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The Web Pulice June 1, 2006

By Tim Pulice

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Pulice

Schools are emptying, and soon you'll have extra hands around the kitchen. Turn those youngsters into the next [Mario Batali](#) when you explore "[Cooking 4 Kids Online.](#)" They — and, perhaps, you too — can learn basic skills, sink your teeth into a variety of recipes, plus many other practical, fun and inventive tips.

School shopping may be about the last thing on your mind. OK then, shop for schools — especially if you're changing addresses — at [SchoolMatters.com](#). A service of Standard & Poor's, it holds a profusion of statistics about the state of classroom instruction in [Michigan](#), including a breakdown of [outperforming districts](#).

You may have seen billboards sprouting around town hailing a new [collaborative effort](#) aimed at instilling Detroiters with the same enthusiasm they exhibited for Super Bowl XL. [ARISE, Detroit!](#) hopes to reclaim neighborhoods through community activism, and will kick off its campaign with a weeklong launch event from June 24-30.

Watching the Detroit Tigers play at Comerica Park last weekend reminded me of my baseball card collecting days as a youth. One grown man makes public a [17-year obsession](#), detailing with humor his worst pack, most boring card and more. Willie Hernandez, Sparky Anderson and UM's Jim Abbott appear in Ben Henry's "Best Set Countdown, 17-13" section.

Between pitches, you or your significant other perhaps has uttered a phrase that can shake the foundation of a relationship, as well as that of a home. When the words "[Let's renovate](#)" come flowing, know that you have tools at your disposal, such as plans for [remaking basements](#) and for sprucing up your [outside gardening and landscaping](#).

A body of water once regarded as among the worst in the country is [surging back to health](#). However, there is plenty of work left to do, and the folks at [Friends of the Rouge](#)—whose 20th anniversary [Rouge Rescue](#) is this Saturday, June 3 —continue doing it, as do those at [The Rouge River Project](#).

As you sit staring at your computer screen, ever wonder what's engaging your fellow online citizens at that very moment? A graphical map of Web sites by the hundreds displays the [Swarm](#) of possibilities, updated literally every second, accomplished through an optional Firefox extension. (Note: Adult content sites are flagged as such) As did I, you may find it dizzying initially, but you're virtually bound to end up somewhere interesting and different.

Tim Pulice is a freelance columnist for [crainsdetroit.com](#). His column appears every Thursday in the daily e-mail alert.

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