



Renee Uitto, CLS/OC Citizens' Advisory Committee Chairperson

MARCH 2012

**CITIZENS' ADVISORY
COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER**

KEN EDEN – A HOME OF MY OWN



Being part of one's community and living as independently as possible are among the most important values and goals shared by people with disabilities, their families, and allies. A home of one's own, either rented or owned, is a cornerstone of independence and success for

most adults in our society; we are proud to announce that Ken Eden has recently achieved this success.

Ken is an easy-going, fun loving guy living his life to the fullest. He enjoys playing video games and watching wrestling, Nascar, and football; Ken is a big Detroit Lions fan. He is also involved in sports and plays for the Special Olympics; currently, Ken is participating in basketball, hockey, soccer, softball, and his favorite sport, bowling.

Ken enjoys spending time with his family, including his sister, brother, and three nieces. Ken's sister, in particular, has been a great support in helping him achieve his goal of home ownership. With her help, Ken was able to save up enough money to make a down payment and purchase his very own condo in

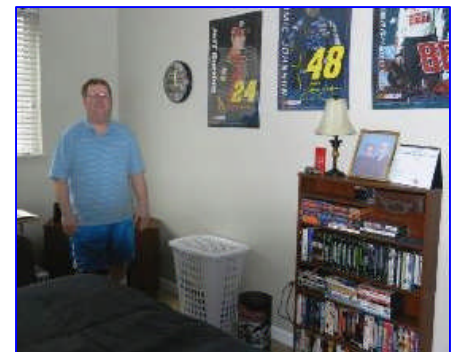


Farmington Hills in January, 2012. Prior to his recent move, Ken lived with his sister. When asked about his new place, Ken indicated that he "loves it", as he likes being able to "take care of myself".

Ken is an active member of his community. He has been a hard worker at Heartland Market since April of 2010, where he works as a bagger and cart attendant. Before moving to his condo, Ken mastered taking the SMART bus system to get himself to work from his

sister's house. He now lives closer to his job, so he rides his bike to work each day. Ken indicates his favorite part of his job is "being able to help customers and meet new people."

Ken directs his supports via a Self-Determination arrangement and an individual budget that he used to hire a Support Coordinator and support staff (his cousin) to help him with cooking, household maintenance, grocery shopping, and budgeting.



Ken indicates that he enjoys being able to buy things for his condo using his paychecks from his job. In addition to

paying routine bills and buying groceries, Ken has also been able to work cable TV and the cost of an internet connection into his monthly budget as well – examples of the benefits of working and having discretionary income!

When Ken isn't working or playing sports, he likes to go to the library, movies, out to eat, and ride his bike around town.

Ken currently lives alone, but he is thinking he would like to share his condo with someone else who is hard working and likes the things he likes. If our readers know of someone interested in potentially living in Farmington Hills, arrangements could be made for them to meet Ken by contacting his Support Coordinator, Jessica Widzinski, at 248-547-2668.

Everyone at Community Living Services would like to congratulate you, Ken, on the purchase of your new condo and for the terrific job you do at Heartland Market. Keep up the great work!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

Theodore Roosevelt

EMPLOYEE OF RECORD TRAINING GIVES EXCELLENT INFORMATION

By Renee Uitto



Do you hire your own staff? Are you interested in hiring your own staff? Well CLS/OC has a training to help you understand exactly what to do! On February 8th, Matthew Buck and Mark Churay presented a “How-to” on becoming a successful employer-of-record for supports, and understanding each person’s role in the process.

Everything from paperwork that must be completed, to GT Financial’s role as the Fiscal Intermediary Services provider, to those reports that we get in the mail every month (called Revenue and Expense Reports) was discussed in detail. Most importantly, we discussed what each party’s rights and responsibilities are and what we can all do to ensure that we are living up to our employer (or employee) obligations. Many parents, people who receive supports, and staff showed up to take part in, and to learn more about, what it means to be an employer of record. Matt and Mark did a fantastic job at responding to questions and making the experience inclusive of everyone’s unique perspective.

