



# UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE



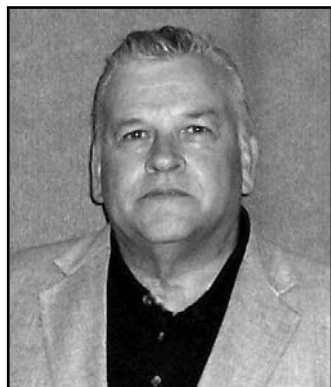
*Bi-Monthly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters*

*Volume 98, July/September 2009*

## NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS!

Charles Master, Jr. passed away at his home on Monday evening, July 13, 2009 at the age of 86. He served as President (1992 / 1993) and Recording Financial Secretary of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association (1994 / 2008).

The Association, its Officers, Board of Directors and membership wants his wife Elsie aware of our appreciation for his efforts in our behalf.



### PRESIDENT

*Don Taylor*

I will start once again with an update on our Hospitalization Lawsuit. On July 23, Judge Torres granted a joint motion from the City of Detroit and the class attorney Chris Legghio. "The joint motion requested the judge to, preliminarily approve the class action settlement, approve class notice and supplemental notice to certain members, and amend order certifying class action and set a date for a fairness hearing." You will receive the information regarding the settlement from Attorney Chris Legghio. Read it over and if you have questions give the office a call.

As you read through the information, keep in mind that this is a negotiated settlement. It doesn't restore our benefits to the level we once enjoyed. But taking into account the financial state of the City of Detroit, State of Michigan and the country, we must accept the fact that times have changed and this settlement, once

implemented, will remove the uncertainty we currently face. It will guarantee that your current benefit level cannot be reduced for the rest of your life. It also offers a plan with no co-pay premiums for the rest of your life. Each member will also receive some back pay in three payments totaling approximately \$800. No one was looking forward to several more years in court, only to face an uncertain outcome. So under the current conditions I believe this is a fair settlement and the best that we could receive under the circumstances.

It is however unfortunate that it has taken so long to reach this point in the settlement. As you are well aware the agreement was reached in November of 2008 and signed by the Mayor in December. Why did it take several months to reach this point? We can only hope that Judge Torres will give the final approval to the settlement at the Fairness Hearing on August 26, and the City will then expedite the open enrollment and finally put an end to this nightmare.

We understand this has been a very difficult time and many of our members have suffered financially, but it appears that we are now near the end, so we ask for your patience. At best it will still take a couple of months to get this settlement fully implemented.

The next item, our pension lawsuit, we have a hearing in front of Judge Murphy on July 31. On this date

*(continued on page 6)*



## VICE PRESIDENT

*Gregory Trozak*

I would like to begin by addressing the Association sponsored picnic held on June 27th. It turned out to be one of the nicest days of the summer we have had this year weather wise. We had close to 300 of our members who seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves, had some great food, good conversation with old friends and an all around good time. None of this would have been possible without the help of a few of our members, their wives and the wives of some of the board members.

On behalf of the Association I would like to personally thank Dave and Judy Clark, Frank and Karen Frabotta, Gerry & Phyllis Hannenberg, Ray & Audrey Kosmack, Rick & Margie Kosmack, Frank Rossi, Wayne Smith, Ken Woodruff and the wives of some of our board members Chris Grant, Nancy Jackson, Marion Lancaster and my wife Josie. THANK YOU again for a job well done. We have had many compliments and it could not have happened without your help.

Along the same line I would like to remind everyone of some of the other events scheduled this summer. The west side picnic is scheduled for August 8 at the German Park in Northfield Township and the annual golf outing will be held on August 21 at Salt River Golf Course in New Baltimore. The golf outing is starting to fill up so get your foursome together and send in your registration form.

The conference in Las Vegas has been closed out as

far as the air and hotel package from Detroit, but if you would like to make your own travel arrangements there are rooms on hold at Planet Hollywood up until 40 days prior to the conference. Give the office a call if you are interested. The reservations can only be guaranteed through our Association.

In reading the latest edition (June 2009) of "The Detroit Fire Fighter" I see that HB 4917, which has been introduced in the Michigan Legislature by Representative Fred Durhal Jr., has raised some concern among one of their Officers and a member of their Board of Directors. One of their questions and I quote "why would retiree's want to vote in an election that does not affect them? How would they even know who is running, some of them have been retired for over 20 years?" My question is how many years does one have to be retired before we no longer care about the future of the pension system. Rest assured if retired 6 months or 40 years we remain concerned and for good reason, by his own admission that in his opinion "there were some bad decisions that were made, but made with bad advice".

Our Association makes every possible attempt to keep our members informed even our most senior members, many of whom were "trustees and union executives" that made the pension system and the active unions what they are today. This legislation does not call into question the current group of trustees and how they are "protecting the system", this legislation would give retirees the right to vote for the nominated active employees. HB 4917 is not an attack on all current active police/fire unions as stated in the article, we as retirees know the difficulties of dealing with the City of Detroit, the shortages of personnel and equipment, remember we were struggling with these problems for at least "over 20 years". HB 4917 was not introduced so the DFFA had to "deal with this" instead of other

*(continued on page 7)*



### Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association Inc.

2525 E. Fourteen Mile Road • Sterling Heights, MI 48310-5969

(586) 795-1734 • Fax (586) 795-2183

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m till 3:00 p.m.



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Rick Lancaster

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Roy Moerschell



## SECRETARY/ TREASURER

*Al Grant*

This is the first time that I, as Secretary/Treasurer, am writing an article for the "Unity". The President and Vice President regularly place articles in the bi-monthly edition of the paper. I will write an article every now and then when I believe that concerns and questions need to be emphasized and answered.

The Association has a long history dating back to the late forties with thirteen recorded amendments to the Constitution of the Association and its Bylaws. We continued in 1970 with merging Police and Fire members to the present day. The Association is now known as: Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association Inc. The Organization is a non-profit and the purpose of the Association shall be: In part, "To provide the Members with information concerning the status of Pensions, Hospitalization and Insurances and to keep the Members informed on all matters relative to the best interests of the Association and its Members" and "To promote a spirit of good fellowship and a closer personal relationship among Members and their families."

