

RT '10

Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



Gerri Elya (Ger-bear)
May 1997-March 2010
MPVA Mascot & Friend
Rest In Peace





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
MICHIGAN CHAPTER



On the Cover:

Gerri, MPVA President Kevin Elya's service dog, passed away this past March. All of MPVA will truly miss our furry friend and mascot.

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Vice President	David Peck	Director	Nickolas Wercely
Secretary.....	Patrick Adams	Director	Quintin Williams
Treasurer	Clark Shuler	Director	Scot Severn
Director	Gary Grubbe	Director	Russell Stewart

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Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is one of 34 member chapters of Washington, D.C.-based Paralyzed Veterans of America. A Congressionally chartered veterans service organization, MPVA has been assisting veterans with spinal cord injuries or diseases, including Multiple Sclerosis and ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease), in Michigan since 1961.

MPVA programs include:

- Veterans' Benefits
- Wheelchair Sports and Recreation
- Spinal Cord Injury Research
- Equipment Donation
- Advocacy to eliminate architectural barriers and protect civil rights for persons with disabilities
- Referral Services for assistive devices, housing, employment and transportation
- Literature on a variety of topics including self-care, independent living, and disability rights.
- The Pump Guide: an online directory of gas stations throughout Michigan that will pump gas at the self-serve price for persons with disabilities.
- MPVA is a nonprofit organization and receives no federal funding. MPVA relies on grants, sponsorships, and private and corporate donations to support its programs.

The MPVA headquarters is in Novi, Michigan. Our service officers are based out of the McNamara Federal Building in Downtown Detroit.

Disclaimer:

The Rollin' Times is a publication of the Michigan Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. It is designed to inform the members of the PVA and other interested parties on veterans' issues, legislation, legal decisions, medical technology and other matters deemed to be relevant to the disability community.

The contents of this publication do not always reflect the views or policies of Michigan PVA, and no endorsement or approval is made or should be inferred with respect to products or services advertised herein. Consult an appropriate professional before making use of any product or service mentioned.



President's Report

By Kevin G. Elya

MPVA Open House a Huge Success!

In April, Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) celebrated Paralyzed Veterans Awareness Week with our national office and the other 34 PVA chapters across the country. PVA Awareness Week was created with the hope of sharing the PVA mission of service and its countless accomplishments with our nation's citizens. Many Americans are unaware of the PVA's existence or the organization's important contributions to the disability community. While we have chapters and service offices across the nation, PVA is much smaller than most veterans' organizations because of its stringent membership criteria.

PVA Awareness Week is our opportunity to let Americans know we are here and continuing to serve. This is achieved by planning a week of activities to educate the public about MPVA and to demonstrate how we make a difference in the lives of paralyzed veterans and others with disabilities.

PVA plays a role in meeting the full range of our members needs. Our members, staff, partners and volunteers work throughout the year to make a positive difference in the lives of our paralyzed veterans and all people living with disabilities.

MPVA celebrated PVA Awareness Week at various sites around Michigan. At the Detroit, Ann Arbor and Battle Creek VAs, we had an opportunity to set up the MPVA display booth in the main medical lobby. This was a chance for us to introduce MPVA to veterans and their caregivers as well as meet with in-patients and with the medical staff to show our appreciation for the outstanding medical care they provide to veterans.

MPVA made financial donations to the Detroit, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Saginaw and Iron Mountain VA Medical Centers in support of their VA Volunteer Services program. The Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti State Home for Veterans received a financial contribution for their member services program. We were honored to make a donation to such worthy programs because their work is a priceless asset to our nation's veterans and to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

On April 15, 2010, the MPVA and our participating vendors sponsored an Open House held at our Chapter office in Novi. The turnout for this year's event was outstanding as MPVA members, community leaders and

the attending public had an opportunity to compare and review independent and assisted living products and services.

Due to the generous support of the MPVA staff, volunteers and sponsors, this year's Open House was a huge success. We were extraordinarily lucky to have such beautiful weather for our Open House this year and it made the day even better as people were able to enjoy our wonderful and fully accessible deck as well as the rest of our office!