CLS/OC plans to continue offering these trainings in the future. If you are interested in learning more about being an employer of record, and you would like to attend one of these trainings, please contact Leigh Hilbert at CLS/OC at 248-547-2668. Keep an eye out in future The Happening newsletters for more information on upcoming Employer of Record Trainings and what you can do to take part!

The Next CAC Meeting



Join the Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) and help them plan events and discuss the “happenings” of CLS/OC. The next meeting will take place on

Monday, March 26th from 12-2pm.

Get “The Happening” Newsletter by E-mail!



Would you like a nice, color version of “The Happening” Newsletter e-mailed to you every month? You can save some trees and receive a beautiful color version of the newsletter sent directly to your e-mail. All you have to do is contact Diana Kaszyca at CLS/OC at 248-547-2668 or dkaszyca@comlivserv.com.

STAFF TRAINING REMINDER



Now that we are well into the new year, it is time to make sure that all employees/caregivers being paid with public mental health dollars are meeting all of their training requirements.

The minimum employee training requirements are:

- Valid CPR certification (typically expires annually)
- Valid First Aid certification (typically expires every three years)
- Proof of Recipient Rights training (must be renewed annually)

Included with this newsletter you will find a list of potential CPR and First Aid training sites. Your employees can be trained at any location they choose; it does not have to be on this list. GT Financial Services will reimburse employees for CPR and First Aid training class fees, at actual cost up to \$75 per class. A copy of their receipt for the class fee needs to be sent to GT Financial for reimbursement.

Also be sure that your new employees/staff schedule their initial Recipient Rights training at OCCMHA within 30 days of being hired. To get the new hire training dates and to schedule a training, visit the OCCMHA website at www.occmha.org. Under the “Rights” heading, click on Recipient Rights, and select “Schedule New Hire face-to-face training”. If your employees have already been initially trained in Recipient Rights, they can update their Rights training annually by also logging on to the OCCMHA website, clicking on “Recipient Rights,” and then “Recipient Rights Training.” Via the website, they can be trained on line, and then take a post-test, which generates a Recipient Rights training certificate that you will be able to print and send to GT Financial. There is no fee for Recipient Rights training.

Remember; without proper training, staff are not authorized to work. Verification of all required training must be submitted to GT Financial Services.

Should you have any questions, contact GT Financial Services toll free at 877-659-4500, your support coordinator, or Diana Kaszyca at CLS/OC 248-547-2668.

A RESOURCE THAT CONNECTS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Disaboom is a resource for disability information and real life articles about people with disabilities. Their website provides a broad range of topics including sports, mobility, tech, travel, parenting, education, entertainment, health, lifestyle, and many helpful resources. Plus, you can check out the Disaboom Network. The website offers advice from medical experts and “peers”; Disaboom has a large online network of individuals to share their personal experiences.

Are you looking for a scholarship opportunity? Disaboom is a great resource for scholarship opportunities for people with disabilities. These scholarships come from foundations, organizations, schools, or a broad range of other committed providers. The disability grants and scholarships are open to all college students with disabilities, including students with learning disabilities.

Disaboom.com indicates “*their community is as diverse as the communities we live in, made up of mothers and models, surfers and surgeons, babies and baby boomers. Their network of 180 million and growing includes not just individuals with disabilities, but also medical practitioners, caregivers, employers, family members, teachers, and others.*”

The Disaboom.com founder, Dr. J. Glen House, a physician specializing in physical medicine and rehabilitation and also a quadriplegic, shares his knowledge of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and those whose lives they touch. This is what has driven the Disaboom.com mission: *to create a comprehensive, evolving source of information, insight, and personal engagement for the disability community.*

As indicated on the website, Disaboom.com strives to provide you with the tools and guidance you need to live active, engaged lives. Visit www.disaboom.com and check it out.

The word “disability” may apply to us – but will never define us. We decide who we are, and what lives we will create. The goal of Disaboom.com is to provide the information, community, and connection you need to define who you are, and what life you will lead.

COMMUNITY HOUSING NETWORK HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

Are you dreaming of owning your own home? Community Housing Network may be able to help you make your dreams come true!

Community Housing Network has a Home Ownership Program and now has a limited numbers of openings available for individuals or families who meet the following criteria.

