

# Grant funds 'Helpline' for leukemia aid

Metro Health Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan to establish a "Helpline" for patients and their families in Michigan, who are affected by leukemia and related disorders.

The Helpline is a new initiative of the Leukemia Foundation to recruit, train and support volunteers to assist people who call the agency for information or guidance about how to care for and support a loved one who is undergoing treatment for leukemia or a related disorder. Presently 8,500 people in Michigan are undergoing treatment for one of these disorders. The agency's current caseload is 2,200 people, about 25 percent of the total affected.

"Our belief is that providing families with the information and support they need greatly enhances their ability to cope with the many challenges the treatment process will bring. The better that families cope, the better off they are in the long run."

The Children's Leukemia Foundation serves adults and children throughout Michigan, who are affected by leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma and other blood disorders. Services CLF offers to families include literature, peer support

networks, referrals and financial assistance with treatment-related expenses.

The foundation also conducts public education, helps to sponsor a camp for kids with cancer, and supports research to improve the psycho-social outcomes of the treatment process.

The Metro Health Foundation is a private grant-making foundation. MHP grants go to Michigan organizations for health care and health-related fields.

# State hears pleas about water woes

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

Stop the brutal federal environmental rules... Help with the Rouge sewers... Save Monroe County's groundwater...

Everybody had a pet project to present to Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) when 13 top administrators sat together for a public hearing Feb. 3 in Detroit.

Director Russell Harding, the lightning rod director of DEQ since it was split off from the Department of Natural Resources 16 months ago, made on-the-spot assignments of staff members to talk to people who brought problems. The two-hour hearing was held at The River Place, a hotel built on recycled Stroh Brewery property on the Detroit riverfront.

## Use watersheds

Peggy Johnson, Rochester Hills resident and retired executive director of the Clinton River Watershed Council, won agreement from Harding that DEQ should organize its work by watersheds rather than governmental boundaries.

"I'm absolutely convinced that the watershed approach is the way to go," said Harding. "We're trying to get our watershed teams up and running."

On water pollution problems, Harding said, "We've done a good job at the end of the pipe (source pollution), but we still have a lot of non-point (run-off) problems."

## Big Three's plea

"The (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency's standards on ozone are ill-conceived. Their scientific basis is extremely weak," said Richard L. Klimisch, a vice president of the American Auto Manufacturers Association.

"They will backfire and ruin the credibility of the environmental program," said Klimisch, whose members are the Big Three automakers. "Many states will be in hopeless bureaucratic traps" under EPA's new clean air rules. He asked MDEQ to help "bring reality" to the federal rules.

"We, too, were concerned about the standards," Harding replied. "Citizens in southeastern Michigan should be concerned. The standards are unattainable. We're having a hard time understanding the draconian changes EPA is asking."

Meanwhile, in Washington, Gov. John Engler, who set up DEQ and tapped Harding to head it, circulated a letter among governors with a list of grievances against EPA.

EPA is predicted to end state authority over a range of environmental programs because of quibbles over Michigan's corporate "self-audit" program, which allows industrial firms to keep

private their records on pollution problems. That law was sponsored by Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, and passed in 1995. Frank Partee, of Ford Motor Co.'s environmental quality office in Dearborn, said he was "concerned" about coordination of air quality permits between Wayne County and DEQ.

Partee urged DEQ to simplify its regulations because "our nation has woven a web of single-purpose environmental laws. Many requirements are obsolete or duplicative."

## Burden on cities

Kurt Heise, representing Dearborn Heights Mayor Ruth Canfield, said complying with drainage and pollution controls for the Rouge River is turning into a budget buster.

"We have added up the costs to Dearborn Heights at a total of \$135 million to \$141 million. In a city of 60,000 residents, that's \$2,400 per person," he said, adding that neighboring Redford Township and Inkster are also hard hit. Dearborn Heights was the only suburban unit of government represented at the Monday afternoon gathering.

Heise referred to federal court cleanup orders as "unfunded judicial mandates" and asked federal and state help in paying for 14 combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that must be removed by the year 2000.

Heise charged the city of Detroit is trying to pass on its share of sewer building costs to suburban customers through water rates.