Everyone's contribution truly made a difference and I cannot thank those who came out to support the day enough. At this time, however, I would like to especially thank the list of volunteers who came out that day and



supported the MPVA's mission: **Gresham Driving Aids, Ford Mobility Monitoring, Fusion Medical, The Standing Co., Wheelchair Getaways, The Senior Alliance, Athletes with Disabilities Network, Wright and Filippis, Level Eleven Physical Therapy, Madonna University, Dale Carnegie Training, Orbit Medical, Michigan Accessible Homes, American House Senior Living, Mobility Works, and ALS of Michigan.**

I would also like to thank the following organizations for their generous financial donations that were presented to us at our Annual Open House: **Foundation for American Veterans, Project12Baskets Foundation, The Rollin Thunder—Chapter 5.**

Please see the inside back cover of this issue which features photos of the MPVA's 2010 Annual Open House. Thank you, Josie Boore, for once again acting as our photographer and for capturing these wonderful moments for us!





Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris

MPVA Partnering to Build Ramps and Break Down Barriers

When groups of World War II veterans with spinal cord disabilities were organizing in 1946 to form Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), the single biggest issue they faced was the lack of suitable housing. The choices, even for those who were married with children, were to reside at the VA or military hospitals or to go live with parents. After considerable effort, PVA finally managed in 1948 to have President Harry S. Truman sign legislation that provided a grant toward the purchase of an accessible residence for veterans with service connected disabilities.

Regrettably, the continuing lack of accessible housing still plagues individual Americans. It is precisely why – some 60 years after our founding – the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America has been very supportive of the *Ray West Memorial Ramp Project*.

Named in memory of United Way labor liaison, Ray West, the Ray West Memorial Ramp Project provides free wheelchair ramps to low-income residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties living with physical disabilities.

Over the past seven years, more than 160 people have gained or reclaimed their independence thanks to a wheelchair ramp provided by United Way. Out of that number, 110 ramps are still being used by the original owner while 50 have been re-used by others.

Ironically, the widespread media coverage of United Way's ramp-building effort during the past few years has led to a marked surge in the number of organizations and individuals seeking ramps. With a current waiting list of some 300 people and limited capacity to respond, the *Ray West Memorial Ramp Project* has become a victim of its own success.

Steps into and out of their homes are significant barriers that people with disabilities face, especially those who are wheelchair users. According to *the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*, fewer than one in 10 homes in the U.S. are designed to accommodate people with mobility limitations. That is why modular stairs and ramps represent the key to home accessibility for many people.

While most insurance companies will cover the cost of mobility items (durable medical equipment), not a single health insurer will cover the cost of a ramp. The incongruity of this approach creates situations where people receive advanced medical equipment such as power wheelchairs and motorized scooters, yet they are prevented from using them outside of their homes because they have no way to get them down "steps."

Because of the scarcity of accessible housing, the high out-of-pocket cost of ramps and the lack of funding sources for ramp construction, a large number of people with mobility impairments are forced to become prisoners in their own homes, dependent on others to perform everyday tasks they could do for themselves.

In response, United Way for Southeastern Michigan created *The Ray West Memorial Ramp Project* to help people with disabilities who were trapped in their homes because of various architectural barriers. In some cases, people had been isolated for years. Others were getting in and out only when someone was available to lift them or when the fire department was called. Neither of these are acceptable long-term alternatives to independence.

The design and construction of the ramps has evolved through the years. Today, ramps are no longer built to be permanent structures; rather, a modular design allows components to be pre-fabricated, off-site and

then assembled at the resident's home. Once built, the ramp remains the property of the *Ray West Memorial Ramp Project*, and is maintained by volunteers for as long as the resident needs it. When no longer needed, the portable modules are dismantled and stored until they can be re-used at another location.

The development and implementation of this modular design, in addition to the voluntary contribution of skilled union labor for construction and installation, allows the project to provide ramps for the cost of materials alone. All but the most complex ramps typically cost under \$3,000, well below half of what commercial builders generally charge for these structures. Also, because many of the ramp components can be recycled, the cost of subsequent ramps built from pre-existing modules can be measured in hundreds of dollars, rather than in thousands.

Due to the economic difficulties that currently exist in Michigan, maintaining steady funding to sustain the ramp program has been difficult to achieve. In the current economic climate, it is probably unrealistic to expect many donors to substantially increase their total contributions to United Way. To sustain the ramp program, creative solutions will be required.