- Tri-merge credit score of at least 620 (this is the middle score of the three credit scores, it will be combined if married)
- Maximum household income of no greater than 80% area median income adjusted for family size

Family size	1	2	3	4	5
80% Maximum Income	\$39,100	\$44,700	\$50,300	\$55,850	\$60,350

- Minimum monthly income of \$1,700
- Have \$500.00 for down payment
- Any bankruptcies or foreclosure must be at least two years old.
- Home purchase must be in Oakland County, but cannot be in Pontiac, Waterford, Farmington Hills, Southfield, and Royal Oak.



Community Housing Network is committed to providing homes for people in need, including those who are homeless, people living with a disability or low income, and anyone facing a housing crisis. For more information about this program or to apply, contact Kathleen Bissa at 248-269-1322 or kbissa@chninc.net. If you would like more information about Community Housing Network and the services they provide, visit their website at www.communityhousingnetwork.org.



PEER SUPPORT JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Community Living Services, Oakland County Division is accepting resumes from people interested in applying for a part-time Peer Support Mentor position. If you are interested in applying, please contact Leigh Hilbert at 248-547-2668 for more information.

AMERICORPS MICHIGAN



AmeriCorps is a national service program designed to strengthen citizenship and the ethics of service by engaging thousands of Americans on a full-time or part-time basis to help communities to address their toughest challenges. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) administers AmeriCorps at the federal level and works in partnership with states to develop service programs and create a community-based national service network. The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) is the administrative agent for Michigan's AmeriCorps.

In Michigan, Americorp members are tackling tough problems, such as illiteracy, hunger, and homelessness. These men and women, age 17 and older, dedicate a year to serving their communities and country, tutoring children, building homes, responding to disasters, and restoring national parks. In return, they receive many benefits, including a modest living allowance, health and child care benefits for those who qualify, valuable skills for the future (leadership, teamwork, and project management), an education award for college, graduate or vocational school, or to pay-off qualified student loans (upon successful completion of service).

If you are interested in becoming a member, you must be at least 17 years of age, a U.S. citizen, national or legal permanent resident alien, and have a high school diploma (or be working toward one) or its equivalent. If you are accepted, you will need to provide a birth certificate or information documenting your age and citizenship. To join AmeriCorps, you must apply directly to your program of interest. AmeriCorps serves in full-time, half time, reduced-time, quarter-time, or minimum time. The kind of slots available will vary program to program. You can view Michigan's current AmeriCorps programs at www.michigan.gov/mcsc, or you can visit www.americorps.gov to get contact information for other AmeriCorps programs in Michigan and throughout the country. Once you contact the program, they will explain their application process. Some programs may have additional requirements. If you have further questions or need further assistance, you can contact Megan Sargent from the The Michigan Community Service Commission at sargentm1@michigan.gov or 517-241-3494.

SPEAK UP - DRAFT LEGISLATION TO REVISE SCHOOL CODE IN MICHIGAN

State Representatives have drafted legislation proposed to revise the School Code in Michigan. This draft legislation would entitle students with a disability to special education programs and school services to the age of 21 and younger. Currently legislation provides special education services to eligible students to age 26. You are encouraged to discuss any comments or feedback about these potential changes with your elected representative.

OAKLAND COUNTY STATE SENATE DISTRICTS

District/ Senator	Cities/Townships	Contact Info
012 Jim Marleau	Addison Twp., Auburn Hills, Independence Twp., Keego Harbor, Lake Angelus, Oakland Twp., Orion Twp., Oxford, Pontiac, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Sylvan Lake, Clarkston, West Bloomfield (part)	517-373-2417 jimmarleau@senate.michigan.gov
013 John Pappageorge	Berkley, Birmingham, Bloomfield Twp., Bloomfield Hills, Clawson, Madison Hts., Royal Oak Twp., Southfield	517-373-2523 SenJPappageorge@senate.michigan.gov
014 Vincent Gregory	Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Twp., Southfield	517-373-7888 senvgregory@senate.michigan.gov
015 Mike Kowall	Commerce Twp., Highland Twp., Holly, Lyon Twp., Milford, Northville, Novi, Orchard Lake, Rose Twp., South Lyon, Walled Lake, West Bloomfield (part), White Lake, Wixom	517-373-1758 senmkowall@senate.michigan.gov
026 David Robertson	Brandon, Groveland Twp., Springfield Twp., Waterford	517-373-1636 SenDrobertson@senate.michigan.gov

OAKLAND COUNTY STATE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

District/ Representative	Cities/Townships	Contact Info
026 Jim Townsend	Madison Hts. Royal Oak	517-373-3818 jimtowntsend@house.mi.gov
027 Ellen Cogen-Lipton	Berkley, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Oak Park (part), Pleasant Ridge	517-373-0478 EllenLipton@house.mi.gov
029 Tim Melton	Auburn Hills, Pontiac	517-373-0475 Dist029@house.mi.gov
035 Rudy Hobbs	Lathrup Village, Oak Park city (part) Royal Oak Twp., Southfield	517-373-1788 RudyHobbs@house.mi.gov
037 Vicki Barnett	Farmington Hills Farmington	517-373-1793 VickiBarnett@house.mi.gov
038 Hugh D. Crawford	Lyon Twp., Northville (part), Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Wixom	517-373-0827 HughCrawford@house.mi.gov
039 Lisa Brown	Commerce Twp, West Bloomfield Twp. (part)	517-373-1799 LisaBrown@house.mi.gov
040 Chuck Moss	Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Twp., Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake Village, Southfield Twp., Sylvan Lake	517-373-8670 ChuckMoss@house.mi.gov
041 Marty Knollenberg	Clawson, Troy	517-373-1783 MartyKnollenberg@house.mi.gov
043 Gail Haines	Lake Angelus, Waterford, West Bloomfield Twp.(part)	517-373-0615 GailHaines@house.mi.gov
044 Eileen Kowall	Highland Twp, Independence Twp., Springfield Twp., Village of Clarkston, White Lake Twp.	517-373-2616 EllenKowall@house.mi.gov
045 Bradford Jacobsen	Oakland Twp., Brandon Twp., Groveland Twp., Holly Twp., Orion Twp., Oxford Twp., Rose Twp.,	517-373-1798 BradJackson@house.mi.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS

LIVING HOPE SERIES *By Sherri Rushman*



These training sessions are designed to encourage, educate, and empower people receiving public mental health services and their allies. The trainings are open to all. Social Work credits are available.

Hope Givers, Hope Receivers, & Hope Stealers will take place on March 7th from 9:30-11 at Community Living Services, 642 E. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. At this class, you will learn the double-edged strategy of how to grasp a hold of Hope when you don't have it, and how to keep it when you do! Sherri "the Hope Master" will show you why you must become a Hope Receiver and exactly how to become one, how to become a Hope Giver and how it helps you and others, and what a Hope Stealer is and why you don't want to become one

Gambling: The Hidden Addiction will take place on March 22nd, from 1:30-3:30pm at MORC, 1270 Doris Road, in Auburn Hills. This workshop will provide you with information such as problem gambling definitions and clinical terms, phases and types of problem gambling, who could be at risk and questions to ask, studies, statistics, and the impacts of problem gambling, plus information about Michigan Problem Gambling Helpline and ongoing counseling services.

Contact Debbie Wisser at 248-858-0929 or RegisterMe@occmha.org to register for any of these trainings. Please leave a message with your name, the name of the training, and the date. Leaving a message will automatically register you for the training.

"What Every Parent Needs to Know About..."



American Foundation *for* Suicide Prevention

AFSP workshop goals are to increase awareness about prevention, warning signs, and the psychiatric illness most often responsible for teen suicide.

When: March 22nd at 6:00pm

Where: Easter Seals Collaborative, 269 Summit Drive, in Waterford

Seating is limited; Registration is open after March 7th. Contact Marega Delizio at 248-828-4343 or marega@juno.com.

SPEECHCRAFT CLASS - This eight week class will increase your confidence speaking in front of a group or in public. Learn in a small group setting how to effectively "tell your story" and "wow" the audience with your speeches while having fun!



The classes take place every Tuesday at 1:30-3:30pm at the OCCMHA office, 2011 Executive Hills Blvd in Auburn Hills. The next session runs March 6th through April 24th.

