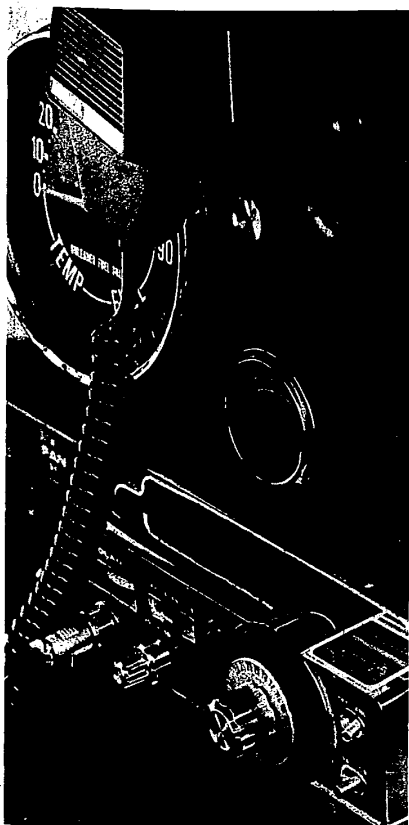


Farmington police acquire sharp-eared buddies



A CBer's link with the police stands ready on the car's dashboard. (Staff photo)

By LYNN ORR

When Top Cat calls in a report to the Farmington cop shop, he doesn't get the brush off.

Top Cat is one of 126 volunteers of the Citizens Observation Patrol Service (COPS), all licensed operators of citizen band radios.

Officially described as "concerned citizens taking an active part in protecting their community," COPS volunteers placed 426 calls to the Farmington Public Safety Department since the program's inception a little more than a year ago.

Of those calls, 102 related to criminal activity, including 10 felonies, 80 misdemeanors, and two traffic violations.

By reporting accidents, suspicious activity, and road hazards on their routine travels in Farmington, Farmington Hills and neighboring areas, the CBers are fulfilling their roles as eyes and ears of the community, says Officer Charles Lee.

And their presence alone, is a deterrent to crime, Lee says.

"We think would-be criminals that come through our community see that we have a certain number of residents who are willing to do their part in stopping crime," Lee says.

BUMPER STICKERS serve as advertisements of the group's intentions, Lee explains, while each member has a photo ID card for purposes of identification at crime or disaster scenes.

Those cards were useful at a November fire at the Valley View Condominium complex when COPS volunteers helped direct traffic. About 30 of the members used their own shovels to dig out fire hydrants after the winter blizzard a few weeks ago.

"We had an opportunity to need the police in the past, and this is our way of returning the favor," explains Pat Breneman, known to her CB buddies as "The Chippewa Squaw."

Mrs. Breneman is one of six COPS group leaders. If and when Lee will need to get the entire group mobilized—as in a disaster situation—he can contact the group leaders who will in turn contact the members.

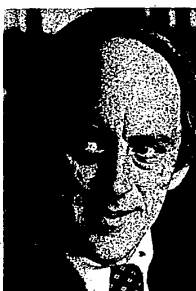
The group leaders are looking forward to learning more about police work in the months ahead, including lectures by police officials, first aid training, home fire prevention, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training,



PAT BRENEMAN



DAN ALLEN



TOM GRAHAM

ing, and perhaps more advice on how to detect suspicious activity.

BUT COPS volunteers are careful not to overstep the boundaries, Mrs. Breneman warns.

"This is not a patrolling thing at all," she says.

"We're here to help because we're concerned people," explains Doug Geersens, "The Diesel Demon."

The group also serves to draw the community's residents closer to the police, Lee says.

Although Lee admits that "it will be a long time" before police-community relations recover from the anti-cop syndrome of the sixties, programs like COPS are making headway, he says.

New members are welcome, he adds. The program is open to residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills who are at least 18 years old, and are licensed citizen band and amateur radio operators.

Each member is cleared through the Law Enforcement Information Network in order to determine any past record of arrest for serious offenses.

