

Northfield Human Services

TAMMY PIERSON
Contributing Writer

So did you do the little giggle with the tear running down your cheek, called the silent Happy Dance? or did you do the I threw my back out, I kicked my leg so high Happy Dance, as the school bus doors swung shut? Either way their back to school! Thank you bus drivers, Teachers and all of the school staff and school Volunteers. Have we told you lately that we love you?

We would like to Thank, The Living Water Church and The Michigan Podiatric Medical Association and all the individuals that contributed to our back to school programs, enabling our children to return to school with full back packs, shoes & socks and a throw blanket. It is amazing, how in these trying economic times with just a little effort, we can all be proud of the way we pull together and take care of each other.

NHS would also like to thank the children that spent their summer helping the food pantry it really shows that we can give and it doesn't hurt, it can even be fun. Thank you for your time Anika, Qiayel and Alonna. You did a wonderful job!

Speaking of fun, we would also like to thank all the volunteers that helped with the Texas Hold'em. A charity event Held in down town Ann Arbor. Your support was greatly appreciated. We still have nights available for anyone interested call 734-449-0110 ask for Tammy or Tina for more information.

Please check out our new web site. northfieldhumanservices.org

Memories To Savor

PHYLLIS STILLMAN
Contributing Writer

Every September I yearn to go back to school, even though it's been many (many, many) years since I left school. It was a bit lonely over the long summers on the farm, plus I loved school. Being in a class of four (out of a total school population of around 30) at the country school, it wasn't hard for me to shine. I loved to learn, and I loved to display what I'd learned (show off). I remember the test we took on the capitals of the states. We had a blank piece of paper, and we were to list the states and their capitals in alphabetical order. I did it almost perfectly; I misspelled Annapolis – if it weren't for spell check, I would have spelled it wrong today!

This year, I felt the same old feeling as the back to school ads started to run. But this year, I decided to do something about it. I'm going back to school! I haven't decided exactly what I'm going to do yet, but I've been searching my options, and I've found a number of them. I'm definitely going to participate in some activities through the Osher Lifelong Living Institute which has a center in Ann Arbor – some wine tastings, a trip to the Day of the Dead festivities in Detroit's Mexican Town, and probably a film studies group. Washtenaw Commu-

nity College has a number of lifelong learning classes, and their for-credit courses are relatively inexpensive; I might take an anthropology or drama class. Brighton and Ann Arbor both have very active community education programs. Once you start looking, you find so much to do, it's hard to choose.

Just in case you might be interested in joining me as I go back to school, here are a few resources:

Brighton's community education site: <http://brighton.registryinsight.com/>
Ann Arbor's: http://www.aareced.com/reced.home/rec__ed_home
Washtenaw Community College: <http://www.wccnet.edu/lifelong-learning/OsherLifelongLearningCenter> (for those over 50): <http://olliumich.org/>
Of course, fall also brings back our desire to cook. So we have to have recipes!

HOT 'N SPICY STEW IN THE CROCKPOT

A great dinner for those busy days of classes!

3 lb. beef stew meat
4 carrots, cut into 1/2" pieces
2 medium potatoes, cut into 1/2" cubes
1 large onion, chopped
1 small can pitted ripe olives, undrained
1 16 oz. jar salsa

1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon chili powder
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1/4 cup water

Combine all ingredients except cornstarch and water, in crockpot; stir well to blend. Cover and cook on low 7-9 hours, until meat and vegetables are tender. Increase heat to high; combine cornstarch and water. Stir slowly into stew mixture until thickened. If not serving immediately, reduce heat to low to keep warm.

GINGERED PEAR CRISP

A use for those wonderful Michigan fall fruits.

1 cup flour
4 1/2 teaspoons grated ginger
1/2 cup brown sugar
3 tablespoons butter
1 cup chopped pecans
6 pears

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a small bowl, mix the flour, ginger and brown sugar; cut in butter then stir in pecans. Peel and slice pears and arrange in the bottom of an 8" pan. Sprinkle topping over pears. Bake for about 30 minutes, until pears are done and topping is brown.

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The COURANT

SEPTEMBER 2011 EDITION

Published monthly by
Whitmore Lake Media LLC
Copyright © 2011

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Thanks to All our Volunteer
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SUBSCRIPTIONS:
First-class mailing anywhere in
the US is available for \$24/year.

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Printed by Ann Arbor Offset

Update on the Whitmore Lake Improvement Project

JEFF KRCMARIK
Contributing Writer

The Whitmore Lake Improvement Project has been addressing the control of invasive weeds for the past 8 years. The project facilitated by Washtenaw County Public Works Division has had success in controlling the invasive weeds such as Eurasian Milfoil. The project consultant, Aquest Inc., has provided annual vegetative surveys of the lake to help assess the direction of the program and to advise the herbicide applicator. Across Michigan aquatic invasive species have invaded lakes and decimated the biodiversity and ruined recreational ac-

tivities on the lakes. Asian carp, hydrilla, red ludwigia are just a few of the invasives found around the great lakes region that could end up in Whitmore Lake.

Also, recommendations have been made, such as installing underwater structures to improve the fisheries however under the current assessment the monies can only be used for controlling invasive weeds.

The fiscal condition of the project has resulted in a fund balance that is sufficient to pay for applications in 2012 however another 5 year assessment district will need to be approved to continue with the project. Collection of assessment was reduced by 50% in 2009

and not collected in 2010 or 2011 due to a robust balance, you may have noticed this on the winter tax bill you receive from your township.

The fund balance can be found along with the annual reports and fishery studies at http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/drain_commissioner/dc_webPublicWorks/lake_management/index_html.

A project update will be provided at the September 13th Northfield Twp Board meeting

If the project is renewed, the scope of the improvement project may include activities to directly improving fisheries. Contact project manager Jeff Krcmarik at 734-222-6865 if you have any questions.

We at ^{The} Courant
would like to wish
a Happy 50th
Birthday to
Tim Avey!



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