

# Suburban Life

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## At Sarah Fisher Volunteers join to replace long-outdated playground

By Loralne McClish  
staff writer

The celebration of National Volunteer Week (May 8-12) and the completion of a new creative playground has come simultaneously for the staff at Sarah Fisher Center.

"This was a long time in coming," said Myra Luzzo, the center's volunteer co-ordinator as she watched the first group of youngsters tentatively begin to explore the many different avenues for creative play on the new structure.

"We were exceedingly fortunate to get the G.E. men's club (a service organization made up of General Electric management) to take up the challenge to get this started," she said.

Luzzo explained that as other schools would have a built-in cadre of parents with a vested interest in the school to volunteer time or talent, the Sarah Fisher staff doesn't have access to a father who is an engineer, or an architect, or carpenter to call on when the need arises.

Headed by Bill Kaufman and John Villa, work crews from General Electric spent a year of Saturdays in planning and bringing the structure to completion.

The new playground replaces one that was built in 1929 when the Saint Vincent and Sarah Fisher complex was built. At the time most of the residents were under the age of 10. Now most of the residents are over that age.

KAUFMAN AND VILLA came to be acquainted with Sarah Fisher by offering outings to the children.

"Our thrust is to offer more than a donation of money," Kaufman said. "When we make arrangements to take the children who live in a cottage, or two, to the circus, or an ice show, or we always try to have one adult for each child so there is always a one-to-one relationship established during the trip."

And when Kaufman asked Luzzo if there was anything else his group could do for the home, Luzzo was ready with the request for any help she and the home's recreational director could get to replace the long-outdated playground equipment.

And while General Electric execu-

tives were doing the bulk of the manual labor, much more help came in the way of talents and donations along the way.

Dale Stelcner, a local architect whose wife Joanne is a volunteer at Sarah Fisher, furnished the blueprints. An \$800 estimate for 19 poles to anchor the structure was by-passed when Michigan Bell not only provided the poles but set them in place, on what Luzzo said was surely the hottest day in last July.

Luzzo's contact in Michigan Bell was Don Luke, a member of Pioneers, the Michigan Bell counterpart to the General Electric volunteer organization. Luke went a little further with his contribution by contacting E & M Underground which donated nine bags of cement to the project.

Scove Construction furnished machinery, and also gave the necessary sand.

Sid Worn, active in the building field, took on the responsibility of site foreman.

"OUR CREW" really didn't get started until September, and then we were rained out for a couple of Saturdays," Kaufman said.

"But on a couple of other rainy Saturdays we just kept going," Villa added, "because we knew we were going to have to stop altogether for the winter. We did enough so that we just had a couple of Saturdays in April for finishing-up."

The possibility that the playground would ever be a reality at all first came when a tribute fund was set up by friends of the late Everett Fisher.

There was \$1,000 in the fund at the time Kaufman first approached Luzzo with an offer to help which paid for the cost of chains, lumber, and a few incidentals.

"We would never have been able to pay for the hours of labor, the talent and the donations given to us," Luzzo said. "Everyone involved worked with such dedication and such enthusiasm it's been very exciting for all of us. That can't be counted in dollars and cents."

While the children who live at Sarah Fisher will be using the new playground most of the time, the children who attend Seton Day Care Center will be benefiting from the volunteer's work while the others are in school.



After a year of rounding up work crews to build the playground for children who live in Sarah Fisher Center, John Villa (set left) and Bill Kaufman returned to the grounds this week to watch the first group

of youngsters to explore their new structure. Villa and Kaufman are members of the Elfuno, a service organization made up of General Electric management personnel.

## Detroit says thanks to metro volunteers

Metropolitan Detroit will join with communities across the country in honoring area volunteers during National Volunteer Week, May 8-12. Volunteer Network, a coalition of Detroit area volunteer groups, is coordinating the local activities. Marcia Courson and Lois Bryant are serving as co-chairman of the steering committee. The theme for the week is "Thanks Detroiters for Lending a Hand."

One of the major activities scheduled for the week is a Rick-Off Rally from 3-5 p.m. May 8, in Kennedy Square. Included in the festivities will be dance

groups, bands, speakers, choral groups and clowns. Volunteer organizations from the community will provide the talent.