With this in mind, a meeting took place between United Way for Southeastern Michigan and MPVA to discuss the possibility of MPVA playing a more active role in the ramp program. After having an opportunity to present our arguments on why the partnership would be beneficial to both parties it was agreed upon that the collaborative venture was in the best interest of

sustaining the ramp program.

This partnership would give us the ability to build on and share each other's strengths and expertise which hopefully will allow us to bring new creative energy along with financial stability to the program.

As the MPVA represents disabled veterans, we have the ability to tap into funding sources that most non-profits do not have. With the expertise that United Way has in the construction of ramps, along with the relationships they have built over the years with skilled labor, a partnership between both organizations would give the ramp program leverage to go to places never seen before.

Funders are likely to respond positively to a collaborative effort that combine the passion for mission of individual agencies with the commitment of organized labor, the management expertise of United Way, and the proven track record of the *Ray West Memorial Ramp Project*.

By working together to face these challenges we can face a problem with full understanding and to create real, sustainable solutions that allow wheelchair users to live in a home that provides maximum freedom of movement, thereby giving them the ability to live more independently.

When people come together for the sake of others, great things can happen.



WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

David Williams

William Rudd

Frank Craig, Sr.

James Greer

We are proud you are part of the MPVA family!



From The Development Office

By Jaclyn Kochis & Cheryl Angelelli

More News from MPVA's Dedicated Advisory Committee

By: Jaclyn Kochis

In the March/April Rollin' Times Newsletter, the MPVA featured the first of many articles written by one of our very talented and hard working Advisory Committee Members. In this issue, I have the pleasure of introducing another very hard working and respected Advisory Committee Member: Cheryl Angelelli, Director of Marketing and Public Relations at The Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (RIM).

Cheryl, a 2-time Paralympian and national swimming champion, is not only an incredible athlete and inspiration, she is also an extremely hard working individual who has consistently supported the MPVA's mission. In 1998, Cheryl received the MPVA's highest honor, The Brooks/Royal Award, which is an award given to an individual who has contributed the most to furthering the goals of the MPVA and has made

extraordinary contributions to the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Her contributions to the MPVA Advisory Committee have also been exceptional. The Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan has time and again acted as a lead sponsor for many of the MPVA's events. Furthermore, Cheryl's ongoing hard work also led the MPVA to tap on to the highly respected Lt. Col. Greg Gadson to act as our 2009 Salute to Veteran's Gala Keynote Speaker. Lt. Col. Gadson had been acquainted with Cheryl through all the great work that is being carried out at the RIM.

Whether she's assisting to better the MPVA's mission or breaking athletic records, Cheryl is a phenomenal individual. Please be sure to take a moment to read Cheryl Angelelli's article about the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan below.



Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan: Serving the Community and Injured Veterans for more than 50 Years

By: Cheryl Angelelli / Director of Marketing and Public Relations, RIM

Summer in the late 40's makes many people think of ice cream trucks, kids at the community pool, and lazy afternoons. But the reality was very different, and far more treacherous.

The scourge of polio hit with a deadly and paralyzing vengeance. It attacked without warning and produced terrified victims and helpless families. Detroit was in desperate need of help. What was lacking was a facility dedicated to providing rehabilitation medicine for both polio survivors and severely injured World War II veterans.

A single facility was needed to integrate services that would enable the handicapped to return to their communities at the highest level of independence, not only physically, but psychologically, socially, and vocationally.

In 1951, Rehabilitation Institute of Metropolitan Detroit was founded at Herman Kiefer Hospital in Detroit. This was also the site of the Metropolitan Detroit Polio Foundation, which merged with the Rehabilitation Institute in 1953. These two partners soon realized they needed a building of



their own to house all their services. As a result, in 1958, the Rehabilitation Institute moved to a newly built hospital next to Harper Hospital—its current location. There they were able to serve 95 inpatients and 500 outpatients per day.

Today, Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (RIM) is a national leader in the delivery of physical medicine and rehabilitation, and one of the country's largest freestanding, academic rehabilitation hospitals. It is a comprehensive spectrum of both inpatient and outpatient services and programs are available for spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, stroke, cerebral palsy, musculoskeletal disorders, low back problems, amputations, sports injuries, work-related injuries and other medical conditions which require physical rehabilitation.