Through monthly General Meetings (except July and August) and the Unity Magazine, the Association attempts to keep members up to date. In an effort to increase participation at our membership meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the alternating of meeting locations (September, November, January, March and May) on the East Side location and (October, December, February, April and June) on the

West Side. The decision was based on making it more convenient for our membership not willing to cross town to attend General Membership Meetings. Undeniably the change promotes our Objective (Bylaws Article II), and keeps more members up to date. The out of state members can utilize the established website ([rdpffa.com](http://rdpffa.com)) for current online messages and refer to the delivered or online Unity magazine.

Presently we all are going through some unusual times. No one would ever think that two major automotive companies would be filing for bankruptcy. We all recognize that Detroit has been experiencing financial troubles for many years, although city officials have always been honorable regarding their commitments.

The City of Detroit is strapped for money and looking for any way to produce cash. They made the decision to renege and I believe, violate their contractual agreements. That is why we initiated litigation against the City for undoing what most thought was a guarantee. In addition, the next major disappointment presented itself by having our relations between active and retired members collapse before our eyes. A decision was made that it would be in their best interest to partner with the City for a gain, leaving the Retiree's out of the loop.

Looking back on the history of all the Associations involved (excluding the DPCOA) and most importantly those that our retirees have been members of, every one of them claim years of accomplishments and one web site in particular caught my attention, the Detroit Police Officers Association website, DPOA History.

The association is willing to boast of all benefits gained from humble beginnings that date as far back as 1865 to finally stating in part, "the association continues to respond to the constant actions that threaten all that the DPOA has fought long and hard for during the past 60 years since its inception. This fight is not carried on by merely our 4 Elected Officers, the Executive Board, the Grievance Committee, nor the Stewards comprising our Board of Directors, but by ALL MEMBERS as a WHOLE continuing to ensure that at the very least, we get what we bargained for. The question becomes, "Why then" were retirees left out?

It has become apparent that we as an Association must become more aggressive and pro-active in our approach with people who have control of our interests. We cannot sit on the side of the road or take a back seat. We intend to get involved not only in City, but State Politics finding out who will support and defend issues

*(continued on page 4)*

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# Hospitalization

*John Devoy*

Is it is or is it ain't? Open enrollment is it on or off? Has the system finally made a decision on our Health Care coverage? Who knows? Does the Shadow know?

Time goes on and still no final word on our Health Care problems. If it were not so serious this would be funny. Your Association has followed thru on every possible angle, still no decision. The City of Detroit says it is not them, I know that it is not our Association!

Who is there left to blame? Stay tuned for further results. Remember when you finally do receive information and forms and paper work on Health Care be sure to save a copy and your response so that you can be sure of your choice, benefits and costs. Keep the faith.

See you at the picnic on August 8th, and Golf Tourney August 21.

## **EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL "DUFFERS DERBY" GOLF OUTING**

*FOR R.D.P.F.F.A. MEMBERS & GUESTS!*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2009

9:00 A.M. Shot Gun Start

### **Salt River Golf Course**

38633 23 Mile Road

Chesterfield, MI

586-725-0311

**COST: \$65.00 PER PERSON WITH A GIFT  
FOR EVERY REGISTERED GOLFER**

*Golfers must register individually before 8:30 a.m.  
to receive tee and cart assignments. Shotgun start  
promptly at 9:00 a.m. No refund for 'no' shows.*

#### **Also Includes:**

- 18 Holes of Tournament Golf with cart
- Breakfast (*continental style*)
- Lunch and Beverages
- Dinner at 3:30 p.m.  
(*choice of three entrees, deserts and beverages*)

Draft beer and beverages served in the club house and designated areas on the golf course.

Registration forms are available from the Association Office.

**Call 1-586-795-1734**

## **SEC/TREASURER** (*continued from page 3*)

important to Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association retirees.

This is where you, as the membership can help. We have ongoing operational and legal expenses, while we move forward on issues that need to be addressed. The time for our entire membership to assist with a contribution to the Appreciation and/or Political Action Committee Fund is now! The Association will carry on, aided by your financial donation in our struggles for what was earlier stated, "ALL MEMBERS, as a WHOLE". However, this time we will include Present and Future Retirees.

Send what you can afford in a donation to RDPFFA 2525 E. 14 Mile Road Sterling Heights, MI 48310. Finally, please sign up for payroll deduction. Our goal is 100% participation. It saves hours in the office processing yearly dues payments leaving time to focus on the issues.

## **Welcome New Members!**

### **May**

Adams, Lawrence Police  
Banks, Pauline Police  
Cheatom, Cynthia Police  
Echols, Dinell Fire  
Goode, Eugene Police  
Hence, Willie Police  
Hudson, William Police  
Jordan, Clifford Police  
McKeithen, Janice Police  
Slaton, Sandra Fire  
Stafford, Barbara Police  
Stopczynski, Gregory Police  
Williams, Thomas Jr. Police

### **June**

Chaney, Marva Police  
Fuller, Lester Fire  
Golden, Johnny Police  
Pritchett, Charlie Fire  
Ratliff, Phillip Police  
Webb, Charles Fire

### **July**

Eshman, Richard Police

# UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

## A.P.B. Retirees Luncheon

Third Monday of every month

For Information call: Joe Borri at (586) 791-5552

## 5th Precinct Oldtimers Luncheon

Second Monday of every month at 11:00 A.M.

Big Boy's at Garfield and Hall Rd. (M-59)

## 11th Precinct Retirees Luncheon

Second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 P.M.

Buddy's Pizza - 13 Mile Rd. and Van Dyke

## 14th Precinct Quarterly Breakfast

Contact Ron Smolka at

734-422-8258 for future schedules

## Fire Fighters Breakfasts

First Monday of the month at 9:00 A.M.

Voyageur Restaurant – (810) 329-4101

525 Riverside Dr. – St. Clair, MI

First Tuesday of the month at 9:30 A.M.

Step Inn Restaurant

325 N. Main St., Downtown Cheboygan, MI

Third Tuesday of the month at 9:00 A.M.

Omega Coney Island

22501 W. Eight Mile Rd., Detroit, MI

First Thursday of the month at 10:00 A.M.

Little Chef Restaurant 101 Brookside Lane,

(Enter off Grand River) Exit 145 off of I-96

# ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

**NEW!**

## General Membership

## Meeting Schedule

SEPTEMBER 2009 - MAY 2010

THURSDAY AT 7 PM

## EAST SIDE/AMERICAN POLISH CENTURY CLUB

33204 Maple Lane - Sterling Heights, Michigan

Sept. 3 • Nov. 5 • Jan. 7 • Mar. 4 • May 6

## WEST SIDE/MONAGHAN K of C HALL

19801 Farmington Rd. - Livonia, Michigan

Oct. 1 • Dec. 3 • Feb. 4 • Apr. 1 • June 3

## West Side Silver Ladies\*

2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 P.M.