No person is accepted who has more than six points on his driving record. Only one person has been turned away from the program so far, Lee adds. The driving record was the problem in that case.

Membership applications are available at the public safety desk in city hall, 23600 Liberty.

Reporting, rather than attempting to investigate, suspicious activities is emphasized. Using the channel nine

frequency, COPS members use their CBs to call the Farmington "cop shop," the base station in city hall.

Members have reported problems in Livonia, Southfield, and Novi, in addition to the Farmington area, Lee says. Police relay the information to the proper authorities.

Lee's had only one problem with an over-enthusiastic CBer taking on too much responsibility. A COPS member straddled two lanes on I-696 in an

attempt to enforce the 55 m.p.h. speed limit. Lee cleared up that "problem" quickly.

The real job is taking the time to report problems and reporting everything.

"You tend to think you might be embarrassed, but the police say they'd rather get 100 calls and have them be nothing, than to let a situation go by," says "Top Cat" Tom Graham.

Lions hit the courts for NFHS benefit

Any resemblance to serious basketball will be purely coincidental when Detroit Lions football players take on the North Farmington High Booster Club.

The North basketball team, made up of fathers, teachers, and alumni, will take on Lions Greg Landry, Gary Danielson, Herb Orvis, Jim Yarbrough, Ernie Price, Charles Sanders, Horace King, Dexter Bussey, Levi Johnson, Ray Jarvis, Paul Naumoff, Jim Laslavie, Charlie Weaver, Ed O'Neil, and Jim Mitchell.

The game is a benefit for North Farmington athletic programs and is scheduled for 8 p.m., March 13, at the NFHS gym.

The Detroit Lions will be available

for autographs at half-time and after the game.

Tickets are \$2.50 for adults, and \$1.50 for students 12 years of age and under. Advance tickets can be purchased at NFHS or from any Booster Club member. Call Bill Thompson, 851-5742, or Gene Lemberg, 661-1209, for further information.

Between 300-400 underprivileged children will be attending the game, thanks to the donations of businesses and industries in the area.

Blocks of tickets have been purchased to allow children from the Sarah Fischer Home, the Orphans, Hawthorne Center, Boys Republic, and St. Francis Home of Detroit to attend the event.

Students excell in MAT skills

By LYNN ORR

More than 60 per cent of all fourth and seventh grade students in the Farmington School District are hitting the books with success.

That's one way of looking at Michigan Assessment Test results.

In fact, with the exception of math skills among seventh graders, more than 75 per cent of the students successfully negotiated 75-100 per cent of the test objectives.

While these figures indicate that most students met state expectations, what happens to the students who fail to demonstrate the skills state educators deem necessary?

And what does the school district do with the test results?

Those are some of the questions raised by Trustee Richard Wallace. And many educators echo those queries.

The Michigan Assessment Testing Program costs state taxpayers about \$800,000 per year. School districts are mandated to participate in the testing, but that doesn't stop many officials from questioning the validity of the program.

In Farmington, test results are shared with staff members and parents, but district officials warn that comparisons among students, individual schools and districts are dangerous.

THE RESULTS must be carefully analyzed to determine their validity, they say.

For example, many students failed to make the objective concerning the Celsius thermometer this year.

"But we found out that there was no problem except for the negative numbers," says Don Cowan, Fairview Elementary School principal and test coordinator for the district.

It seems that negative numbers aren't introduced until later in fourth grade. And in the fall, when the tests are given, the students were mystified by the question.

"Areas where we may not score as high are areas we may cover eventually," Cowan says.

Questions on the test may even be worded at a higher reading level than that attained by some students.

"You're testing every child in the district, including those in the resource rooms," says Jim Nuttle, elementary reading consultant. "The state itself realizes that questions may be written at too hard a reading level."

"I think that's a sad commentary coming from the state, but the state interpretative manual tells us that." Although school district results were

published by the county in the past, that practice is no longer undertaken, says Larry Freedman, assistant superintendent of elementary education.

