

Getting ready for the visitors

Recruitment calls 'everybody willing to pitch in'

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

City of Farmington Beautification Committee maps out plans for its spring cleanup campaign this year with a program members refer to among themselves as the hurry-up-the-Republicans-are-coming agenda.

"Cleanup efforts run from mid-April through May this year, getting ready for our company," said Jackie Steuer, chairman of the committee, referring to six local inns and hotels that will house Republican delegates for the 1980 convention.

"What we need now is the enlistment of scouts, church groups, service clubs, organizations, individuals, everybody willing to pitch in and tackle some of the tacky spots we've got on our list," she said.

Adding to the list of "lucky spots" the committee made, Earl Billings of Farmington Department of Public Services submitted another list, and another list came from his counterpart in Farmington Hills, Ralph Magid.

"Come forth wherever you are," Mrs. Steuer said. "Pick and choose your own job, or we'll find one for you."



JACKIE STEUER

CLEANUP recruits are invited to enlist by calling Mrs. Steuer at 477-4353, or Carol Kurth, who is spearheading the clean-up campaign, at 476-0785.

Or those who want a better idea of the workings of the committee are invited to attend one of the committee's open meetings, which begins at 8 p.m. every second Thursday of the month in Farmington City Hall.

The City of Farmington Beautification Committee's annual spring seminar is scheduled early this year, on March 29, when experts will visit to talk about herb gardening.

Plans to perk up the downtown business area are already in the works with an assist from the Farmington & Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

The May flower and shrub sale is on the calendar for May 16-17. The sale is now in its sixth year and one of the committee's biggest money-makers, but it never started out that way.

"It was started as a service. We just wanted to let our residents be able to buy some pretty things for little money. But in the past two years we've been selling items as we unloaded them off the truck without having time to get the name sticks into the plants," Mrs. Steuer said.

The committee took an expensive money gamble the first year it bought its own plants for sale and speculated that any plants left over would be used for planting around the city. Last year, even though the sale was advertised through 6 p.m. Saturday afternoon, "all of our workers had packed up, cleaned up and left by noon," Mrs. Steuer said.

HELP IS NEEDED for a massive clean-up along M-102 as it crosses both cities, both in trimming and cutting scrub brush and picking up litter.

"And all the cemeteries will get cleaned this spring, one way or another," Mrs. Steuer said. "That is a must."

Arbor Day has not yet been declared, but it is always designated for some time during Michigan Week and on that day more than one tree will be planted.



"The DPS needs a tree or two and some of the trees in the cemeteries need replacing," Mrs. Steuer said.

Programs in the schools are generally carried out, at least ones in cooperation with Farmington Hills Beautification Commission, and a couple individually by the two bodies.

The City of Farmington Beautification Committee will "most likely," Mrs. Steuer said, "work on an anti-vandalism program."

And a long-standing project that has been batted around for several years will get under way when the committee comes to grips with the Michigan Department of Highways.

The project is landscaping for what Mrs. Steuer calls "the tackiest place in town," the triangle on Grand River that separates the Grand River Drive-In from The Diggers across the street.

AS THE COMMITTEE will work on

the elementary school's beautification program with the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission, it will also work jointly on cleaning up the Rouge River and its banks as it flows through both cities.

But the program Mrs. Steuer is most enthusiastic about that will be carried out jointly is a re-cycled oil project planned to be copied after a successful program now going on in Grand Rapids.

"This is geared mostly to the home mechanic who pours his oil down the sewer," Mrs. Steuer said.

"We will install holding tanks, much the same as service stations have. The oil will be picked up by scavenger truck services and sold to a refinery plant."

"We've already contacted Environmental Waste Co. in Inkster who will work with us on this. For every barrel we can collect with our new program, is one less we have to buy."

Last chance to beat immunization catch-up deadline

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Two special clinics have been set up by Oakland County Health Division for all newcomers to the community, kindergartners, fifth and 10th graders to beat the "Immunization Catch-Up" deadline, Monday, March 3.

A local ordinance, approved by the Oakland County Commission, requires exclusion of these students from classes who are not adequately immunized by that date.

Latecomers who have not been properly immunized can avoid being sent home from school by attending the clinics, open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 1 at either of two Oakland County Health Division offices; 27725

Greenfield Rd., in Southfield, or 1200 Telegraph in Pontiac.

Proof of immunization for measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and polio is required.

Students may be exempt from exclusion for medical, religious, or other reasons if a signed waiver is on file.

"The 10th graders are the real targets," here said Juanita Fralick, public health nurse for Farmington Public Schools. "Statistically, the little ones are the best immunized and we're not too concerned about them."

"The law concerning the 10th graders is a new one that will be enforced with a five-year plan that will catch them one way or another."

THE FIVE-YEAR plan entails a regu-

lar screening of all fifth and 10th graders, in both public and non-public schools, with complete assessment of school records completed by the public health nurse assigned to each school.

"Deadline is deadline," Ms. Fralick said, "but at this point, I am afraid there are a lot of parents here who are not taking us seriously. The percentage of unprotected 10th graders is very high here."

She follows this up by saying that some of the problem may lie in either inadequately kept records, or no records, or the parent who relies on their doctor to do this for them.