To register for a class, contact Sherri Rushman at 248-858-0929

MARCH INTO TRANSITION 2012



This is an informal opportunity for students and families to hear from and connect with agencies and community

partners important in transition planning. Consider this the "Transition 101" opportunity to learn more about mental health, vocational rehabilitation, and other community resources that may be helpful in life following the completion of school services. It's never too early to learn and start planning. The schedule for each event is:

- 6:00-6:30pm: Opportunity to visit agencies and Network
- 6:30-7:30pm: Welcome and introduction of agencies and transition coordinators
- 7:30-8:30pm: Opportunity to visit agencies.

There are three changes to attend:

March 22, 2012 6:00-8:30pm	March 27, 2012 6:00-8:30pm	March 28, 2012 6:00-8:30pm
Oakland Schools Technical Campus - Southeast (OSTC-SE) 5055 Delemere Ave. Royal Oak	Novi High School Cafeteria/Atrium 24062 Taft Road Novi	Oakland Schools 2111 Pontiac Lake Rd. Waterford

Register through Oakland Schools at www.oakland.k12.mi.us. You will need to select "professional development" and then choose the date you would like to attend. If you need registration assistance, contact Event Management at 248-209-2500.

6TH ANNUAL PARENT CONFERENCE AND RESOURCE FAIR



This is a FREE conference for Oakland County parents of children birth to age five, caregivers, and community partners. At this conference, a

variety of parenting and community resource exhibits and vendors will have information, materials, resources, books, and free Ages and Stages Developmental Screening. The workshop sessions are aimed at Oakland County parents of young children, birth to age five, caregivers and community partners. Lunch and free child care will be provided.

There are two conference dates and locations to choose from:

March 24, 2012 9:00am - 2:00pm	April 29, 2012 9:00am - 2:00pm
Norup International School 14700 West Lincoln Oak Park	Lake Orion Community Education Resource Center 455 Scripps Road, Lake Orion

You must register for this conference. To register online, go to www.oakland.k12.mi.us and click on "Register Online".

For more information and questions regarding this conference, call 248-209-2519.



Opening Minds

The Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority is presenting Opening Minds, an interactive program series on recovery and mental health. All of the workshops will take place at the NOVI Public Library, 48375 Ten Mile Road in Novi. The workshops available are:

➤ **Growing Old Gracefully** with Leonard Rosen M.D. will take place on March 22, 2012, 1:00-2:30pm. At this workshop, Dr. Rosen will share some important life lessons he has learned from patients. Those who attend will find out about the new kind of aging and the scientific advancements that are contributing to this longevity revolution. Rosen will encourage participants to let go of their antiquated notions of ageism and fear of their future. Instead, he will encourage everyone to value their lives for the depth and layers of years of memories, emotions, and events. Dr. Leonard Rosen is a physician who specializes in geriatric psychiatry. He is the medical director of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority.

Contact Debbie Wisser at OCCMHA with questions and to register at 248-858-0929.

THINGS TO DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY

St. Patrick's Day Parade 2012



On Saturday, March 10th at 11:00 am get your green on and head out to Royal Oak to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Oakland County St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade honors and celebrates

Irish family traditions, pride and, heritage. The parade will begin at the Royal Oak Middle School parking lot and proceed south on Washington, turn west on Seventh, and end at the St. Mary Church School parking lot. Parade organizers estimate approximately 300 participants and 2,500 -3,500 in attendance. You may want to get their early for a good spot. This event is free for more information call 248-541-2500.

Maple Sugaring in Your Own Backyard

On Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 1:00 pm take part in some outdoor family fun! Learn how to make maple syrup from your own Maple tree. This class will teach you how to identify and select a Maple tree, collect sap, boil it down, and have wonderful syrup.



This event takes place at the City of Farmington Hills Nature Discovery Center, 24915 Farmington Rd in Farmington Hills. The event time is 1:00-3:00pm. The Cost is only \$8. You must register in advance. For more information or to register call 248-477-1135.

Movie Matinees for Adults

Movie matinees for adults takes place the second Thursday of each month at White Lake Township Library. The next movie matinee will take place on Thursday, March 8th at 2:00 pm. This event is FREE and popcorn will be provided, but bring your own pop.