As Michigan's largest rehabilitation hospital, RIM treats more spinal cord and brain injury patients than any other program in the state. RIM has earned the rare distinction of being named as one of only 16 federally designated centers of excellence in the U.S. for the treatment of brain injuries. In addition, RIM also houses the Center for Spinal Cord Injury Recovery, a world-class facility designed to implement and study the results of innovative treatments that may result in some level of improvement in persons with injured or damaged spinal cords.

The Institute's clinical capabilities are broad and diverse, and include psychiatry, rehabilitation nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, therapeutic recreation, neuropsychology, speech and language pathology, social work, electrodiagnostics,

driver training, environmental evaluations and vocational counseling. These programs along with the Institute's educational services, are aimed at helping persons with disabilities reach the highest level of functioning, independence and productivity.



In addition to RIM's 94-bed inpatient facility, it also operates over 30 outpatient sites located throughout southeast Michigan. RIM has built a national reputation for its innovative approach to therapy and progressive treatment techniques. The Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation of WSU, located at RIM, is one of the largest departments in the nation. The 56-person faculty consists of physiatrists, psychologists, physicians with other specialties, and other health professionals with advanced rehabilitation training. RIM has been awarded over \$16 million in federal and private grants for rehabilitation research focusing on restoring function, improving quality of life and developing innovative therapeutic techniques.





Government Relations & Advocacy

By Bonnie L. Welbaum, Director of Government Relations & Advocacy

Attended PVA Advocacy & Legislative Mid-winter Conference

In March, I attended Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Legislative/Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC. As mentioned in the last Rollin' Times issue, this conference focuses on PVA's advocacy priorities for the upcoming year. We were honored to again have Secretary of Veteran Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki as keynote speaker. During his remarks, the secretary gave an overview on the current state of the VA. Shinseki spoke of the importance of processing the growing flood of veterans into the health system and having their claims worked on in a more expedient way. He also spoke of veteran's health data being changed over to an electronic system for safer record keeping with fewer errors.

There have been some concerns as to how President Obama's HealthCare Reform would affect current VA Health programs or TRICARE coverage. TRICARE, formerly called Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS), is the health care program of the United States Department of Defense Military Health System. TRICARE provides civilian health benefits for military personnel, military retirees, and their dependents, including some members of the Reserve Component. This is the civilian care component of the Military Health System, although historically it also included health care delivered in the military medical treatment facilities.

Based on transcripts of hearings and a letter from Veterans Affairs Chairman Representative, Bob Filner, VA Secretary Shinseki felt affirmed that TRICARE and the present VA health coverage satisfied the new rules. The secretary promised that the new healthcare bill would continue to provide the protections afforded to our nation's veterans and the health care they have earned through their service. Furthermore, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates also supported the current changes by issuing a statement on March 21, 2010, in

which he felt that the TRICARE military health plan meets the 'minimum standards' set by this legislation.

Memorial Day: More than a Day off Work

Please remember the last Monday in May is Memorial Day. I encourage everyone to search your local communities and find a Memorial Day parade, or cemetery memorial to participate in. Memorial Day is not just the unofficial beginning of summer, it is also an opportunity for thousands of patriotic Americans to come together and pay honor to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country as well as to thank those who presently serve or have served. Whatever you do keep our servicemen, service women, and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Fun Day of Fishing for Veterans, Families and Community

The MPVA is co-sponsor two fishing tournaments along with the Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) this summer. The first tournament, Tight Lines for Troops, will take place on May 24 & 25 in Manistee. While disabled veterans will be tackling the big lake salmon, everyone else will be enjoying the entertainment, family fun walk, classic car show and other family oriented activities scheduled around the beautiful lake side city of Manistee. There will also be a spaghetti dinner and a ceremony at the Little River Casino.

Registration for this tournament is on Sunday, but the fishing takes place on Monday. You must have a trout fishing license if you are signed up to participate in the tournament. For more information, visit: <http://www.manistee-cvb.com/charityfishingtourn>.