Archie's – 30471 Plymouth Road – Livonia

Between Middlebelt and Merriman Road

## East Side Silver Ladies\*

1st Tuesday of the month

Meeting at Filippa's – Time: 2:00 P.M.

Mound North of M-59, Utica, MI

## Police & Fire Club of Florida\*

Next meeting is 1st Sunday of the month 12:30 P.M.

“October to May” at Brandon Community Center

502 E. Sadie St. - Brandon, Florida

## Snowbirds Of Michigan\*

2nd Sunday of the month

at “BJ's” Restaurant in Gaylord, MI

Social Hour 11:00 AM – Meeting at 1:00 PM

## Nevada Jackpots\*

Refer to column for next meeting's location.

## Arizona Roadrunners\*

Members will be notified of  
time and place by mail

\*Refer to columns for specifics or program changes



## SERVING THOSE SERVING OTHERS

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## Articles for the November, 2009

Issue should be “submitted” by

**October 15, 2009**



## PRESIDENT *(continued from page 1)*

the Judge will hear a number of motions from the Unions, City and Pension Board. The motions include motions for dismissal. The Judge has also set a date of September 10, for a settlement hearing. We will keep you updated on this case.

On our legislation in Lansing, House Bill 4917. We need your help on this important issue. Call your Representatives and ask for their support. I have spoken with many of the Representatives, and each one has indicated their support, and we must continue to pursue the issue.

Regarding House Bill 4917, in a recent issue of "The Detroit Fire Fighter" a couple of their elected officers address the issue. I won't go into great detail on their comments, as our Vice-President, Greg Trozak addresses it in his article. Although, I would like to point out in one of the articles the "Secretary's Report" as an Officer of Fire Fighters Association and an Elected Pension Board Trustee, he questions a number of issues, his article reads in part as follows;

"The last issue I would like to address is House Bill 4917 in Lansing that has been introduced by Representative Fred Durhal. The bill is being pushed by the retirees association to allow for retirees to vote in

pension trustee elections.

My first question is why? Why would retirees want to vote in an election that does not affect them, the City is no longer making contributions for you? How would they even know who is running, some of them have been retired for over 20 years?"

My response, There is no one that is affected more; this is the "Pension Board" which controls the funds used to pay pensions of current and future retirees. He also appears to believe that once you retire you lose the mental capacity to make an intelligent and informed decisions regarding persons seeking elected offices. I believe it is just the opposite, seniors are the most diligent and best informed voting block, just maybe he knows this too, and that is truly what he is worried about!!

The bottom line is we are not asking for anything, most other retirees don't already have. The Detroit Police & Fire Pension Board is one of the only major pension boards that do not have Retiree representation of some kind; this includes the General City of Detroit Pension Board, which has a Retiree on their Board, Wayne County, which allows retirees to run and vote and the Michigan State Police that have two retirees on their board, just to name a few.

So don't put it off, call your Representatives and ask them to support HB 4917. If you're not sure who your Representative is, call the office and we will assist you.

I want to inform all members, that with the number of court cases we have currently, we are experiencing a number of last minute delays and changes in court dates and the information we feel is important and necessary to keep our membership as current as possibly on issues that affect them. As a result of these delays the Association has decided to combine the July and September issues of the Unity. This is to insure that once the Unity goes out it contains the most current information possible. We will also continue to update the membership on issues as they unfold, through E-mails and our Web-site.

As we continue to pursue these issues I want to thank all our members for their continued support, understanding and patience. On behalf of the Association I want to express my appreciation to all our members that continue to support our efforts financially through their membership and donations. The challenges we face are many and require all members and all retirees to do their part.

That's it for now enjoy the rest of your summer. We'll see you at the General Meetings, and the other social events of the association.

### FEEL BETTER IN 30 MINUTES

**Dr. Ray**  
Hon. LSA, DPFA  
Former Army  
Paratrooper

**Dr. Tom**  
National Board  
of Chiropractic  
Examiners

**Dr. Ray Kaminski**

**Dr. Tom Moses**

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<b>(586) 286-1100</b>		

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## **VICE PRESIDENT** *(continued from page 2)*

issues, our Association has been attempting to meet with all the active unions along with Representative Durhal to discuss the legislation since the 1st of April. Six (6) meetings were scheduled by Representative Durhal in his office and all were canceled because of "scheduling conflicts". This Association was willing to meet at any time and at any location the active unions chose but as of this writing the unions notified Representative Durhal that they have no reason to meet because they having nothing to discuss.

The second article written in "The Detroit Fire Fighter" again questions HB 4917. The writer of this article is correct in stating that the passage of this bill would give retirees an equal vote in the election of pension trustees. What the writer stated incorrectly was that the retiree would be able to vote for any nominee

### **DEATH OF MEMBER FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROCEDURE**

Communications vary whether member was Police, Fire, or Sergeant and above. If you are Police make your first call to the Detroit Police Benefit & Protective Association, (313) 870-9301. Followed by either a call to the Detroit Police Officer Association, (313) 567-8770, or the Lieutenants & Sergeants (313) 961-5699, which ever applies.

While the Detroit Police Benefit & Protective Association will normally contact the City of Detroit with the information it would be reasonable to follow up with a call to the Pension Bureau, (313) 224-3362 or 1 (800) 339-8344 and Human Resources (313) 224-4809 or 1 (888) 288-2684 to make sure that they were notified. Last but not least, notify the Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association, (586) 795-1734.

Fire employees, start by notifying the Detroit Fire Fighter Association, (313) 962-7546, the Detroit Firemen's Fund Association, (313) 961-2988 or 1 (877) 961-2988, Detroit Fire Mutual Fund, (313) 962-4595, and the Detroit Pension Bureau, (313) 224-3362 or 1 (800) 339-8344.

The above agencies will assist you with the notification process. It would be a good idea to put this information with your secured legal documents or some other obvious place where your survivors can locate it.

running for any of the collective bargaining units. This bill would allow a retiree to only vote for the nominated trustees from the collective bargaining unit that represented the retiree upon retirement which is the same as any active member. This Director, and again I quote, "I don't want to sound cold, but once you retire you are no longer a contributor to the pension system. You are now a beneficiary of the system. You paid your dues and now you are reaping the benefits of what you paid. The contractual benefits that you retired with. No more, no less."

