



**102 big ones:** Gertrude Bennett, a resident at Botsford Continuing Health Center in Farmington Hills, says it's great to be 102.

## 102 feels great

### She has an extra-special birthday

It was an extra special birthday for Gertrude Bennett, a 102-year-old resident of Botsford Continuing Health Center in Farmington Hills.

On Feb. 4, Bennett joined fellow residents, family members, and BGHC employees in a champagne toast to a long and happy life. The celebration took place in the extended-care facility's main dining room, where nearly everyone joined in singing songs.

When asked how it feels to be 102, Gertrude Bennett replied simply, "It feels great."

Gertrude, who has been at BGHC since July, previously lived with her daughter-in-law Nancy Bennett in West Bloomfield. Nancy Bennett explained that her mother-in-law has led an active life and until recently was staying up late watching TV, eating out, and enjoying the outdoors with the assistance of her walker.

It was not until age 85, said Nancy, that Gertrude Bennett retired from working as a nanny for families in Grosse Pointe.

"Gertrude loves babies," Nancy Bennett said. "There was always a family that wanted her help. The key to her long life? No answers were given, but for a long time Gertrude followed her physician's advice — a sip of brandy each night before going to bed.

Gertrude is originally from Port Edward, Ontario, where she worked for the post office. Her late husband, Glenn, was a Detroit police officer.

Botsford Continuing Health Center (BGHC) is an award-winning 179-bed skilled nursing facility.

## POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

### BREAK-INS

A car stereo valued at \$300 was stolen from a 1986 Ford Ranger parked on Inkster in Farmington Hills Feb. 23. The driver's door window was broken causing \$100 in damage.

A radar detector valued at \$70 and hubcaps were stolen from a 1987 Cadillac parked at Farmington West Apartments in Farmington on Feb. 25. A Buick Somerset with three occupants was seen fleeing the scene.

A radar detector and plug-in lighter valued at \$150 were stolen from a 1993 Toyota Celica parked in Valley View Condominiums Feb. 24. Perpetrators smashed the passenger side window.

A radar detector valued at \$150 was stolen from a Ford Taurus parked in Drakehire Apartments Feb. 24.

### THEFTS

Thieves stole \$377 in cash from a locked drawer of the office at the Grand River Village on Grand River in Farmington Hills between Feb. 22-23.

A cellular phone worth \$250 was stolen from a residence on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills on Feb. 23. Fifteen women's suits valued at \$1,800 were stolen from a 1988

Mazda parked at Page Net on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills on Feb. 23. The suits had been picked up from a dry cleaners.

A purse and contents valued at \$400 were stolen from a 1990 Ford Probe parked at Kinder Care on Farmington in Farmington Hills on Feb. 23.

A Southfield woman told police that 65 tapes and a case, valued at \$650, were stolen from a 1989 Olds Cutlass while the vehicle was in for repair at Bob Saka. She said it occurred sometime between Feb. 12-16.

### AUTO THEFT

A 1992 black Ford Escort valued at \$11,000 was stolen from a parking lot near a residence on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills on Feb. 23. The owner had left the keys in the car and the engine running.

### VANDALISM

A pellet gun was used to shoot out the rear window of a 1993 Chrysler New Yorker parked on Mayfair in Farmington Hills on Feb. 23 causing \$200 in damage.

### RUNAWAY

A 12-year-old Farmington girl was found at a girlfriend's house in Northville Feb. 23 after her stepmother reported she had run away the day before.

The sixth grader was reported

missing at 6 p.m. Feb. 22. The stepmother told Farmington Public Safety officers that the two had an argument over the use of a baby-sitter for the first time.

The girl's 10-year-old sister noticed the bedroom window was open and found bed sheets tied together outside. The girl left three bags of clothes behind and was carrying \$6.

Her stepmother called Counterpoint, which is a shelter for runaway girls. She also called Power Middle School Tuesday morning and found her stopdaughter had not shown up for class.

Redford Township Police reported they had seen a girl matching the description at Seven Mile and Beech Daly.

At 2:30 p.m., the mother of the girlfriend told the stepmother the girl was at their home. The girlfriend previously denied knowing the girl's whereabouts.

The stepmother said they are going to seek counseling.

### ATTEMPTED BURGLARY

Two attempted burglaries were reported Feb. 24 in Farmington. Nothing was stolen in either incident. Someone tried to break into a garage in residence on Anne-

wood, causing \$800 damage to the door. Another resident on Schulte told public safety officers someone tried to break in through a back window of his home, causing \$200 damage to a screen.

## C'ville parents get score on MEAP

By MARIE CHESTNEY  
STAFF WRITER

Clarencenville High parents will hear Wednesday how important the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) exams have become to their children's future.

An invitation to attend a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the school library accompanied the scores their child got on the 1992-93 MEAP test.

"We'll have information on when we'll provide tutoring and the retesting dates we have established," said Clarencenville principal David Simowski. All Clarencenville schools are now working under an order from Superintendent David Kamish to boost test scores.

Principals of the district's four schools gave reports Thursday on what's been done so far in their schools. Clarencenville includes northwest Livonia, northeast Redford, and southeast Farmington Hills.

"We've brainstormed strategies and we're analyzing our weaknesses," said Grandview Elementary principal Ellen Davis. "The teachers are somewhat concerned (about Kamish's order) but are willing to work toward correcting the situation. We've had to deal with some bad publicity."

The Clarencenville Board of Education recently called the 1992-93 scores "unacceptable" and told administrators to make improving the scores a "high priority."

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