

OAKLAND JOURNAL

Oakland Journal is a roundup of Oakland County news and notes collected from government, school, civic, community and neighborhood sources. Please write: Oakland Journal, c/o Oakland County editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (248) 644-1314.

HEARTWALK COSPONSOR

Pasta To Go of Troy plans to dish out 231 pounds of pasta salad to participants before and after the sixth annual Metro Detroit American HEARTWALK. "It's our way of supporting the fight for prevention of cardiovascular diseases and strokes," Pasta To Go President Mark Gunn said in a prepared

statement. The dishes will consist of low-fat ingredients for health-conscious participants. The HEARTWALK will be held Oct. 4 at the Detroit Zoo. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 9:30 a.m.

TEEN DRIVER FORUM

To help parents and teens meet the requirements of Michigan's new graduated licensing law, AAA Michigan and local Students Against Driving Drunk will co-sponsor a Teen Driver Forum at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7, at the Village Inn, 35270 Woodward, Birmingham. The forum will include elements of AAA Michigan's step-by-step handbook and video titled: "Teaching Your Teens to Drive." As further incentive, AAA Michigan will

give a 10 percent discount on its auto insurance for teens who complete the program. The offer is good for AAA Michigan policyholders only. SADD will assist with publicity, a safety exhibit and a speaker for the event. There is a 15 percent failure rate in the state's new mandatory road test, AAA Michigan reports.

MSU ALUMNI

The Michigan State University Black Alumni Inc. will host its 17th Annual Homecoming Celebration Oct. 3-5 in Lansing. The weekend will include the Homecoming Parade and a Green & White Party on Friday, a membership meeting, the MSU-Minnesota game and an alumni dance on Saturday and a worship service on Sunday. For

more information, call Merritta Proctor at (517) 373-2965.

FOOD, SHELTER FUNDS

United Way Community Services will be accepting applications for Federal Emergency Management Agency for phase six of Emergency Food and Shelter Program funding. Applications are due by Oct. 24. They can be obtained by calling Laura Sanders-Crenshaw at (313) 226-9417. United Way Community Services has been designated to distribute program funds. Area applications will be reviewed by the Wayne-Oakland-Macomb Local Board.

CCC EVENTS

The Womencenter at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus, 27055 Orchard

Lake Road in Farmington Hills, will present a workshop on women and anger from 10 a.m. to noon, Oct. 4 in Room 308 of the campus' J Building. Cynthia Koppin, MA, LPC, will lead the interactive workshop, which includes topics exploring the origins and consequences of anger, why "just venting" doesn't work and communicating feelings more effectively. For more information, call (248) 471-7602.

CRAFT SHOW

Crafters are needed for the Harvest Craft Show on Oct. 18 at William Tyndale College, 3570 W. 12 Mile at Drake in Farmington Hills. The show will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include a special Beanie Baby raffle for \$1 a ticket and a raffle

for the Salvation Army Food Bank — two canned or boxed food items will "buy" a raffle ticket for prizes of donated craft items. Admission is \$1 and all proceeds will go to local charities. For more information, call (248) 476-9074.

NEW SIGNS, BENCHES

More than 70 volunteers from EDS will install signs and benches, clear trails and pick up trash at Rose Oaks County Park on Saturday, Oct. 4, for the fifth EDS Annual Global Volunteer Day. The park was purchased by Oakland County in 1995. It has 592 acres with two large and five small lakes. The park is on Fish Lake Road, north of Rose Center Road in Rose Township.

OAKLAND DIGEST

Oakland Digest provides a summary of headline stories from around the county during the week leading up to Sept. 28.

BIRMINGHAM

Kevoorkian patient healthy: Natverial H. Thakore, a patient of Dr. Jack Kevoorkian, died by poisoning from an intravenous injection in a Bloomfield Township hotel, but his body showed no signs of a fatal illness, according to Oakland County chief medical examiner Dr. Ljubisa Dragovic.

CLARKSTON

Beaumont plans offices: Eager to bring its doctors closer to Clarkston residents, Beaumont Hospital hopes to build a medical center across from Independence Township's new fire hall.

FARMINGTON

Schools religion policy written: Farmington's school board gave a first reading of a new religion policy in the district. The board is expected to adopt the policy, which would accommodate "free exercise of religious beliefs" by individuals, Oct. 7.

LAKE ORION

Haunted village going up: Merchants in downtown Lake Orion plan to set up a haunted village on Oct. 25. City council members recently gave their support for the project, agreeing to close down a street so organizers can erect a castle-like entrance into the haunted village.