This legislation has nothing to do with negotiating benefits; this legislation allows retirees the right to vote for the trustees that are nominated by the active members of the Police and Fire Departments. I find it hard to believe that the DFFA would have an objection to allowing retirees the right to vote for active members who will have a fiduciary responsibility to the system that we "are now a beneficiary of". I fail to see how this Director can state "House Bill 4917 is a very bad piece of legislation and could have a very bad effect on our system and our way of life if it passes". If allowing a person the right to vote has an effect on "our way of life" we are all in trouble. We as "beneficiaries" of the retirement system must contact our Legislatures and encourage them to vote yes on HB 4917.

In closing I would like to congratulate Sean Neary as the new elected trustee from the Fire Department and Paul Stewart in his re-election as trustee from the Police Department.

### **DUES DEDUCTION**

*PLEASE CHECK PAY STUBS*

It has come to our attention that some Members have enrolled in payroll deduction and the \$2.00 monthly deduction is not being taken. If this has affected you, let the office know.

If you would like to be enrolled call the office and a form will be mailed to you.

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# Members Letters

At the May meeting of our Retired Detroit Police and Fire Club, the members voted unanimously to send a check to the Association in appreciation. Our records show that the Florida Club has been meeting in Brandon, Florida, continually since 1955. We thank all of you who do the hard work for us in Florida and for all the retiree's everywhere!

Dolores Larsen  
*Retired Detroit Police  
and Fire Club of Florida*

Thank you so very much for all the great work you do for all the retired Police and Firefighters!

Sincerely,  
*Ray Michalski*

Ray and I greatly appreciate all the time and effort the officers of the RDPFFA put forth on our behalf, and all that has been accomplished. Hope the enclosed check helps to continue the good work.

Sincerely,  
*Ray & Dorothy Hesse*

Enclosed is a check for the P.A.C. fund. Thank you for your hard work and devotion. The LSA received its last dues payment from me. They no longer represent my views or interests.

*Al Blom*

Fellow Retirees:

As others have, and I hope others to follow will, donate to the causes of our association, I am enclosing a check to be used wherever you deem it necessary. Your

## AMERICAN LEGION Post 161

Police & Fire Fighters Looking for Members

*Must have wartime service!*

Dues \$35

*For information contact:*

**Milton Lobstein**

(586) 791-6995

hard work has been duly noted especially by this retiree from Caseville, MI, and I thank you.

*Bob Luckey  
Retired Sergeant. - DPD*

After reading John's "In My Opinion", in the Unity, I was compelled to send a check to be used as you deem necessary. I was in the L & S for 17 years and you are right, John is the best police union guy Detroit ever saw.

*Tom McCann  
Retired Sergeant*

Please use this check for what you think best. Thank you for all you have done for us retired people.

*Don Black*

I am returning this form which you requested. I am also enclosing a check to be used in the best interest of our Association. Thanks for all that you have done over the years and in the future.

Thanks and take care,  
*Wilbert Kenny*

Thank you for all your hard work. I'm going to be 90 years old in a few months. This check means so much to me. The dues are taken out of my check every month. I have sent in a few checks before. I hope this helps out, I know it isn't a lot.

Thank you again,  
*Hope Waliad*

I just want to thank you and all the others for your efforts for us retired officers. So I enclose the check to help a little. I know it is not much but of course you understand the retirees' situation so I try to help a little bit. Thank you again for all your work.

*Frank Capizzo*

Please use in whatever way will be of best interest to RDPFFA.

*Gene Mangum*

Thank all of you for fighting for us. You are doing an outstanding job! Put this (check) in the fund you choose.

*Thomas Pawlowski  
Retired Sergeant*

I am enclosing a check for my 2009 dues and another check for the P.A.C. fund. I am thankful for the 5 years as an associate member, as well as 22 years as an



active member. I was always confident that my family and I were being watched over by the Board and membership of the RDPFFA. I will show my appreciation in any way possible. I can only hope the DPOA, LSA and PFFA take the grease out of their eyes and ears and realize our fight will be their fight once they retire.

A proud member,  
*Robert Conn*

I retired July - 1986 and paid DPOA associate member dues since retirement. However, this year 2009, was the first year I didn't. Find enclosed a check for legal fund.

Respectfully,  
*Leonard Stano*

Every time I attend a retirees meeting, I am amazed at how much is accomplished by so few on behalf of ALL retirees. I thank you sincerely. Please accept this donation. I'm proud to be a member of the RDPFFA.

Sincerely,  
*Geri Henningsen*

Please put the enclosed check where ever it's needed. The Association is doing a fine job. I appreciate your fine work on our behalf. I remember the 60's & 70's putting up an assessment a couple of times of a hundred bucks to go to court & fight to have the City put our retirement fund monies in. If we hadn't done that there sure would not have 4 billion in the pension fund now.

Thank you,  
*Ray Kapcia*  
*Retired Lt. DFD*

I'm not sure I was supposed to send this. I have been a member since 1985 when George passed away. I would like to thank the Association for all its endeavors over the years. The union letter was more than disgusting. I do not get a pension so medical is very important to me.

Good Luck,  
*Annie DeBruyne*

We are so very fortunate to have dedicated officers such as you. Your efforts produced many of our benefits to which we are thankful. Please accept this donation to the P.A.C. fund Special thanks to them.

Respectfully a member,  
*John Giles Jr.*

## REMEMBRANCE AND THANK YOU

The following supporters, their names and in the names of their loved ones, have contributed most generously to our Appreciation, Building and P.A.C. Funds. Your continued support of our Association is the encouragement we need and reflects your recognition of the Association's efforts in your behalf.