The White Lake Township Library is located at 7527 Highland Rd, in White Lake. For movie title and to register call 248-698-4942, extension 2.



COMMUNITY
Living SERVICES

Oakland County Division

642 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI 48220
Phone: 248-547-2668

CPR & FIRST AID TRAINING RESOURCES

Name	Information
American Heart Association 800-939-0236	Visit website www.enjoycpr.com or call 888-97-ENJOY (36569) On the website you can search for training locations by zip code. You can register for a class online (the fastest way), or you can call 800-939-0236 and register with an Educational Specialist
American Red Cross	Visit website www.redcross.org Click "take a class" and search for trainings in your area by zip code. The search will provide you with location, date, class, and cost. You can register for classes on-line.
Southfield Fire Department Training Site: Southfield Civic Center 26000 Evergreen Road Southfield MI Tom Colombo at 248-795-5608	Heart Saver CPR/AED/First Aid is available through the Southfield Fire Department once a month at the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen Road, in the Parks and Recreation Building. The cost for the class is \$25 for non-residents and free for Southfield residents. Class size is limited, so you must register early. To register and for class dates and times, call or email Captain Tom Colombo at 248-795-5608 or tcolumbo@cityofsouthfield.com .
Crittenton Hospital Medical Center 1101 W. University Dr. Rochester, MI 48307 248-652-5269	Crittenton Hospital Medical Center offers a wide variety of classes including Family and Friends CPR, Heartsaver/AED CPR, Heartsaver First Aid, Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers, Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and Instructor programs. For a list of classes and their descriptions follow the link http://www.crittenton.com/?id=103&sid=1 The Community Health and Education Department is open Monday through Friday, 8am-4:30p.m. For more information and to register call 248-652-5269 or email them at kwheaton@crittenton.com .
CPR Plus 1372 Anderson Clawson, MI 48017 248-563-3208	Visit their Website at www.cprplus.net for class schedule and to register, or call 248-563-3208 All classes take place at: Raylor Office Building 1372 Anderson Clawson, MI 48017 Heartsaver CPR (Adult, Child & Infant CPR) - \$65 First Aid - \$45
A-1 Health & Safety Education 41826 Ramsgate Ct. Sterling Heights, MI 48314 586-726-2587	Visit their website www.a1cpr.com for more information and to download a registration form or call 586-726-2587. Classes are held at: Henry Ford Macomb Hospital (formerly St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital) 16151 19 Mile Road Clinton Township, MI 48038 Basic First Aid \$40.00 -- Basic First Aid w/Adult CPR & AED \$70.00
Advantage First Aid Training and Safety 2037 Strader Dr. West Bloomfield, MI 48324 248-366-0776	Visit their website www.advantagefirstaid.com for class schedules and to register. Training locations available in Brighton, Northville, Commerce and Livonia CPR \$42, First Aid \$42, CPR and First Aid \$72
Rescue Me First Aid & CPR Classes 5166 Bronco Drive Clarkston, MI 48346 248-618-7569	For information on classes, contact Rescue Me First Aid & CPR Classes at (248) 620-6675.
Michigan Safety Training 248.546.8811	Visit their website at www.Michigansafetytraining.com . Classes are available at various locations; visit their website or call for locations Pre registration is required! Register online using the online form , or Call Michigan Safety Training at 248-546-8811 Class cost is \$70.00 per person with pre registration and payment of \$35.00 non-refundable deposit.
Comprehensive Health and Safety Education (Chase) 21896 Farmington Road Farmington, MI 48336 248-477-1066	Visit their website at www.chasebls.com for available classes or call 248-477-1066
Tri-County Licensing Services 248-703-3338	Visit their website www.tricountylicensing.net for schedules and to register, or call 248-703-3338 Courses are being taught at the Warren facility, located at 22034 Dequindre in Warren
Waterford EMS Academy 2495 Crescent Lake Road Waterford 248-618-7569	The Academy facility is located at the Waterford Fire Department. Visit their website www.waterfordems.com for class schedule and descriptions Registration is required for all classes CPR \$25 1 st Aid \$25 To register or for further information, contact Jim Cooper, Academy Director at phone: (248) 618-7569 or email: JCooper@twp.waterford.mi.us