"Basically the tests are not made to be an accurate competition among school districts," Freedman says. "It was decided that compilation wouldn't be published because it had no purpose. We work within the district to see if we're satisfied with what we're doing."

"We're concerned when we've covered the material, and the students fail to meet the objectives."

Nuttle is one of the district's officials who is diagraming what reading skills are measured by the test and when they're introduced in the district, Freedman says.

"Then we can look at what needs improvement," Freedman says.

Wallace is concerned about the relationships between reading scores of the assessment tests and verbal scores of the Scholastic Aptitude Tests, usually given in 11th and 12th grades.

"What happens between the fourth and seventh and the SAT's?" asks Wallace.

Trustee Dr. Mervyn Ross wondered why questions relating to metrics didn't produce higher scores in Farmington. The metric system was introduced earlier than in most districts in the state.

Four out of five questions must be answered correctly to meet the objective, Cowan responded. Three of the five questions were answered by about 85 per cent of the students, but negative numbers skewed the results, he said.

NEARLY 75 per cent of the fourth graders were successful in attaining 75-100 per cent of the reading objectives, while 88 per cent of the students attained 75-100 per cent of the math objectives.

About 78 per cent of the seventh grade students were capable of attaining 75-100 per cent of the reading skills. Math was the "downfall" for seventh graders.

About 61 per cent of the students fell into the 75-100 per cent attainment range.

Less than six per cent of the fourth grade students failed to achieve more than 65 per cent of the reading objectives, while 13 per cent of the students fell below the 25 per cent range in math.

Less than five per cent of the seventh graders failed to achieve more than 65 per cent of the reading and math objectives.

Young soccer fans invited

There will be an open registration for the Farmington Soccer Club beginning Feb. 25.

Players wishing to register should report between 9:30 a.m.-noon, on Feb. 25 to Wooddale Elementary School, 28600 Peppermill, west of Farmington Road and north of Twelve Mile. Further information can be obtained by calling 851-4835.

Play will begin in April and end in early June.

As much as possible, the teams are formed on a neighborhood concept. Girls and boys ages eight to 15-years-old are eligible. Every player is guaranteed to play half a game regardless of skill or ability. Games are played on weekends.

GOP picks officers

The Farmington Republican Club had their annual meeting at Botsford Inn and elected its new officers.

John Forbes was elected president; Lynn Romero, vice president; Judy Guertin, recording secretary; Sharon McDonald, corresponding secretary and Richard Fitzpatrick, treasurer.

Make list

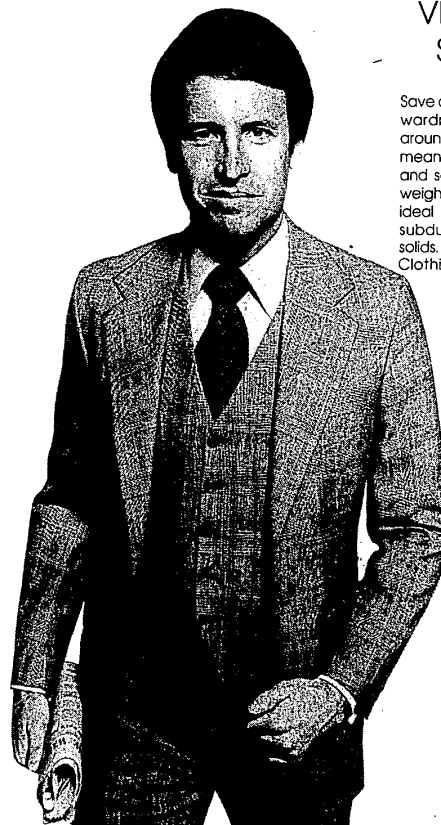
Robert Schaffer and Robert Krause, of Farmington Hills, have been named to the chancellor's list at Northwood Institute.

Krause has earned straight A's.

Singer tours

Cheryl Prochaska, 34258 Conroy Court, Farmington, will join the members of the Arts Chorus of Northern Michigan University, Marquette for its Spring concert tour of the east coast and Canada.

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