Barber, Evelyn & Gary	McGlaw, E. Norman
Barber, Gary & Evelyn	Messerschmidt, Kenneth
Beer, Ferdinand & J	& Sylvia <i>in memory of</i>
Timothy	<i>Sgt. Zygmunt Grzanka</i>
Beski, Donna & Thomas	Michalski, Judith &
Bilyk, Florence	Raymond
Blom, Allen	Milner, Harold & Carol
Bussell, Ronald & Carol	Minar, Jack
Capizzo, Frank	Monahan, James <i>in memory</i>
Catanzaro, Dominic <i>in</i>	<i>of Joe Vogler</i>
<i>memory of Charles Master Jr.</i>	Murphree, Clifford
Chakan, Sharron &	Murphy, Arthur
Kathleen Nowicki <i>in</i>	Nowicki, Kathleen &
<i>memory of John Chakan</i>	Sharron Chakan <i>in memory</i>
Chubb, William & Patricia	<i>of John Chakan</i>
Daly, F.J. & Charles P.A.	Palka, Jerome & Marilyn
DiMaggio, Emanoele	Parsell, Stephen & Cheryl
Downing, James	Pike, Lois & Gary <i>in</i>
Elliot, Dolores & Walter <i>in</i>	<i>memory of John K. Pike (FEO)</i>
<i>memory of Paul Janas</i>	Potocki, Ilene & Bradley
Faber, Henry	Potocki <i>in memory of</i>
George, Thomas <i>for Legal</i>	<i>Thaddeus Potocki</i>
<i>Defense Fund</i>	Retired Detroit Police
Hart, Joan	Club of Florida
Heaney, Patricia &	Rossi, Robert & Jacqueline
Michael <i>in memory of</i>	Schiepke, Raymond &
<i>Francis C. Heaney</i>	Martha
Heise, Raymond &	Smith, Vernon & Janice
Dorothy	Spytek, Frances & Dennis
Hendrian, Richard &	Dechamplain
Yvonne	Stimmel, Gladys &
Jones, Mary Williams	Sandra Ulmer <i>in memory of</i>
Kearney, Emmett & Bettie	<i>Robert Stimmel</i>
Knobelsdorf, Donald &	Sznewajs, Leonard & Mary
Nancy	Tata, Frank & Carolyn <i>in</i>
Kocis, Edward J. &	<i>memory of Dennis Crilley</i>
Michaeline	Tor, Ernest & Patricia
Koehler, Louis & Stella	Trapani, Nicholas & Anne
Kuhnlein, John & Majory	Wandzel, Donald Sr. &
LaPorte, Daniel	Elaine
Ledford, William & Clara	Wicker, Arnold
Luckey, Robert & Caroline	Wiltse, Earl & Jeanette
Machesky, Jerome & Lois	Winkler, Frank & Bernice
McGarth, Jean	Zadorozny, Patricia <i>in</i>
	<i>memory of Werna Roberts</i>



## IN MEMORIAM

Once again we call the roll and acknowledge those friends and associates who have left us since our last publication. It is hard to let go of good friends but it is easy to remember the good times we shared and realize that now they rest in peace.

Name	Rank	Dept.	Date of Death
Andrizzi, Donald	Sgt	Police	7-5-09
Arra, George	Sgt.	Police	6-6-09
Bennett, Lyall	Sgt.	Police	7-22-09
Braden, Cheryl	P.O.	Police	5-11-09
Broderick, Francis	Bt. Chief	Fire	6-18-09
Buyse, Robert	P.O.	Police	6-14-09
Carey, James Jr.	P.O.	Police	7-20-09
Carter, Lucius	Lt.	Fire	6-24-09
Chandler, Edward	P.O.	Police	5-5-09
Chapman, Walter	Chief	Fire	5-23-09
Crilley, Dennis	FF	Fire	5-10-09
Davis, Gordon	P.O.	Police	7-7-09
Douras, William	Bt. Chief	Fire	6-21-09
Etter, Richard	P.O.	Police	7-17-09
Forys, Edmund	Bat. Chief	Fire	6-6-09
Gardner, Elaine *	Lt.	Police	2-22-09
Gilmore, Timothy	FF	Fire	6-27-09
Gray, Ira	P.O.	Police	5-29-09
Griffiths, Dennis	P.O.	Police	7-14-09
Grover, Ralph *	P.O.	Police	3-23-09
Holowicki, Frank	Sgt.	Police	6-6-09
Husek, Steven *	P.O.	Police	4-6-09
Jackson, James L.	P.O.	Police	7-26-09
Johnson, Mackie	Sgt.	Police	7-22-09
Kameg, Joseph	P.O.	Police	6-26-09
Kaneski, Norbert	FEO	Fire	7-14-09
Klinger, John	P.O.	Police	5-17-09
Law, Larry	P.O.	Police	6-9-09
Loesche, Francis	P.O.	Police	7-16-09
Luke, Edward	P.O.	Police	5-15-09
Luttenberger, Joseph	Sgt.	Police	7-23-09
Master, Charles Jr.	Dep. Chief	Fire	7-13-09
McDaniel, Charles	Sgt.	Police	7-15-09
McGuire, Herbert	P.O.	Police	5-15-09
Neal, Danny	Lt.	Fire	7-22-09
O'Hara, Harry	Master	Fire	6-20-09
Olin, Albert	Bat. Chief	Fire	5-22-09
Outley, Sylvester	FF	Fire	5-21-09
Parrott, Caston	FEO	Fire	7-26-09

Paul, Douglas	Capt.	Fire	6-16-09
Portelli, Joseph	FEO	Fire	7-1-09
Prybys, Joseph	P.O.	Police	6-13-09
Randall, Darryl *	P.O.	Police	4-28-09
Schroeder, Stanley	Sgt.	Police	6-27-09
Sliva, John	P.O.	Police	6-23-09
Smith, Raymond	Lt.	Police	7-16-09
Thomas, Donald	Bat.Chief	Fire	7-22-09
Trombley, John	FEO	Fire	5-3-09
Weisenberger, John	Sgt.	Police	6-8-09
Ziegler, Daniel	Bat. Chief	Fire	6-7-09

(\* Indicates Belated Notification)

## ATTN: City of Detroit Police and Fire Fighters

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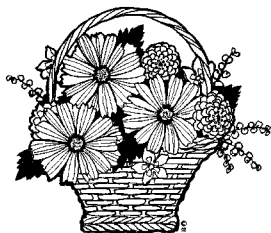
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## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

*(Surviving Spouses)*

*Fern Garner*

Here at my senior apartment complex they bring in speakers on various topics which might be of interest and informative for the residents. The most recent was an Assistant Prosecutor from Macomb County Prosecutors Office who spoke on fraud.

She emphasized some which seemed obvious, such as never carry your Social Security card with you. Do not just throw away mail coming to you with pertinent information such as credit card or bank account numbers, either invest in a shredder or avail yourself of community facilities which offer shredder service periodically.

Telemarketers are constantly finding new ways to circumvent any precautions you have taken to prevent them calling you. You are under no obligation, just hang up. No matter how chatty you feel. In past issues, I gave the phone numbers to call to limit if not stop those calls. This just means some scammers are not

able to call but some who get through, face the same test as any other unsolicited call. Remember the advice you gave your kids: DO NOT TALK TO STRANGERS.

Even some groups, who say they represent police or fire organizations are suspect, so don't be swayed by your memory and loyalty to anyone representing police or fire.

With the present state of the economy it seems more and more people are turning to illegal means to raise money. You read it in the papers and see it on TV where hold-ups and robberies seem to be on the increase.

There are so many more examples too numerous to list here but just be extra vigilant. If you are really interested in a charity or organization contact your local Better Business bureau before you make a donation. And bear in mind that once to give to one charitable organization you will be amazed at how many other mailing lists your name appears.



# DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association

For Additional Assistance  
Contact Association Office

Retired Detroit Police &  
Fire Fighters Association  
(586) 795-1734

Please Complete This Form & Return With Payment

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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Dues Year \_\_\_\_\_ 2009 \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable To: Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association  
Mail To: 2525 E. 14 Mile Rd. Sterling Heights, MI 48310-5969

IRS Notice 835 (Jan. 88)  
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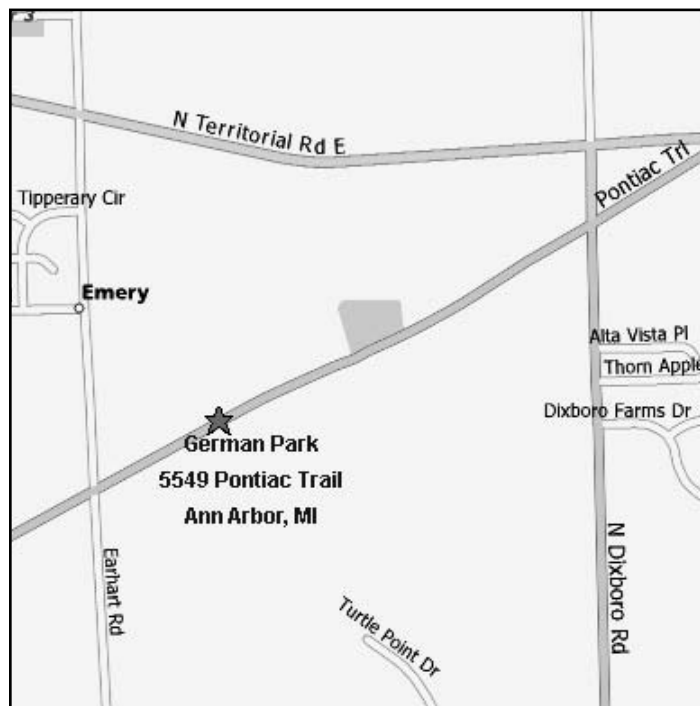
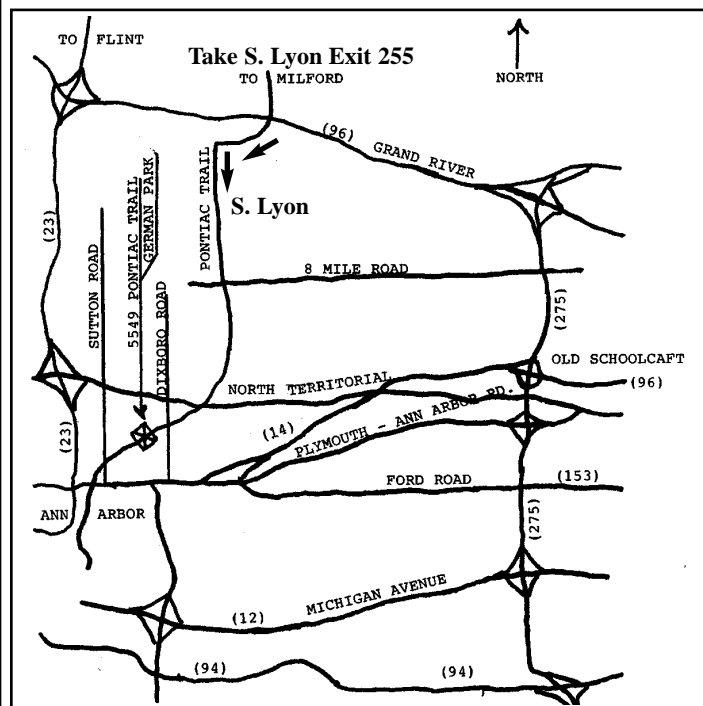
# SPECIAL NOTICE!

Your Association invites all R.D.P.F.F.A. active members, associates and their guest (1) to attend the R.D.P.F.F.A. 38th Anniversary Picnic on Saturday, August 8, 2009 at the German Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Just show your current R.D.P.F.F.A. membership card and enjoy the day. Admission is by a valid R.D.P.F.F.A. membership card or ticket purchase only. Non-members and those requiring additional tickets can procure same at the gate for \$10.00 each.

A luncheon ticket will be issued upon admission to the park.

## LUNCH WILL BE SERVED NOON TO 3 P.M. ONLY!





## RETIRED DETROIT POLICE AND FIRE CLUB OF FLORIDA

*Nancy Schmidt*

With only 17 in attendance we sure got a lot of house keeping done in regards to a lot club issues.

Bill and Dolores Larsen discussed next years Annual Dinner and it was decided by the majority that we would make a change and so next year it will be held at the Clearwater Country Club. Nice atmosphere and good menu choices. It will be a bit higher but we think it will be worth it. All the info will be posted here at a later date.

As approved by the members, Dolores sent donation checks to the RDPFFA of Mi. and the Brandon Recreation Center, where we have our meetings.

"The Kid", Ron Goosen celebrated a birthday in May.

Members who observed anniversaries in May were, Harry and Camille Ramsay 44 years, Ron and Maija

Goosen 32 years and Bob and Audrey Baumgart, back in MI will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary with a big family gathering. It was great seeing you both at the Annual Dinner.

The 50/50 was won by Bill Peplinski and Ron Goosen.

We discussed the idea of dropping the May meeting because of low attendance, (We miss our Snowbird's) but it was turned down by the majority. So as always the meetings will be on the first Sunday of the Months Oct thru May.

