

ACCENT

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Flu-bug busters claim to clean air

Sanitizers aim to zap viruses with UV light

By MICHAEL WOODS
TOLEDO (OHIO) BLADE

Ever wonder why flu season in the United States starts with chilly weather every autumn, rages during the winter and exits with the approach of spring?

Cold weather itself doesn't cause influenza or common colds. However, it does make people spend more time indoors with windows and doors shut and buildings sealed tight to save on heating costs.

Viruses that cause flu and colds are sealed inside right along with people.

People concerned about staying healthy this winter can go beyond frequent hand washing.

So-called germicidal ultraviolet-light has been used for decades in health-care settings, and they now can be installed throughout homes.

Personal or room-sized UV air sanitizers are a less expensive — but still pricey — option. Desktop-size devices clean the air in an office cubicle near one person. The bigger units sit on a tabletop and clean air in one or several rooms.

Stores and online sites carry a variety of UV air sanitizing devices. Search "UV air sanitizer" on the Internet for a sampling.

Manufacturers claim the devices kill 99.9 percent of airborne germs. Nobody knows for sure, however, exactly how effective these units are in reducing the risk of colds and flu.

They may sanitize the air in your home or office. But cold and flu viruses are also lurking elsewhere.

Have tissues on hand this cold season in case an air sanitizer doesn't do the trick.



TO YOUR HEALTH

Free session offers Medicare information

A free informational session on Medicare's prescription drug plan will be offered via satellite broadcast at 11:30 a.m. today at Edward Jones, 1648 Fry Road, Suite C, Greenwood.

Information: 882-1787

Recreation department provides fitness class

A class called "Stay Healthy by Keeping Fit" will teach participants about cardio-respiratory endurance, muscular endurance, flexibility and body composition.

The class will be 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Franklin Parks and Recreation Department, 396 Branigan Blvd.

Cost is \$10 for registration by Friday or \$22-\$24 after that. Information: 736-3689

Summer ball leagues open to girls, boys

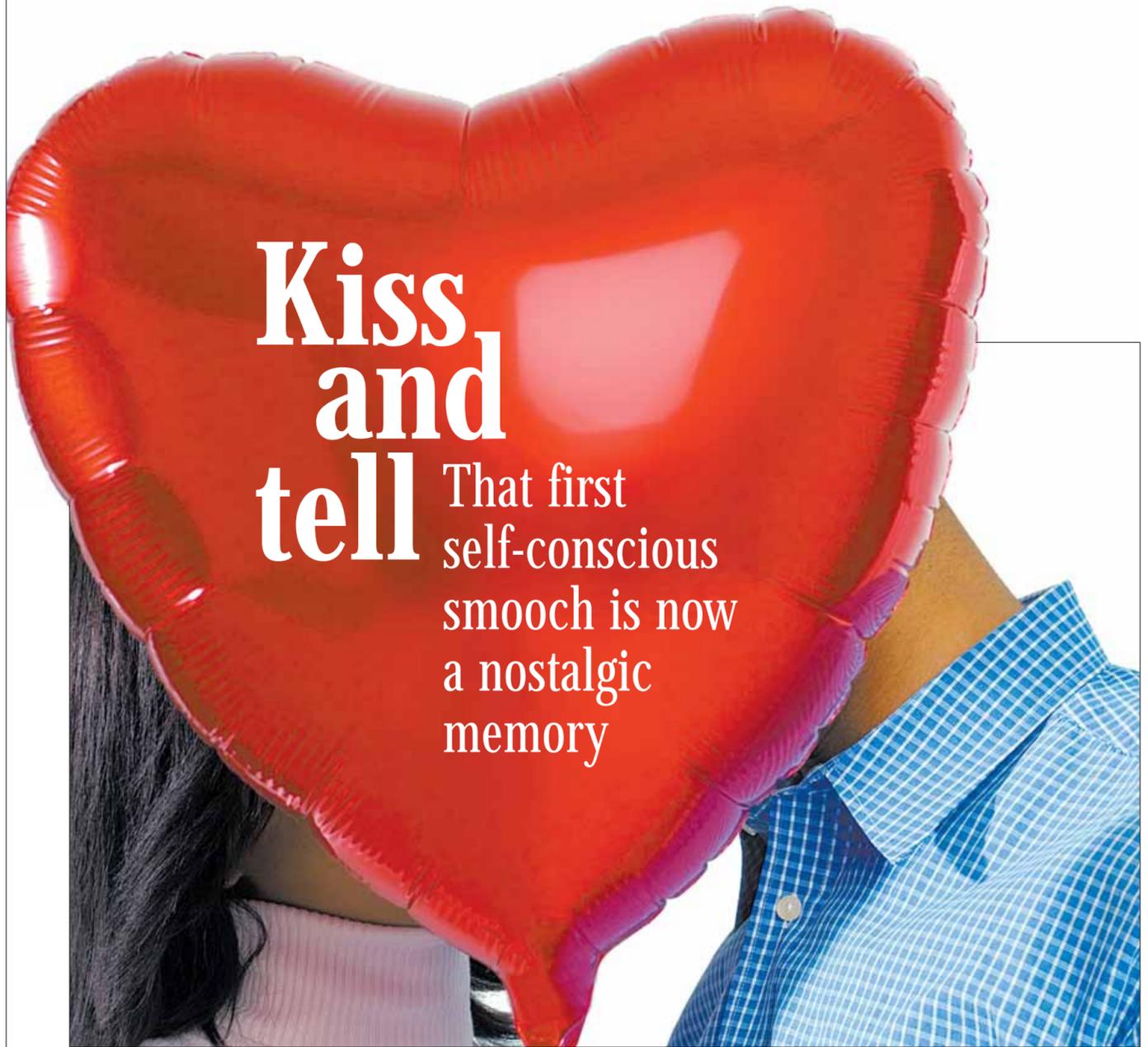
Rocklane Junior League invites boys and girls ages 4 to 16 to sign up for tee ball, baseball and softball leagues.

