

# Clarenceville students celebrate Arbor Day

In honor of Arbor Day, Livonia Mayor Jack Kinkley invited Botsford Elementary students to aid in the city-wide celebration.

Kinkley visited Botsford May 2 and planted three trees in the park located next to the school. After the ceremony, each student was given a seedling to take home. Other afternoon activities included a display of environmental awareness, including rescued wildlife animals from Howell Nature Center, a song by the first grade pertaining to the growth of trees and their help to the world, a presentation of Arbor Day history by CHIP (Children with High Individual Potential) and a school clean-up led by the Cub Scouts.

Planning for the Arbor Day celebration began last November when Bill Craig, head of Livonia City Tree Commission, selected Botsford Elementary to participate in the event. Joe Schiffman, Botsford Elementary Principal, embraced the idea and recruited Therese Oldani, Coordinator of CHIP, and the CHIP participants to assist in planning the celebra-



Students at Botsford Elementary celebrated Arbor Day last week with a tree planting ceremony.

tion. The Arbor Day celebration corresponds highly with the studies currently being done within the CHIP's program.

Last April, CHIP initiated a tree project by planting one tree on the school property. Over the year, students, with the aid of Dr. James Copi from Madonna University, have studied and recorded data from three selected trees.

Students have been able to see first hand the changes in the bark and fungi, to study

root systems and to measure tree circumference.

"Our tree project has been a wonderful learning activity," says Oldani, who is proud of CHIP ability to integrate Science and Technology. "The students are using special features on digital camcorders, such as fade outs and overlays, to record observations and to create an i-Movie."

This movie will be shared with parents of CHIP students on May 21 and will likely be aired later that month on the Clarenceville cable station, Brighthouse Channel 20.

Grandview Elementary will be having a separate Arbor Day celebration and tree planting on May 16. Grandview parents have volunteered with many projects in the gifted program, such as planting Cannon bulbs by the school with third grade students.

These plants, which will likely reach 6 feet in height, will be measured throughout the summer and are sure to provide the students much delight when they return this fall.

## Crop Walk raises \$31K

The 18th annual Farmington Crop Walk took place on May 4 with 533 walkers representing 19 churches and organizations in the area. The event raised \$31,736 in pledges which will benefit the St. Alexander Food Pantry, the Salvation Army, Neighborhood House of Farmington, the Baldwin Center in Portage and hunger and disaster relief to more than 70 countries around the world.

## LOUISE

FROM PAGE C5

Jeffrey Eugenides, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Middlesex* and *The Virgin Suicides*.

"In describing his young widower's grief and the joys and difficulties of raising a motherless daughter, David Collins has written an honest, measuredly optimistic, and very moving book about the terror of death and the consolation of love," Eugenides wrote.

Even more meaningful "reviews" come from the audiences who attend his book sign-

ings and contact him after reading the memoir.

"I've gotten responses from many people who've said it helped," David said. "For the people who knew us, it gave them more of a sense of what happened ... this says a lot of things they felt or were unable to express."

For others who have also lost a spouse or loved one, the book often has even deeper meaning.

"It helps crystallize things, and also makes them feel less alone and isolated," he said.

"There's a sharing that goes on, that eases people's grief."

Ultimately, he knows, Robin will read the book, probably before she's old enough to grasp much of what's written.

While some of it will be overwhelming at first, the process of accepting the loss of her mother is something that sinks in a little deeper every year.

David hopes she'll go back to the book again and again as the years go by.

"When that happens, the whole reason for doing this will finally come," he said. "I wrote it for the adult her. There's a lot of her mother she'll come to understand."

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## New business owner likes small-town feel

BY KEVIN BROWN STAFF WRITER

T-Kaz Screen Printing owner Tony Kazmierski says he prides himself on taking care of local customers.

"That's the kind of image I'm trying to portray - I'm in Farmington, I'm local and I like the small-town feel," he said, a bit out of breath after grabbing the phone on his way back to a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

"Although I'm definitely growing larger I love the city; I like being part of Farmington."

Run from a shop behind Kazmierski's home on Violet, the company offers full service textile and graphics screen printing, specializing in T-shirts, sweatshirts,

banners, and window graphics.

Upon graduating from Farmington High School, Kazmierski said his opportunities were photography or screen printing. "It's pretty much been screen printing ever since," he said.

Over 15 years Kazmierski has worked for several shops including Sterling Technologies and Baron's Sign Co. before opening his own shop last fall.

"I like the challenge of screen printing. It's not cut and dry. It's not like an assembly line. You've got to think a little bit, every single print. It takes a little creativeness to get things done."

Local clients include Dogwood's Deli, Grand Cafe, Benstead Chiropractors, Grace Elementary, Farmington Tattoo and Piercing, and Tweeny's. Kazmierski and wife Vickie have a



T-Kaz Screen Printing is a family affair. Tony Kazmierski Jr. (at right), mom and dad Judy and Tony Sr.

daughter Hannah, 6, and son Joey, 2. Kazmierski's parents help do accounting and sales work for the business.

The business phone is (248) 690-7158. Their Web site address is teckazz@aol.com.

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