I received an e-mail from Roger Thom, of Sebring. Him and Jan are back from MI. Marilyn Neubauer called and let us know that husband Steven died. Please accept our condolences Marilyn. Keep in touch.

In June we received an e-mail from Vern and Jan Smith, our old concert buddies, from Apache Junction, AZ. They are taking a road trip to visit family and attend their Granddaughter's wedding. Have a safe trip and you would have to mention Sander's Hot Fudge.

We also heard from Bob Kohl, a DPD Retiree from Farmington Hills, MI. Bill had a great chat with him. No meeting in June and we miss seeing everyone already.

Club Roster's are ready, they were passed out at the May meeting. If anyone want's one there is no charge for them, but it will cost \$1.50 for the postage and handling if we have to mail them. My phone number is 1-352-683-7924, or you can e-mail me at njschmidt@gate.net.

The May meeting ended at 1:50 with a prayer by Rev. Ron Goosen.

We may not see you until Oct. but keep in touch and keep me informed.

Till then, Stay Safe.

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Well, so much for the ½ price gas. First of all, I and the rest of the Snowbirds would like to give a big heartfelt "Thank You" to Harry and Lorraine Rudeen who have handled the finances of our organization for many, many years. Due to health problems, Harry had to give it up. You two did a great job. Dave Ambrose has stepped up and agreed to be the Snowbirds Treasurer. Thank you Dave!

So, if anyone would like to pay their \$3.00 dues, you can send it to "Snowbirds c/o Dave Ambrose 5339 Beachview Dr. Gaylord, Mi 49735.

June Anniversaries: Mike & Joann Cherry and Jerome & Della Rozanski

June Birthdays: Mike Cherry, Marge Helyer, Roland Raska, Ed Dreslinski, Bev Clayton, Ginny Rogers, Barney Barnauskas, Moe Gekiere and Ted Farquhar.

June get well wishes go to Ann Podczervinski and Marlene Ambrose - both are scheduled for surgeries - Our thoughts and prayers are with you both.

50 / 50 winners: Carolyn Wood, Georgette Gekiere, Leon Buda, Maryann Ponik and Bev Clayton.

Did you know that in 1929 the Michigan State Police established the first state police radio system in the world?

Don't forget our picnic on August 9th at 12 noon at Alcona County Park in Glennie - come relax and have fun, food and games, bingo and prizes. Also regular meeting to follow



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## Westside Silver Ladies

*Geri Henningsen*

As of this writing, the RDPFFA class action law suit regarding our medical insurance still isn't finalized. However, on behalf of the Silver Ladies, I would like to thank all the RDPFFA members who have worked tirelessly for the past three years to get this matter resolved.

We had a nice turnout for both our May & June luncheons. Eleanor Popiela, who has been unable to attend these luncheons for several months, was in attendance. It was so good to see you Eleanor. The 50/50 was won by Hilma Clifford in May and I won for June...this may put us in a higher tax bracket!?!? LOL!

HAPPY, HEALTHY BIRTHDAY to Donna Hope - 7/26, Dorothy Bliss - 7/27, Meta Bateson & Eleanor Popiela - both 8/5 and Dolores Linn - 8/18.

By the time this goes to print, the eastside picnic will have taken place and the Westside picnic will be August 8. Attending these picnics gives us an opportunity to talk with old friends and enjoy delicious food. Several RDPFFA members work hard to make these events successful. Please support this great Association.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - A bad decision is when you know what to do and you don't do it!

Let's meet at Archie's

Geri Henningsen, (734) 335-6778

## 13th Precinct Quarterly Retirees' Luncheon

2nd Tuesday of  
March • June • September • December

11:00 A.M.

The Cutting Board  
28655 Schoenherr  
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# TMU Retirees Reunion Party

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*Attention! If you are officially retired from the  
Detroit Police Department but not a member  
of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters  
Association (RDPFFA.ORG), you will not be  
permitted to attend this gala event. Join now!*



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## All My Music Is Gone

From the time I was a teenager  
Music meant so very much to me  
I didn't have the sweetest voice  
I'm sure most my friends would agree.

But I knew the words as we all did back then  
And the songs all carried a special meaning  
Making you think of romantic nights  
And of many many nights just dreaming.

All those songs of my teenage years  
And the songs from the 40's and then the 50's  
Carried us onto the ageing years  
Where we no longer were such nifties.

But all those songs were still alive  
A group of older folks could sing and dance  
But with the music that assails our ears  
I don't really have a chance.

Now to make all those changing things worse  
My hearing has suddenly gone away  
My hearing aids can let me hear  
But the (music) didn't stay.

All I can hear now is the beat of drums  
The Bass fiddle as it strums along  
But all I hear now is a bunch of noise  
What the hell has happened to the song.

I truly miss the melodies of all the songs back then  
Lilting, swaying, soulful songs galore  
Sung by artists of every age  
When you'd applaud and applaud for more.

I'm just an old disgruntled man  
Who used to enjoy good music when it played  
Now I can't hear it anyway  
But all my memories have stayed.

**Roy H. Moerschell**

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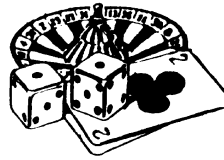
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## *Silver Ladies*

Carol Curley



## NEVADA JACKPOTS

Ray Downing

I think its summer! At this writing the weather seems to be staying in the "warm" mode and gardens are growing! At our May meeting, headed by our loyal President Irene Brooks, the July picnic food schedule was sent up with all members present participating. Some of our ladies were absent with family or physical set backs. We pray for their healing. Marie Johnson won the 50/50. Our June meeting followed with a few of the May absences joining us again for lunch. Treasurer, Wilma Fulton, collected the yearly June membership dues.

The June 27, RDPFFA - Sugarbush picnic will be another enjoyable outing this year! The 50/50 was won by Wilma Fulton. Happy Birthday in August to: Marie Johnson - In September to: Fern Garner and Marge Nardone.

Of great importance to us all is the Unity President, Don Taylor informing us that Representative Fred Durhal Jr., introduced House Bill 4917 to give us a needed equal vote for elective representatives of the Detroit Police and Fire Pension system. We must notify our elected officials by phone, letter, email or in person of what we want them to do! We need to be represented. It is their job to work for us - nothing less!

To join the Silver Ladies call Irene Brooks (586) 749-8894.

The meeting held on Saturday, May 9, was well attended, with little business conducted, but a fine breakfast and fellowship prevailed.