The second tournament, scheduled for June 12, is the 4th Annual Tips Up for Troops Bass Fishing Tournament at

Kensington Park in Brighton. Bass Master Fishermen come from different states to volunteer their boats, equipment, fuel and time to take registered military members out for 5 hours of fishing on Kensington Lake. For this day only, fishing is free so no fishing license is needed. Everyone planning to participate must register prior to the event.

There will be plenty of activities to do for those not participating in the fishing tournament such as vendors displaying their products, musical bands, face painting, a pontoon boat ride, free petting farm and a Bar B-Q lunch.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be sponsoring the 2010 Accessibility Demo Day during both events and it will allow people to experience firsthand the latest advancements in adaptive equipment. Manufacturers and leaders in their respected fields will have the latest equipment on hand for participants to view live demonstrations and experience firsthand where possible.

Everything associated with the event is free except for the park entry fee. If you have any questions, call Rick Briggs of BIAMI at 810-229-5880 or go to www.tipsupfortroops.com.

MPVA to Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of ADA Signing

On July 26, 2010, and for all of this year, MPVA will join advocates across our state and country in recognizing and celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act being enacted. Over 60 different advocacy groups, their friends and families met on the White House lawn to witness President George Bush in the signing of this historic act.

As the anniversary approaches, we should consider how Americans have benefitted from the passing of the ADA. A majority of people will agree that there have been significant improvements in access to public facilities, personal quality of life and public attitudes since the passage, but the work is by no way done. Over the following months we will have more information about events celebrating the ADA on our website at: www.michiganpva.org. I will also have further information in our next issue of the RT.



Valuable Dates for 2010:

- **Michigan PVA Bowling Tournament:**

May 21, 22, & 23, 2010

Skore Lanes, Taylor, MI

Contact MPVA Chapter Headquarters for more information at (248) 476-9000

- **Membership Meetings:**

May 27, 2010

(All meetings are on Thursdays at the Novi MPVA offices unless otherwise notified)

- **Tight Lines for Troops:**

May 24-25, 2010

Lake Michigan, Manistee Charity Fishing Tournament for Michigan's Veterans Activities, fishing, and much more! You must have trout fishing license if you are signed up to participate in the tournament. For more information, visit: <http://www.manistee-cvb.com/charityfishingtourn>.

- **Tips up for Troops Bass Fishing:**

Saturday, June 12, 2010

Kensington Lake in Brighton will be the official location

for the 4rd Annual Tips up for Troops Bass Fishing event. It is a fun day of Bass Master Fishing for veterans, civilians, families and friends. Call Rick Briggs at 810-229-5880 or register on line at BIAMI.ORG.

- **Mark Your Calendar for MPVA's Annual Picnic!**

Where: Lake Shore Park in Novi On Walled Lake
601 South Lake Dr. Novi, MI 48375 Shelter #2

When: Sunday, July 18, 2010

Time: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

RSVP BY JULY 12, 2010!

PH: (248) 476-9000

- **Veterans Night at Comerica Park:**

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Texas Rangers vs. Detroit Tigers

The MPVA wants you to join in on "Veterans Night at Comerica Park" All MPVA members interested in going to this game should contact our Chapter Headquarters at (248) 476-9000





Veterans' News

Bonnie J. Williams, Chapter Service Officer

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE: IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

Many of our PVA members may not be aware of a supplementary benefit more specifically known as "The Annual Clothing Allowance; Public Law (PL 108-183)." This benefit currently pays \$716.00 per year and those who qualify should take advantage of it by filing claims for the yearly clothing allowances if they meet the criteria for this ancillary benefit. Let me explain the qualifications of this benefit and how you can go about receiving it:

Who is Eligible for the Veteran's Clothing Allowance?

According to the VHA HANDBOOK 1173.15, under Title 38 U.S.C. 1162, the VA pays a yearly clothing allowance "if the veteran has a service-connected disability or condition, or a disability compensable under 38 U.S.C. 1151 that requires the veteran to wear or use a prosthetic or orthopedic device that wears out or tears clothing (see Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3.810)."

The "prosthetic or orthopedic device" described includes a wheelchair, according to CFR 3.810. Those who wear prosthetic or orthopedic devices can testify to the wear and tear these devices inflict on clothing. The constant rubbing can wear out parts of clothes pretty quickly and many veterans cannot afford to go out and buy new clothes to replace worn ones. There are also veterans who have skin conditions caused by service related incidents and are required to wear medications and creams which can permanently mar or deteriorate clothing.