OXFORD

Firefighter injured: A house fire on East Romeo Road in Addison Township destroyed the residence and sent one firefighter to the hospital and two others were injured from smoke inhalation.

No one was at home, and a neighbor saved the owner's dog. An arson investigation is being conducted.

ROCHESTER

Sister speaks at trial: The mother and sister of Martina Nowas, the Rochester Hills woman accused of killing brother-in-law Michael Hockenberry, offered emotional testimony in court Sept. 23. Nowas' sister, Lydia, testified that Hockenberry had long abused her in their marriage.

SOUTHFIELD

Subsidized housing list opens: The Southfield Housing Commission will open its waiting list for subsidized rental housing for the first time since 1992. Housing assistance is provided under the Federal Housing and Urban Development program, which contributes 30 percent of apartment or home rental fees. Preference will be given to people who work or live in Southfield.

TROY

All-hours fitness club coming: Life Time Fitness, of Eden Prairie, Minn., plans to build a 24-hour fitness facility at the corner of Long Lake and Crooks roads in Troy. The club, which will include two swimming pools, a squash court and a climbing wall, should reach completion by next Sept.

WEST BLOOMFIELD

Virus source likely identified: The sole slaw at West Bloomfield's Stage & Co. restaurant was identified Sept. 23 as the likely source of the Hepatitis A outbreak that affected 43 Oakland County residents, including one man who died.

compiled by staff writer Nicole Stafford



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Bill Knapp's Restaurant 36650 Grand River Farmington Hills October 8 - 9:30 AM October 22 - 9:30 AM	Bill Knapp's Restaurant 2078 E. Big Beaver Road Troy October 2 - 2:30 PM October 16 - 9:30 AM
Bakers Square Restaurant 825 Bowers Street Birmingham October 2 - 9:30 AM October 9 - 9:30 AM October 16 - 9:30 AM October 23 - 9:30 AM October 30 - 9:30 AM	Bill Knapp's Restaurant 27925 Orchard Lake Road Farmington Hills October 8 - 9:30 AM October 15 - 9:30 AM October 22 - 9:30 AM October 29 - 9:30 AM
	Bakers Square Restaurant 26660 Greenfield Road Oak Park October 23 - 2:30 PM

M-CARE SENIOR PLAN The Care That's Right Where You Are.

Changes dilute ban on riding in back of pickup trucks

By TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER

A bill to ban people from riding in the beds of pickup trucks was watered down by the House, passed 67-37 and sent to an uncertain fate in the Senate.

It was too much water for Rep. Frank Fitzgerald, R-Grand Ledge, who complained about amendments to allow persons 16 and older, hunters and workers to ride.

"There is one immutable law we cannot change. Death is death. From 1994 to 1996, we suffered 19 deaths in pickups," said Fitzgerald, a safety-conscious lawmaker ambitious to become attorney general. But he voted yes.

It was just right for Rep. Andrew Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills. "We made it a bill for kids. There were valid exceptions," said the anti-regulation freshman lawmaker.

Sponsor of the amendment to exempt persons 16 and older was Rep. Eileen DeHart, D-Westland. Challenged during debate by members over the cutoff age, DeHart said, "If a police officer has a question about whether someone is 16 or 16, he does what he does in any other case. He pulls them over."

She added that victims tend to be the very young. "This amendment is good for hunters."

Moments later, the House unanimously approved still another amendment: people on search and rescue missions.

The bill, by Rep. Deborah Cherry, D-Burton, was introduced Feb. 11 and languished in

the House Transportation Committee until a late July accident in rural Jackson County claimed 11 lives, eight of them children riding in the bed of a pickup truck.

The committee leaped into action and reported out the bill Sept. 23, the first day of the fall session.

If adopted, it would apply \$100 fines to violating drivers but not passengers.

Rep. David Gubow, D-Huntington Woods, called the effort "a baby step forward. A pickup is not designed for passengers, and an auto is. But the auto law requires seat belts, and there are no seat belts in the cargo bed of a pickup," he said. Gubow voted yes anyway.

Rep. Don Gilmer, R-Augusta, an apple grower in rural Kalamazoo County, called the law unnecessary. "Why are we attempting to outlaw stupidity? Last summer's tragedy involved 11 unlicensed drivers who 2) ran a stop sign and 3) had children under 4 who were not belted in the cab. She (6) took all the back roads (to avoid traffic).

"Migrant workers don't have money for air vans and station wagons," said Gilmer.

Rep. Rose Bogardus, D-Davison, said: "I walked my district and knocked on several hundred doors, especially those with pickups parked there. There was unanimous support for this bill," she said.

"We've outlawed recreational camping for a lot of people," said Rep. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt.