

Monday, June 20, 1983 O&E

Farmington Community Center marks 1983 as year of the turn-around

By Lorraine McClish staff writer

Farmington Community Center ended its 1982 season financially solvent, the first time that has happened in memory, while simultaneously being refurbished with a host of inside and outside rejuvenation projects.

This is a complete turn-around for us just in the past few months," said the center's executive director Betty Paine. "We haven't had to borrow a cent since the first of the year. We are passed the halfway mark to our goal in some new service clubs and groups who are adopting the center for some special gifts to us."

Dianne Webb, out-going president of the center's board of directors, wound up her tenure leaving the self-supporting building and grounds in their best financial shape since they were given to the community in 1968.

At the same time the center was moving itself from in-the-red to in-the-black, Farmington Hills Junior Women's Club, with money raised from the sale of "Opportunity Farmington" be-

gan a complete renovation of the center's living room.

It just seemed to be the catalyst," Paine said. "We haven't had to beg since. Now we have groups and individuals coming to us asking what they can do to help."

WHAT HAPPENED after the center's living room took on new paint, wallpaper, rugs, drapes and re-upholstered furniture, is "what every housewife in the world can relate to," Paine said. "The rest of the rooms looked shabbier than they looked before." The Farmington Area Jaycees, a service group which along with the Jaycees have always been supporters of the center with both time and money, offered to tackle what Paine called "the worst room in the house," a former second floor guest room now used for classes.

Farmington 8 Lions gave a check for new drapes in the library. They were made by Barbara Burgess, an instructor at the center who also custom-made the drapes for the living room.

A \$1,000 check from Farmington Chapter American Association of University Women came to the center

from the proceeds of its fall book sale that was used for the dining room and porch floors.

The money will stretch to do the job because Irene Foster, a member of the center's Volunteer Eagle Scouts, was able to make arrangements for the work through her husband's company to have the hard wood floors restored to their original beauty.

"WHEN YOU are trying to maintain a house that was built in 1869 (additions were added up until 1930) there is always a list of what has to be done," Paine said.

"Whatever time or talent or money you have to offer there is always something on the list that fits," she said.

"We got a surprise check from Farmington Quilters who gave a donation from the proceeds of their antique auction and it was just a matter of going down the list to see what could be done with that amount of money."

When members of Farmington Hills Christian Church, which uses the center for Sunday services, asked if there was anything they could give, they were handed the list.

Two hundred guests turned out this month to see the first graduation ceremonies given in Farmington Training Center since its opening here eight years ago.

The afternoon ceremony followed the traditional graduation, from the playing of "Pomp and Circumstance" to the students' reception.

Because they were working without precedent, the three parents carried on with getting speakers and diplomas, mailing invitations, making programs, preparing mementos for the students, making arrangements for the reception and securing caps and gowns, with no idea of how many guests were going to show up.

"I guess we did something that a lot of parents and relatives were glad to see, 200 guests for 14 graduates might even be a record," Foster said.

"The PARENTS got some financial help from, and the backing of, the Association for Retarded Citizens for staging the ceremonies.

"I'm not sure that it's even ever been done before," Foster said.

"I know that some school districts allow these students to go through the graduation ceremonies with the local public high school.

"But we met with so many impasses, so many roadblocks there, we forgot that route and went off on our own."

Foster is in hopes that because of the large turnout the three have established a precedent.

"None of us will be affiliated with the center any more," she said.

"We're hoping that another group of parents, most likely with the association's help, will pick it up next year and carry it on for those who leave in the coming years."

The Tuckers, now living in Melwood Apartments, were married June 4, 1933 in Detroit.

"We were able to keep it a surprise because we had the party a week later," said Bea Lindorfer, who decorated her home for the party and also arranged for the couple's rabbi to officiate in a ceremony for repeating the vows they made 50 years ago.

Each of the guests brought a silk flower that was arranged in a brass pot as a memento of the occasion.

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— Betty Paine Executive Director Farmington Community Center



who wanted to use the center as a place for men to meet one another, hear a good speaker on a contemporary issue and have a build-your-own sandwich together.

"They are hitting the capacity point in the living room now. They are getting acquainted with the center and a few of them have joined our Volunteer Guild," Paine said.

And so is the Second Edition bringing in money.

The second-floor resale shop, which takes clothing donations or clothing on consignment, "utilizes space that couldn't be used for anything else," Paine said. "It is run by Mary Feezey and a cadre of 20 guild members and is all pure profit."

Hill and Dale Garden Club, whose members have always planted and maintained the flower beds on the center's grounds, are also doing a bit of revamping in the overall rejuvenation efforts.