Bob Miller, manager of DEQ's surface water quality division, agreed with Heise's statement of the costs. "The cost is absolutely staggering. Roads and potholes are almost insignificant compared to CSOs," Miller said.

## Contacts

DEQ was organized by the governor's executive orders from to existing departments: Natural Resources and Public Health. DEQ is listed in the 1995 state telephone directory, though its component offices are listed. A new state directory is due in spring.

In reply to a public request for ways to contact DEQ, Harding's office provided these methods:

On Internet, DEQ's home page is <http://www.deq.state.mi.us>. The environmental assistance division toll-free number is 800-662-9276.

The Detroit DEQ office at The River Place is 313/392-6480.

In Livonia, DEQ and DNR share regional quarters north of Seven Mile and west of I-275 freeway; phone number: 313/853-0241.

DEQ publishes a calendar of meetings, hearings and decision makers every second Monday. Contact: DEQ Calendar, PO Box 30473, Lansing 48909-7973.



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## M-CARE SENIOR PLAN INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS:

Location: Bill Knapp's Restaurant 36650 Grand River Ave. Farmington Hills	Location: Bill Knapp's Restaurant 2078 E. Big Beaver Rd. Troy	Location: Bakers Square Restaurant 26660 Greenfield Rd. Oak Park
Times: February 6 - 9:30 AM February 20 - 9:30 AM	Times: February 7 - 9:30 AM February 14 - 9:30 AM February 21 - 9:30 AM February 28 - 9:30 AM	Times: February 5 - 9:30 AM February 11 - 9:30 AM February 18 - 9:30 AM February 25 - 9:30 AM
Location: Bakers Square Restaurant 825 Bowers St. Birmingham	Location: Bill Knapp's Restaurant 27925 Orchard Lake Rd. Farmington Hills	Location: Bob Evan's Restaurant 26245 Telegraph Rd. Southfield
Times: February 5 - 9:00 AM February 12 - 9:00 AM February 19 - 9:00 AM February 26 - 9:00 AM	Times: February 13 - 9:30 AM February 27 - 9:30 AM	Times: February 4 - 2:00 PM February 11 - 2:00 PM February 18 - 2:00 PM February 25 - 2:00 PM

Refreshments will be served at the informational meetings. Reservations are recommended. Call (800) 810-1699 for reservations or to schedule a home appointment. No cost or obligation.

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97-025-5M

# 4-H rocket project set

Anyone interested in building and launching a high-powered rocket should attend an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Oakland County 4-H office.

Participants may have the opportunity to travel to Wisconsin in May as part of teams which will help launch the Oakland 4-H high-powered rocket and a Super Loki Rocket, which can travel more than 184,000 feet.

The 4-H group will be working with Michigan Technological University, Florida Spaceport Authority and other resources. The local partner will be the McMath Hulbert Observatory in Lake Angelus. After the launch, the recoverable rocket can be used for local programming.

County 4-H youth programs also is teaming up with McMath Hulbert Observatory to provide 4-Hers with the opportunity to view the next lunar eclipse. The observatory will be sponsoring a 4-H open house from noon to 4 p.m. March 23.

Participants will be able to tour the facilities, take a look through a solar telescope and learn how to use the Internet to obtain information on areas of special interest. For more information, contact the 4-H office or the observatory at (810) 336-4791.

The organization offers many learning experience for those who choose a topic in science of interest. For information on any 4-H events, call the 4-H office at (810) 858-0892.

# Women's health discussed

"Women's Health Initiative" will be the subject at the luncheon at noon, Feb. 12, of the Birmingham Branch of American Association of University Women, at the Kingsley Hotel, 1475 N. Woodward.

Simone Brennan, recruitment coordinator for "Women's Health Initiative" will be the speaker. She will talk about one of the largest studies ever done exclusively on women's health issues.

The Detroit Women's Health Initiative is a world wide study being conducted at Wayne State's Mott Center.

This 16-year project requires 160,000 women to make the survey a success.

Reservations for lunch must be made by check for \$14.85 to 108 Tuckaway Drive, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. The program starts at 1 p.m. for those not attending luncheon.