"We meet a lot of children who remember they had a shot but can't remember what it was for or what town he was living in when it took place," Ms. Fralick said.

"We also meet a lot of parents who are going to write to their pediatrician for records in another state but that doctor has died or moved to Arizona," she said.

"The children here have very good medical care. They are taken care of when they are sick. But a review of their immunizations is just not something parents put very high on their list of priorities."

MS. FRALICK described "Immunization Catch-Up" as a "rigorous program that will be continued over the next five years when all students will have been completely assessed and updated for vaccine preventable diseases."

She asks that if there is any questions, or any doubts in a parent's mind about a child's protection, to call the

local health division, at 424-7000, or contact the public health nurse serving the child's school.

"If there is doubt about any of the immunizations, we can generally figure it out for the parent. We know what was given, how it was given, and during what years."

"That takes some time, but with a few clues and a little questioning, we can do it, and we will be glad to do it," she said.

The Oakland County Health Division continues its regular monthly service of giving free immunizations to all residents up through the age of 17 years from 9 a.m. to noon the second Thursday of every month. New location for the clinic is in Shiawassee Recreation Center (formerly Shiawassee Elementary School) on Shiawassee and Power roads.



JUANITA FRALICK

Party politics get attention

By KATHY PARRISH

Irene Mitchell says she's "really a very shy person."

But pin a "hostess" nametag on her, and there's no more outgoing.

"It gives me an excuse to meet people and introduce them to one another," explains the new president of the Oakland County Council of Republican Women's Clubs. "I've introduced very many strangers," she adds proudly.

Elected Feb. 20 at the group's 20th annual luncheon, the Oakland Township resident will serve a two-year term. Other new officers are Mary West of Pleasant Ridge, second vice president; Nancy Stocking of Rochester, treasurer; Miriam Reid of Royal Oak, recording secretary; and Norma Henderson of Farmington, deputy treasurer.

The council is comprised of Republican Women's Clubs in Birmingham, Bloomfield, Farmington, Lakes Area, Rochester, Royal Oak and South Oakland.

A softspoken grandmother who doesn't like people to think she's "taking over," Mrs. Mitchell was surprised to find herself heading the 600-member organization.

"I've always considered myself one

"WHATEVER I DO has nothing to do with ambition."

She credits her success mainly to not being a "rigid" person.

"I like to have people out there feeling comfortable," she said. "Their opinion is more important than mine. And I want them to feel free to give their ideas."

Making people feel comfortable is a skill Mrs. Mitchell has been polishing for years, perhaps ever since her birth in Louisville, Ky.

Married during World War II to a soldier who decided to make the U.S. Army his career, the family moved frequently. Being shy, Mrs. Mitchell joined women's clubs to meet people at each new base.

"You're there two years and if you don't join there's no opportunity to meet people," recalls the mother of seven and grandmother of six.

When her husband retired from the service in 1962 and they moved to Pleasant Ridge, she became active with the Republican Party. The former Southern Democrat's found Michigan Republicans felt more the way she did about things than Michigan Democrats did.

"For Democrats here there's no end to spending money. Republicans are tighter with people's money."

She passed out literature and gave parties for politicians like Rep. William Bloomfield, who she kiddingly

claims to have followed north from the 18th district he used to represent.

"AT LEAST that's what I tell him," she quips.

With fellow council member Mary West, she hosted political parties. "Two of us made 2,000 tea sandwiches," she recalls. "I'll never forget that."

Making member of the Ferndale Area Republican Club, she served the coed group as secretary for four years. After moving to Oakland Township in September 1975, she helped start the Rochester Area Republican Club. She was president of the group for two years.

That involvement led to becoming a delegate to the Oakland Council Council of Republican Women's Clubs and its vice president for two years.

"It's like the PTA Council is to the schools — just exactly," says Mrs. Mitchell, who has also done more than her share of school volunteer work.

"We learn what each club is doing. If someone is doing something exciting, we copy it."

For Mrs. Mitchell, the volunteer activities have been mainly a way to meet people.

"I'm always looking for another friend," says the 55-year-old, who admits to "talking up a storm" when she meets someone new.

"THE PEOPLE I've met have been so great; that's why I've stuck with it," she says. "They don't wait for you to come to them. They come meeting you. I like that."

"I don't think it has anything to do with politics. It's just the kind of people they are. We just happen to have a common meeting ground — the Republican party."

But while she speaks frequently of her "friends" in the party, she is adamant that the clubs are not just social groups.

"We have jobs to do," she says, referring to the job she recently finished with other Council members — updating voter ID for Oakland County precincts.

She believes her involvement has helped her think more for herself about issues and politicians.

"We talk and get one another's opinions. We never discuss one another," she says firmly. "We don't have time."

Mrs. Mitchell's interest in politics has spread to her children, who range in age from 35 to 16. Her husband, Ralph, chief of the Battle Tank Branch of the Tank Automotive Research and Development Command in Warren, can't get involved in party politics because of his job. But he shares her enthusiasm.

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Oakland Township resident Irene Mitchell likes politics — but enjoys her fellow party workers and politicians just as much.