The center grounds are available for

rose bushes or trees to be planted as memorials.

The number of requests has now forced the club to have a landscape design drawn up to fulfill the requests for the maximum beauty of the grounds.

JAMES MITCHELL took over the presidency of the center's board of directors this spring. Feezey is vice president. Mary McCallum is the new secretary and Edward Keitenstock is the new treasurer.

The incoming board members are Ronald Baker, David Cornwell, Wilbur Davis, John Farley, Katrina Jensen, Edward Lane and Nancy Taylor.

Paine works with a small staff, who in turn work with members of the Volunteer Guild.

Speaking of the just one-year-old guild, Paine said, "It's been nice not having to beg for five people to help park cars next Tuesday," giving an example of its effectiveness.

"But the list is always there."

Party given couple married 50 years

About 200 friends of Minnie and Hy Tucker surprised the couple with a party in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary hosted by the staff of B'Lynn's Coutures and Fashions.

Many of those friends were clients of Minnie Tucker who has been manicuring nails of Farmington area persons for the past 20 years; 14 of them in the salon at 3825 1/2 Mile Road.

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Graduation is a first at training center

Two hundred guests turned out this month to see the first graduation ceremonies given in Farmington Training Center since its opening here eight years ago.

"We've been pushing for this for the entire year," said Lenore Foster, who worked with Ina Mae Wilcox and Dex Wyman to stage the exercises for the special education students.

All are parents to one of the graduates and all are members of Greater Farmington Parents Association of Retarded Citizens.

The 14 graduates, all who had reached the age of 25, will no longer be attending public school.

Eagle Scout carries on family tradition

Jeffery Allen Trager is a member of the third generation of his family to take the Eagle Scout Award. The son of Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Trager of Farmington Hills moved to scouting's highest rank during Troop 23's Court of Honor given early this month.

The North Farmington High School June graduates took the role of "Howie" in the school's production of "Our Town" this spring, while retaining his membership in the National Honor Society and maintaining a part-time job with M.C.S. Sporting Goods.

His community service project, a re-

quirement for the Eagle Award, began with the creation of a pamphlet on fire prevention that was ultimately distributed to 500 persons. He completed the project with a presentation on fire safety given in Farmington Hills Branch Library.

Trager will enter University of Michigan this fall to pursue a career in medicine.

Troop 23 is sponsored by its alumni and meets in Temple Beth El. Next Trager has served as scoutmaster for Troop 23 for the past 50 years.

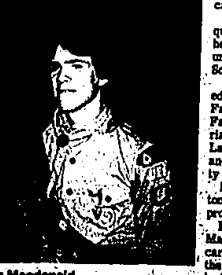


Jeffery Trager

Macdonald takes Eagle Award

Tim Macdonald, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Macdonald of Farmington, has been the 4th Scout to receive the Eagle Rank from Troop 110, sponsored by Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

Macdonald took the award in the Court of Honors ceremony this spring from Ed Semposki, his former scoutmaster, who now serves the troop as a committeeman-at-large.



Tim Macdonald

Macdonald, an honor student at University of Detroit High School, has been in scouting for only four years, but nevertheless served the troop in numerous leadership positions while progressing through the seven Scouting ranks on his trail to Eagle.

In his last position as troop quartermaster he was responsible for all of the troop's equipment and responsible for the needs and purchases of the troop's campouts.

In addition to completing his own requirements for the Eagle rank he has helped work on five service programs under the direction of other Eagle Scouts.

He was one of the crew which painted the Oak Hill Cemetery fence, the Farmington City Park restrooms and Farmington Historical Museum's carriage house. He helped repair Fred Lake Recreation Center's nature trails and revamp the Farmington Community Center gardens.

Meanwhile he finished the Farmington YMCA's Christmas sports program for third and fourth grades. For his community service project, Macdonald planned, supervised and carried out the repair and painting of the entire basement floor at the Historical Museum.

He was elected by his troop members to become a member of Scouting's Order of the Arrow, an honorary service organization which recognizes service given and leadership abilities.

AT SCHOOL Macdonald has played basketball and track, and is now on U-D High's varsity track team. He has served on his school's student senate and worked back stage for two school plays.

His hobbies are bike riding and running.

He plans to pursue a career in business management at the University of Michigan when he completes high school two years from now.

Kraft takes maitre d' post

Paul Gilbert Kraft, son of Virginia Kraft of Farmington Hills, has been promoted to the post of maitre d' hotel at Livonia's Holiday Inn.

Kraft is a graduate of Harrison High School who studied his trade at Oakland Community College. He has been employed with Holiday Inn since September 1982.

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