Games will be played in the summer at the Clark Elementary School ball fields.

Cost is \$40 to \$55, with a maximum cost of \$140 per family. Players will participate in a fundraiser during the season.

Registration will take place at Rocklane Christian Church, at Franklin Road and Main Street (Rocklane Road) in Greenwood, at the following times:

- 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday
 - 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday
 - 9 a.m. to noon Saturday
 - 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 22
 - 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 25
- Information: 889-0128



Kiss and tell

That first self-conscious smooch is now a nostalgic memory

You never know where that special first kiss will happen. It could be under the bleachers, on a bike, at a school dance or, even worse, in front of your parents.

Southside residents have had those experiences and others when they happened upon the smooch they'll never forget.



"I was in sixth grade, and I was watching my brother's basketball game."

"This really cute boy came up and kissed me on the cheek in front of my parents and everybody."

Jan Hamilton, 40, New Whiteland



"When I was 10 years old, a girl came over to my house. She gave me a kiss on the lips and said, 'Will you please go with me?'"

"And then I remember my mom saying she heard everything."

Craig Moore, 39, Southside



"I was 14, and it happened at a school dance with a boy named Brandon."

"He was my boyfriend for the next five years."

Nicole Sallee, 19, Whiteland



"I was probably 12 or 13 years old. I was on my 10-speed bicycle, and my girlfriend, Cindy, was standing beside me."

"She leaned over and kissed me on the lips, and it just about knocked me off my bike."

Jon Rogers, 47, Franklin



"I did not want to kiss anyone unless I was serious about them. He surprised me on the front porch with a kiss."

"We got married a year and a half later. That was 45 years ago."

Joan Carlsgaard, 64, Greenwood

The first kiss.

Everyone remembers theirs: Where it was, who it was with, how it happened.

For most people, the moment is recalled fondly.

For a few love-struck couples, the first kiss foreshadowed years of dating or even marriage.

Southside residents recount the first time Cupid's arrow struck.

BY SHERRI EASTBURN



"I was 8 years old, and it happened at the baby sitter's house."

"I don't remember the little girl's name."

Denton Winters, 32, Indianapolis



"I was 13, and it was at an ice skating rink."

"It was a surprise to me. It just kind of happened."

Diane Hein, 43, Southside



"I was in eighth grade. We had been playing softball. I turned around and all of a sudden this boy just went smack on the lips."

"It was the first time a boy had his lips on mine."

Jane Millett, 63, Greenwood



"It happened in junior high under the bleachers with a girl named Susan. She fell down on the foam used for pole vaulters to land in. I helped her up and kissed her."

"I've now been married to Susan for 23 years."

Buzz Bay, 48, Franklin



"It happened at the Artcraft Theatre when I was in middle school. He just laid one on me."

"And a month later, he was dating my best friend."

Holly Miller, 27, Bargersville



Web Extra

Read about more first kisses at www.thejournalnet.com.