Filing Requirements for the U.S. Veteran Clothing Allowance

The application for benefits must be filled out and submitted "within one year of the anniversary date (August 1) for which entitlement is initially established" in order to receive benefits within that year according to CRF 3.810. Or it must be filed within one year of the veteran being determined to have a service related condition to receive benefits for that year. If the application is filed late, the determination will be made considering payment for the following year.

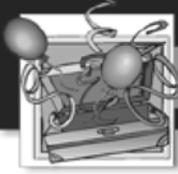
If you would like assistance completing the application for the Annual Clothing Allowance, VA Form 10-8678, you may contact your PVA Service Officer or your local VAMC Prosthetic's Department.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the majority of clothing allowances are issued out to veterans' on a recurring basis; meaning due to the severity of their disability they only have to apply once, and it is automatically given yearly. It is important to note that new clothing allowance applications should be turned in during the month of June for consideration in order that if granted it will be paid out during the month of August.

If you are uncertain about who to contact regarding The Annual Veteran Clothing Allowance, do not hesitate to contact the Detroit Veterans Benefits Department at 800-795-3608



*Sincere Condolences to the family of:
Douglas Bobo*



BIRTHDAYS



MAY

Alonzo Baker May 02
 Glenn B. Hall May 02
 James L. Nicewander May 02
 Ronnie D. Adkins May 03
 Fred R. Dahlberg May 03
 Charles O. Sheridan May 03
 John E. Senn May 04
 Theresa Smith May 04
 Rolland M. Butler May 05
 John L. Ramgren May 06
 Arthur J. Evans May 08
 Herbert A. James May 09
 Stanley C. Macey May 10
 Kevin G. McCrory May 10
 Harvey D. Slotman May 11
 Thomas A. Driver May 12
 Johnny R. Miles May 12
 Martin Erickson May 13
 Roger W. Loyer May 13
 Mark P. Hogue May 14
 Ann Chisholm May 15
 Yvan C. Laine May 15
 Charlie L. Potts May 15
 Kenneth M. Painter May 16
 Milton Kaunitz May 17
 Paul W. McIntosh May 17
 Henry Triesenberg May 17
 Charles Kaye May 18
 Marshall A. Jackson May 19
 James F. Lear May 19
 Willie E. Buchanan May 20
 Florian C. Rabineau May 20
 Paul H. Senske May 20
 Thomas E. Delleruyelle May 21
 Ida N. Harper May 22
 Andrea C. Trimmingham May 22
 Charles E. Williams May 22

Donald S. Desmarais May 23
 Joe M. Rodriguez May 23
 Patrick J. Towers May 23
 Neil L. Begin May 24
 Earl E. Gunnels May 24
 Keith A. Ketchum May 24
 Linda May May 24
 Thomas L. Melin May 24
 Tiberia C. Sasu May 24
 Michael D. Hogue May 25
 James D. Minton May 26
 Timothy W. Patrick May 26
 Danny Shumate May 26
 Bonnie L. Welbaum May 26
 Beverly A. Valliere May 29
 Dawn M. Hamm May 30
 Sam A. Bateman May 31
 Monte E. Cooper May 31

JUNE

Arthur Mulder June 01
 Michael E. Madigan June 04
 Lynn R. Ordiway June 04
 William F. Wilson June 05
 Kristy A. Dubois June 06
 Lyman M. Justice June 06
 Albert Lett June 06
 Mark A. Velthouse June 06
 Byron R. Cook June 07
 Kevin G. Elya June 07
 John D. Edgar June 08
 James H. Farmer June 09
 Carole L. Halquist June 09
 Evan F. Mayday June 10
 Dolly Taurence June 10
 Ernest P. Whaley June 10
 Chet D. Kuskowski June 11