Another key activity will be the wearing of red, white and blue ribbons by Detroit area volunteers in recognition of their efforts. Volunteer Network is expected to distribute 150,000 ribbons to volunteers through the 1,500 organizations participating in the ribbon wearing campaign.

DURING NATIONAL Volunteer Week, days have been set aside to rec-

ognize religious, corporate, senior, government and political, community services, youth and neighborly volunteers.

Courson and Bryant note that volunteer recognition is more than saying "thank you" to volunteers. Carefully planned recognition events also serve to call public attention to the contribution of community volunteers and encourage others to become involved in the community as volunteers.

Each year \$2 million Americans volunteer their energy to help others. That amounts to \$64 billion in work hours given to hospitals, community centers, scout troops, schools, neighbors and

friends. In Detroit alone more than 1.7 million residents volunteer.

Last year President Reagan declared May 1, 1983, to April 30, 1984, the National Year of Volunteerism. His declaration recognized the fact that volunteering is such an integral part of society that virtually every single American, at some time or another in life, volunteers to help.

Courson and Bryant urge area residents to consider their own community volunteer activity and to renew their commitment during National Volunteer Week.

## Music makers create week of song

"Music Creates a Better Tomorrow" is the theme for National Music Week celebrated with a weeklong schedule of concerts given by musicians of all ages and talents.

Bands and choirs, dancers and choruses perform from Sunday to Saturday, May 6-11, for residents here in

the Lord & Taylor Court, 12 Oaks Mill, I-96 and Novi Road.

The local celebration is sponsored by The Farmington and Milford Musicals.

The week has been observed annually since 1924 and spearheaded by the National Federation of Music Clubs

since 1929.

Each year, since President Calvin Coolidge served as the first honorary chairman for Music Week, each of the nation's chief executives has given his support to the observance.

In his message to the parent sponsors

this year President Ronald Reagan said: "The week offers a fine opportunity to share our strong belief in the benefit of the arts to all Americans. It reminds us that music, a universal language, has always contributed richly to our personal as well as national and international well-being."

## The Play Bill

SUNDAY, MAY 6

3 p.m.: South Oakland Concert Band  
5 p.m.: Nazarene Church Concert Band

MONDAY, MAY 7

11 a.m.: Mulr Junior High School Chorus  
1 p.m.: Walled Lake Western Symphonic Band  
7:30 p.m.: Huron Valley Community Chorus

TUESDAY, MAY 8

11 a.m.: Novi High School Concert Chorus  
1 p.m.: Novi High School Concert Band  
7:30 p.m.: Farmington Community Band

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

11 a.m.: White Lake Junior High Band  
1 p.m.: Lakeland High School Choral Group  
3 p.m.: Milford Musicals Women's Chorus  
7:30 p.m.: Milford Teen Fams Performers

THURSDAY, MAY 10

11 a.m.: North Farmington High School Chorus  
1 p.m.: North Farmington High School Band

Metropolitan Youth Symphony string players who will be showcasing their musical talents during Music Week are Jana Boda (rear, from left), Kristin Miller, Barbara Dabrowski and Rebecca Goldberg. In front from left are Walter Kim, Ayssette Abbeduto and Debbie Schurpin.

7:30 p.m.: Harrison High School Concert Band

FRIDAY, MAY 11

11 a.m.: Walled Lake Westerns  
1 p.m.: Milford High School Wind Ensemble  
7:30 p.m.: Milford Vocal Ensemble

SATURDAY, MAY 12

1 p.m.: Bloomfield Hills Suzuki Violinists  
3 p.m.: Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra

Jessica Koski comes to the National Music Week festivities with The Suzuki Strings from Bloomfield Hills Music Arts Association. Her group is made up of youngsters from seven of Detroit's northwest suburbs.

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The award-winning vocal jazz show choir from North Farmington High School known as The Northern Lites will show how they won the title of "Most Outstanding" when they perform in concert at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 10, in 12 Oaks Mill. The singers and dancers earned the title at the Invitational Vocal Jazz Competition this spring. Last fall the group was selected by the Michigan School Vocal Association as having the best choral tone quality in a show choir.

