, whose business is helping people with heart troubles is heartened. "There was no brain damage," he said. "It really feels good to know that you made the difference and saved

someone's life."

Andrzejewski underwent triple bypass surgery, and after a brief setback, is recovering and planning to be at his daughter Laura's wedding Friday.

Schairer said the incident has shown him the value of CPR. "It is amazing," he said.

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