Dannie C. Pauley June 11
 Marvin C. Petty June 11
 Rodney T. Hooks June 15
 Thomas C. McGillen June 15
 Tony A. Rhodes June 16
 Charles T. Stedman June 16
 Michael P. Cope June 17
 Thomas D. Holcomb June 17
 Almarie D. Veitenheimer June 17
 Bernard P. Wein June 17
 Esther S. Karp June 18
 Barbara J. McCrary June 19
 Edward L. Wilmers June 19
 Jack A. Converse June 21
 Dani M. Deline June 21
 Jeremy A. Ramirez June 21
 Larry G. Neely June 22
 Jerry R. Martineau June 23
 Eddie L. Cheese June 24
 Steve J. Jarmosco June 24
 Randy S. Galbraith June 25
 John E. Hockstadt June 25
 Michael A. Wood June 25
 David C. Kiel June 26
 Jon M. Crocker June 27
 Robert L. Davis June 27
 Melvyn J. Mandell June 27
 Dale L. Larson June 28
 Danny D. Pryor June 28
 George A. Bolden June 29
 Brett D. Howd June 29
 Jerry Spearman June 29
 Daniel R. Porterfield June 30
 Edmund C. Ross June 30
 Judy M. Ross June 30



Sports & Recreation

By Scot Severn, Sports & Recreation Director

Storm in the Heartland

Once again, the United States Quad Rugby Association invaded the Saginaw Valley as the Michigan Storm Wheelchair Rugby team hosted the Heartland Sectional playoff tournament at Delta College. This year, we saw a powerhouse team from Denver transfer from the Mountain Section to the Heartland, making the prospect of advancing to the National Championships much harder for one of the Heartland teams.

Lakeshore Demolition and Kentucky TNT both rolled past their opponents in the first match-ups of the weekend. The next set saw the Michigan Storm and the Denver Harlequins coming out on top. The game of the day, however, was the Michigan Storm and the St Louis Rams.

The Storm jumped out to an early lead and sustained it throughout the first half just to have Rams make some game decisions changes at halftime that allowed them to strengthen their defense in the second half. Going into the fourth quarter, the Rams began chipping away at the Storm's lead. With one player in the penalty box for a flagrant foul, the Storm made a couple more errors that allowed the Rams to creep even closer. As the score grew closer, the Storm suffered a few turnovers which allowed the Rams to tie up the score and eventually end up taking a one point lead with not much time left on the clock.

The Rams, with a much deeper bench, were able to keep their lineup fresh throughout the entirety of the game. As a result, they were able to eventually wear down the Storm's ironman line. In the end, it would only be a single point that would make a difference difference between the Storm advancing to the National Championship tournament or the culmination of their season.

As the second day of the playoffs began, the Storm

faced their last chance to make it to Nationals, but Denver stood in their way. Led by Paralympians, Chance Sumner and Jason Regier, the Harlequins (Mad Clowns), Denver was able to claim their spot at the National Championships and easily defeat the Storm. Michigan would go on to win their second game of the day, but the damage to their season was already done. For the first time in the past five seasons, the Storm would not make the trip to Nationals.

When the weekend was over and the dust cleared, the teams that advanced to the Division I championships were the Lakeshore Demolition and the Denver Harlequins. Division II contenders were Kentucky TNT and the St Louis Rams. A special thanks needs to go out to all the teams that participated, all the volunteers, and Delta College for a successful weekend of rugby. As we lick our wounds and rebuild over the summer, we will all be looking forward to a great rugby season in the fall.





The Michigan Storm (from left) Andy Zimmer, Dave Mengyan, Jeff Coupie, Nick Long, and Eric Chase.
Missing from photo: Scot Severn



Eric Chase expresses his disappointment of not making it to the National championships

Detroit Diehards Rally for Second Place

The Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan's (RIM) SportsAbility program is designed to encourage involvement in adaptive sports and recreation activity. SportsAbility is supported through grants, donations, and fundraising activities (RIM annual "Celebrity Wheelchair Basketball Game").

This past April, RIM's Wheelchair Basketball Team (Detroit Diehards) that is part of the RIM

SportsAbility program, participated in the N.W.B.A. (National Wheelchair Basketball Association) National Tournament in Denver, CO. Through some hard work, the Diehards were able to come in 2nd place overall in Division 3.

The Detroit Diehards, coached by NWBA Hall of Famer, Mo Phillips, were so proud and fortunate to have had a chance to play for the national title and are sincerely looking forward to next season!



The 2010 Detroit Diehards

2010

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Thank you to everyone who supported the 2010 MPVA Open House!





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