

Grandparents' rights

Advocate earns national award

Judith Borne staff writer

Her health wouldn't allow her to fly to New York to accept the National Grandparents Day award, including guest appearances on "Good Morning America" and the "Today" television shows.

But 60-year-old Luella M. Davison

covets the crystal sculpture of a narcissus flower and bud, by Hans Gobo Frabel. It represents the National Council for the Observance of Grandparents' Day's first annual award appropriately given on Sept. 12 - National Grandparents Day.

The delicate piece, symbolic of a grandparent and grandchild, sits on the piano in Davison's cozy Sylvan Lake

home, from which she led the state movement for grandparents' visitation rights after founding Grandparents Anonymous in 1976.

The cause is now nationwide, with interest exhibited in Canada and Puerto Rico. She was chosen from a number of candidates by editors of 500 newspapers across the country.

"I WISH I could go like I did at the beginning," Davison said, deploring recent health problems including high blood pressure and an aortic leak.

Although she still speaks to various groups, such as Wednesday's talk to seventh-grade students at Detroit Country Day School in Birmingham, others have taken up her work.

But she's committed to stay with the movement "until I die."

She was the driving force in getting state legislation passed amending the Child Custody Act of 1970 to allow the circuit court, when dealing with new or renewed action for custody, to provide paternal and maternal grandparent visitation rights.

A previous amendment had allowed a grandparent legal visitation rights, but only if his own child was dead.

She spent time and energy in persuading officials to proclaim March 18 as Grandparents Day in Michigan.

Davison still works to further both causes:

• A bill is pending in the Legislature to insure visitation rights to a grandparent whose grandchild has been legally adopted by stepparents and in cases where parents are still married but estranged from the grandparents.

• A bill has been okayed in the state house and is headed for the senate to make Grandparents Day a legal, not just proclaimed, state holiday. "It's easy to just proclaim," she said.

SHE SEES no problem in both a state and national Grandparents Day. "You can't have too many," Davison said. The particular aim of the state-wide day is to encourage schools to set aside a day to include grandparents in their grandchildren's activities.



Luella Davison has found herself in a celebrity status since being named as a grandparent extraordinaire for National Council of Grandparents' Day.

Meller is appointed assistant treasurer

Gerald E. Meller of Farmington has joined Ziebart International Corp. as assistant treasurer.

Meller's responsibilities include all accounting and tax functions. Meller previously held the position of manager of Alexander Grant & Co., and staff accountant for Rosenbloom, Rosenbloom & Co.

A certified public accountant, he is a graduate of Walsh College in Troy and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants.

Ziebart is the licensing organization for more than 750 independent Ziebart service dealers in 35 countries.

recreation news

Each week the Farmington Hills Parks & Recreation Department will present a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column. For further information regarding their programs, contact their office at 474-6115.

RECREATION OPEN SWIM - The fall session of recreational swimming continues at North Farmington High School, Monday evenings. Swimming begins at 7 p.m. and continues to 9:15 p.m. Adult swim starts at 8:15 p.m. Fee is 75 cents for children and teens and \$1 for adults. Open swimming requires that all children must be accompanied by a parent if their chin height is below 38 inches.

USED WINTER SPORTS EQUIPMENT SALE - If you would like to purchase or sell used winter sports equipment, such as skates, downhill and cross country skis, sleds and toboggans, you are invited to attend this annual sale. The sale is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20. If you wish to consign equipment, that is done on Friday, Nov. 19, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Location is Farmington High School, 32000 Shilawassee.

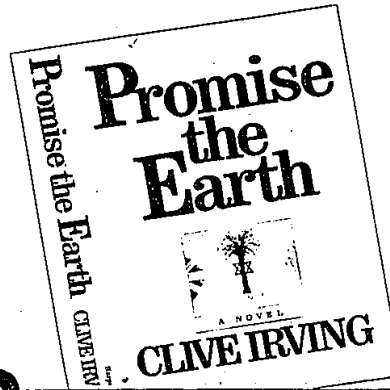
SNOWMOBILE SAFETY CLINIC - Michigan State law requires all youth, 12-16 years of age and desiring to operate a snowmobile without adult supervision, to participate in a certified snowmobile safety clinic. Participants must attend both sessions to secure a certificate. Dates are Nov. 30 and Dec. 6 at Farmington Hills public library, 32373 W. 12 Mile. Fee is \$3 and you must pre-register.

SENIOR ADULT BOUTIQUE - The senior adult center will be holding its annual craft boutique 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18. The show will include a variety of senior crafts; come and purchase the item of your choice or just browse. The senior center is located in the Mercy Center, 28800 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt.

ICE RINK FLOODING - If you are interested in having your nearby ice rink flooded, the Farmington Hills Parks & Recreation Department can assist you. We will inspect the site and make recommendations for improvement as well as do the tapping for you. There is a minimal fire hydrant tapping fee payable to Oakland County. Contact us soon if you are interested.

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS CONCERT - The Farmington Community Chorus will be presenting its annual concert entitled, "Songs 'Yule' Love," beginning at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4. The concert will include traditional holiday songs as well as popular arrangements. The concert will be held at the Harrison Center for the Performing Arts, Harrison High School, 20925 W. 12 Mile. Tickets may be purchased from chorus members at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation office or at the door; adults \$2 and senior adults and students \$1.

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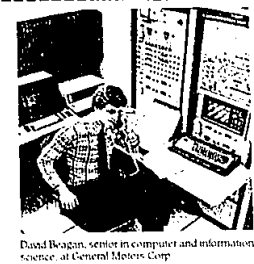
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santa's coming by helicopter

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, 11:00 a.m.

The Children's Holiday Train is running, and Fantasy Forest is aglow with holiday lights. Everything is ready for Santa as he makes his way from the North Pole.

While Santa's reindeer rest at a secret location, Santa will hop on a helicopter and fly to the Tel-Twelve Mall parking lot, setting down promptly at 11 a.m.

The Southfield Lathrup Marching Band will play holiday music beginning at 10:30 a.m. while we scan the skies for Santa's arrival. Then they will lead Santa in a gala children's parade inside the mall.



Tel-Twelve Mall