The next meeting of the Jackpots will be on Saturday, July 11, at Hugo's Restaurant at the Four Queens in downtown Las Vegas, 9:30 a.m.

A phone call was received on this date from Tony Pakula, advising that Helen Swendris fell and injured her hip; she is recuperating in a hospital. Cards may be sent to Helen c/o Tony's address, 808 Clarice Lane, Boulder City, NV 89005.

Tom and Diane Hulkkonen will host a Bunco party at their home on Saturday, June 13, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to them as soon as possible by calling at 636-2766, or e-mailing to dthulk@cox.net we really need 16 folks to make it fully workable!

A big thanks to Crear Mitchell. Although rarely seen at our meetings, he sent in his 2009 dues with a nice bonus addition for our funds. He's traveling all over, but has promised to make a meeting later in the year.

At our March meeting, there was some discussion about pending friction between the retirees and the active unions. It was most satisfying, then, to read comments of Mark Young, Vice President of the LSA, in the current issue of "Bars and Stripes". Young says: "Memo to Retirees: We not only support you, we also have your back!"

Recently there has been a lot of confusion regarding the relationship between active and retired police and fire associations. So let me make it clear. To all the retired men and women of the DPLSA, not only do we support you, we all hope to be fortunate enough to be in your shoes one day.

"Our concern is that all retired members should enjoy the same medical benefits and members should receive the medical plan they have upon retirement unless that plan is upgraded for the betterment of the member. You have honored this great profession with great service over the years and we do not want to see you denied any benefits that you so richly deserve, nor will we ever sacrifice you for future contract negotiations."

And I say, "Huzzah for Mark Young!" Well said.

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## ARIZONA ROADRUNNERS

*Pat Engle*

Due to the lack of interest, there will be no article for this issue of the Unity.

# LOST AND FOUND

**About the middle of June, a pair of glasses were found in our parking lot. Please contact our office if you think these are yours.**



*Frank Derner*  
RETIRED POLICE OFFICER

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Dr. Avery M. Jackson, III, Director of the Michigan Neurosurgical Institute, completed a Neurosurgical Complex Spine Fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Jackson has extensive training in complex spinal cases, brain and spine tumors, head and spine trauma, vertebroplasty, kyphoplasty and minimally invasive surgery.

# EYE CARE UPDATE 2009

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## VITAMINS

According to the Seddon Harvard University study, Lutein and Zeaxanthin have been correlated to a 43% lower prevalence of Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD). Lutein protects the retina by functioning as an antioxidant and by blocking harmful ultraviolet radiation that can damage the delicate macular tissue.

Antioxidants from Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Zinc, and Selenium have been shown to stabilize and prevent further progression of AMD. Patients who have already developed the disease are encouraged to take a vitamin with high doses of Lutein and antioxidants to minimize further loss of vision. Vitamin supplements designed specifically for the eye (MaxiVision) are available in our Optical Studio. Specific dietary components, particularly the carotenoids found in dark green leafy vegetables have shown great promise in reducing the incidence of AMD. Vitamin supplements are readily absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract resulting in increased blood serum levels and macular pigment density. Omega3 supplements available in purified fish oil enhance the beneficial effects of these vitamins. High concentration pharmaceutical-grade supplements are recommended for optimum effect. These supplements are also available in our optical studio.



## CATARACTS AND MULTIFOCAL LENS IMPLANTS

If you believe you may have a cataract, don't worry. Every year, 3 million Americans have cataract surgery. Modern cataract surgery has developed into one of the safest, most successful and most patient 'friendly' surgical procedures available. The improvement to your vision can be life changing. With the latest advancements in multifocal lens implant technology, we are able to offer even more dramatic vision changes to improve not only your distance vision, but also your intermediate and near vision, as well. In some cases, bifocal intraocular lens implants can reduce the need for reading glasses after surgery. It is quick and painless and almost always results in a dramatic improvement in vision for the patient. That's good news since

cataracts are a normal part of the aging process!

The first step is to have a complete eye examination and determine what type of implant is right for you!

## GLAUCOMA TREATMENT

It is estimated that almost 50% of people who have glaucoma don't even know they have it because they have not had a comprehensive eye exam. The pressure in the eye is usually elevated in patients with glaucoma, but there is no pain or visual loss until it is too late. Left untreated, vision gradually declines and eventual blindness will result.

Fortunately, glaucoma can be detected by your doctor during your comprehensive eye exam. Early treatment can prevent visual loss. Advances in treatment include new eye drops called prostaglandins and a revolutionary new laser treatment called SLT. Using SLT to treat glaucoma, doctors can eliminate the need for eye drops in some cases! You have a higher than normal risk for glaucoma if you are African American, have a family history of glaucoma, or had an eye trauma. For more information, go to our website, or call for an appointment.

## LASER VISION CORRECTION

We are delighted to be using the Bausch & Lomb Zyoptix™ Personalized Laser Vision Correction System for the treatment of nearsightedness and astigmatism. This revolutionary technology is enhanced by the use of an additional space-age laser, INTRALASE<sup>®</sup> that creates the LASIK flap without the use of a blade. We call this 'High Definition Vision'! The advanced diagnostic system used analyzes thousand of data points across the entire eye - to produce a personalized vision treatment plan.

By using the B&L Zyoptix System for traditional LASIK or PRK, our doctors are able to treat most patients who desire to eliminate or reduce their need for glasses.

The good news is that the LASIK procedure *may be* covered by U.S. Health and Life for current and retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters.

## NEARVISION CK

Are you at least 45 years old? Have you had good vision all of your life without glasses? Would you like to eliminate your reading glasses most of the time? If you answered yes to all of these questions, then you may be a candidate for NearVision CK. CK is an exciting advancement in vision correction because it is a simple, painless procedure that uses radiofrequency (RF) energy instead of a laser. To find out more about NearVision CK, contact our office at 800/774-7565.

## CALL TODAY

Our doctors are experts in all conditions of the eye and look forward to helping you protect your most precious gift of sight!



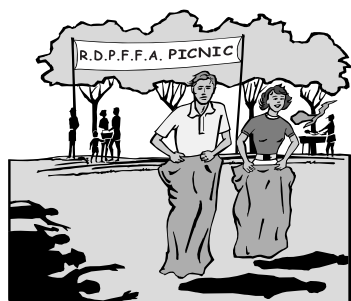
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