

# When you hear tornado siren remember it's just a test

When you hear a tornado siren in the Farmington area today at 1 p.m., relax. It's just a test.

Even though tornado sirens in both Farmington and Farmington Hills are tested the first Saturday of each month at 1 p.m., the siren test today is part of what Gov. James Blanchard has designated as Michigan Tornado Safety Week (March 20-25).

Whenever residents hear the sirens, they are urged to avoid calling either city police department and instead tune to their television or radio for further information.

Tornado and severe weather sirens are activated in the Farmington area by the National Weather Service or the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, serving as a back-up system.

Residents are reminded that whenever a tornado or severe thunderstorm

watch is issued, conditions are right for severe weather to develop. Watches are issued to give residents time to plan and prepare to take cover should the weather become serious.

When a tornado or severe thunderstorm warning is issued, that means one or the other actually has been sighted or is strongly indicated by radar. A steady three-minute tone indicates a tornado has been sighted in the Farmington area and residents are to take shelter immediately.

ACCORDING TO tornado safety guidelines issued by the Farmington Hills Civil Defense/Disaster Control division, residents should seek the following types of shelter:

• If in a house: Go to the basement and seek shelter under a sturdy piece of furniture if possible. If the house has

no basement, take cover in the center of the house on the lowest floor in small rooms, such as a closet or bathroom.

• If in a mobile home or vehicle: Leave and go to a nearby "substantial structure." If there is no nearby structure, lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine or culvert with your hands shielding your head.

• If at work or school: Move to an interior hallway or small room on the lowest floor. Avoid rooms with glass and wide, freestanding roofs.

• If in open country: If possible, find a sturdy building for shelter. Otherwise, lie flat in a nearby ditch and hold onto something on the ground.

Residents who want up-to-the-minute weather condition reports may purchase weather alert monitors from most radio supply stores.

# Teens learn about hunger by hosting starv-a-thon

By Sharon Dargatz  
staff writer

Robert McRuer helped raise \$3,300 — and his conscience — all on an empty stomach last weekend.

The teen-ager was among 32 high school students and adults who withstood hunger pains during a 30-hour fund-raiser at Highland Park Baptist Church, Southfield.

"Planned Famine Starvation," was designed to raise money for world hunger and make youths more aware of the issue through voluntary fasting, discussions, films and educational games.

The money, nearly double the group's goal, was collected through pledges and will go to feeding the hungry abroad and in Detroit.

"I had a vague idea about the problem, but I never thought about it

much," admitted McRuer, a junior at Southfield Christian School.

"Now I'll be aware of the food I waste — and we waste a lot in this country. Last year our school surveyed kids in the lunchroom and found that the average student wastes eight cents worth every day."

"A lot of times we just eat because we're frustrated or bored. I don't think many people in this country eat because they're really hungry."

Amy Cyr, a senior at Groves High School, Birmingham, easily withstood the first several hours of fasting.

"I didn't feel very hungry," she recalled. "Then I realized that I really wasn't that hungry (compared to others). I was going without food for 30 hours. Other people starve every day."

McRuer said the experience gave him guilt pangs as well as an hunger

pangs.

"IT'S FRUSTRATING because there's not much you can do about hunger," he noted, "although we did write our senators."

A grocery shopping trip brought the issue closer to home when the group bought and delivered \$400 worth of food to four needy Detroit families.

"Everything in the store looked good because by that time we had put in 25 hours (fasting)," said Jay Firebaugh, youth pastor. "But it was a neat thing, showing Christianity in action."

"We're so sheltered in our middle class existence. We think of ourselves as 'have-nots' and the Fords and Rockefellers as the 'haves.' We need to change our perspectives."

Ironically, most of the hungry grow food for a living, Firebaugh noted. But the majority of their income goes toward landlords.

"I don't want to become merely a sounding board for the world situation. But I want the kids to see everything in light of what the scriptures say about it."

"The scripture is filled with verses about hunger that we tend to overlook," he added. "We're prone to look inward in this society. I want our kids to (reach) out."

# Open house is planned

Prospective students can explore career opportunities from 2-4 p.m. Sunday by attending Madonna College's Open House in the Activities Center at the campus in Livonia.

The event gives students the chance to review the college and its programs,

and to speak with college administrators and faculty about career programs available, as well as financial aid, scholarships, veteran's benefits and cooperative educational positions.

The open house will include tours of the academic buildings and the residence hall.

The event gives students the chance to review the college and its programs,

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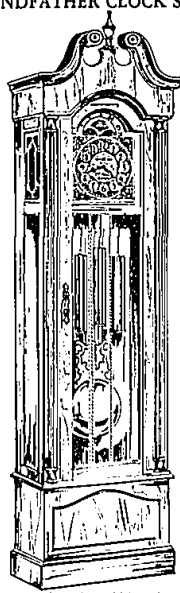
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