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Harvest fair

The Redford Jaycees and the Partnership for Building a Better Redford are co-hosting the first annual Harvest Fair to launch Redford Township's community garden initiative. The Harvest Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 13 at the Ashcroft School site (On the north side of West Chicago, just East of Inkster). The Harvest Fair is a free, family friendly event, and offers fun activities for the kids including a bounce house and pumpkin carving, along with gardening information and demonstrations.

Sweetest Day contest

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win a night at the Townsend Hotel and a \$50 voucher for the Rugby Grille restaurant.

To enter, just visit our website, Hometownlife.com, and click on the Sweetest Day contest photo on the right-hand side. All you need to do to enter is fill out a short form with your contact information. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra chance to win if they also enter the contest. An extra chance to win is also earned by tweeting the contest link.

Don't forget, to increase your odds of winning, you may enter the contest once per day and share the link with as many friends as you want.

The drawing is Oct. 15.

Hydrant flushing

Redford Township Fire Department will be flushing hydrants through Nov. 9. Flushing will be done between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and between 9 a.m. and noon on Fridays. The areas affected will be between Inkster and Telegraph from Six Mile Road to Schoolcraft. Residents should check the clarity of the water before doing laundry to avoid stained clothing. Officials say the discoloration will subside within a short time and it does not affect water quality.

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Bozich to step down as fire chief

By Larry Ruehlen
Observer Staff Writer

Redford Fire Chief Joe Bozich is turning in his township-issued cell phone.

"When I took the job, this department was in a precarious position," said Bozich. "I was the only person eligible and I felt it was incumbent upon me to give it a try. Now we have the special assessment in place. The department is more stable ... I want to get back to doing what I like to do."

For Bozich, that's fighting fires as a battalion chief, the job he had before he was named chief in April.

"The chief's job is a lot of paperwork," said Bozich. "It is a different lifestyle."

Voters approved the creation of a special assessment district to fund public

safety in August that will allow the fire department to hire more staff and replace trucks in a timely manner. Bozich was a strong advocate for the funding and helped convince voters it was necessary.

And for those worried that Bozich is leaving the department — he's in fact voluntarily taking a step back in rank to battalion chief. Under his employment contract, Bozich had six months to decide if the chief's job was a good fit. As it turns out, it simply wasn't.

"You hire based on skill but there also has to be a will," said Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz. "Mr. Bozich has the will to go back to fighting fires and he certainly has the skill to do that."

Please see BOZICH, A2



Fire Chief Joe Bozich wants to get back on a truck instead of being stuck behind a desk.



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alex Vincent, his mother Korin and brother Jason walk to school on a very important day for all districts — fall count day.

Enrollment drops at Redford Union, South Redford schools

By David Veselenak
Observer Staff Writer

Preliminary numbers for Wednesday's Count Day indicate another year of decreased enrollment for Redford Union Schools.

Supt. Ron Stoneman said while the district is still analyzing numbers, Redford Union's preliminary enrollment was 2,913 students Wednesday, the official fall count day for the State of Michigan.

That number is lower than last year's official enrollment

ment of 3,000 students and the reduction is equal to 2.9 percent of total enrollment.

Stoneman said the district is still looking to count additional students even though count day was last week, and that figure would most likely change. He said the district has a time period to report additional students before the next count day in February.

"If they haven't attended yet, we still have a period of days for them to be counted," he said.

Enrollment at RU Schools has decreased every year

since 2005, when enrollment was at 4,633.

Stoneman said the district saw increased enrollment numbers at MacGowan Elementary, and decreased enrollment at Redford Union High School this year. Some parents have complained

about open enrollment and others about a new dress code this year. Open Enrollment is for lower grades so it doesn't explain the loss of the students at the high school.

Wednesday's count is used

Please see ENROLLMENT, A2

Officials set to clear the air over RU dress code

By David Veselenak
Observer Staff Writer

The talks over Redford Union's new dress code are continuing three months after the revision was approved by the school board.

A review and discussion of the dress code is planned by the school board for its Oct. 8 meeting. A request of Trustee Evelyn Pride-

more, the session will allow for the school board to review the policy and how it is being implemented in the schools.

Board President Mark Wierimaa said it will not be a public hearing, but attendees will be able to make comments during the public comment section of the meeting.

"We welcome any comments anyone might have," Wierimaa said. "We will clear this up and we will have a set of guidelines after this meeting."

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Beech Elementary School, 19990 Beech Daly.

School administrators are also being invited to discuss issues surrounding the dress code.

"I've invited Mrs. Nachman and Mrs. Shelton, the principals at the middle school and high school, to join us for that meeting so we can come up with a list of items and guidelines on how we intend to enforce this going forward," Wier-

Please see DRESS CODE, A2

Voter forums to focus on ballot proposals

By David Veselenak
Observer Staff Writer

Redford's ballot this Nov. 6 election is longer than usual.

In addition to voting for the president, senate and township trustee, voters will be faced with 13 nonpartisan issues.

One Redford organization will try to help voters under-

stand these proposals during two events in October.

The Redford Patriots will host forums detailing the proposals facing voters. The first event will feature a presentation on the five Wayne County charter amendments on the ballot. Many of the five would increase the power of the county Board of Commissioners, and one would

allow the governor the authority to remove the county executive.

That event will take place at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Mama Mia's Restaurant at 27770 Plymouth in Livonia.

"I am one of those people who is undecided on the charter amendments," said Dianne Ruhlandt, acting president of the Redford Patriots. "People should

be prepared to vote on them, and this is one way to get informed."

Group member Mark Cochran, who is running to represent Redford on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners as a Republican, will give the presentation.

The second event will feature speakers and a town hall-like dis-

Please see FORUMS, A2

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