

Suburban Life

Loraline McClish editor/477-5450



(F5B)

Facing cancer alone

Volunteers called to assist patients with at-home care

By Richard Lech
staff writer

It's a sad fact, but some people face cancer alone.

When they're released from a hospital following treatment, there is no one at home to offer emotional and physical support.

"Often we've found that patients return to the hospital sooner than they would if they had someone to assist them," said Carol Munsell of the Michigan Cancer Foundation (MCF).

Even if the patients do have a family at home, it's often impossible for someone to be there at all times to provide support.

Munsell is coordinating a new MCF program designed to fill this gap by

providing help for cancer patients in their homes. Under the program, volunteers will be recruited to serve as home-care volunteers.

THE VOLUNTEERS will offer assistance with the activities of daily living, help with shopping or errands and provide respite care so other members of the family can leave home for short periods of time.

Above all, the patient will have someone at home who cares, Munsell said.

"Often it will involve sitting with the patient and talking, offering emotional support."

Munsell, a nurse and the former head nurse in the oncology department at

Annapolis Hospital, estimates that about half the patients MCF works with could use the help of the volunteer program. A \$15,000 grant from the Mary Thompson Foundation is paying for the program, which will cover the entire Detroit metropolitan area.

"I've always been interested in home care, and when this came along I thought that this was just the perfect thing."

Potential volunteers will undergo an initial screening with Munsell. The volunteers will need to have adequate transportation — and the ability to empathize with others.

"We're looking for someone who is sensitive and caring. They need to be mature and have good communication skills."

THOSE WHO pass the initial screening will participate in a 10-week training program, beginning in January, at the MCF Oakland Service Center, 2811 N. Woodward, Berkley.

The program will cover how to care for patients at home, communication and listening, spiritual and legal concerns and bereavement.

"They'll also be told about cancer, how it starts and spreads, so they can help out a lot better."

When the training period is completed, the volunteers will be assigned to a cancer patient near where they live. The volunteers will work with only that one patient and be expected to spend a minimum of three hours per week in the patient's home.

"I'll also go into the home with the volunteer myself on the first visit so they feel a little more confident," Munsell said.

Health care professionals will refer the patients on the basis of need, she said.

If the patient succumbs to the disease, the volunteers will be prepared to work with the family through their time of bereavement.

"This way, someone the family's acquainted with will be in contact with them. They'll call them, take them out, send them a card on special occasions."

For more information on becoming a home-care volunteer, call Munsell at 833-0710, Exts. 206 or 291, or the Regional MCF Service Center at 336-4110.



Carol Munsell heads volunteer program



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington Public Schools have proposed that the farm portion of the Spicer property be used as a working farm for educational enrichment. While this and other proposals are being debated, the

city of Farmington Hills launched its search for a name for the entire 212 acres.

Name that park

City fathers launch contest for Hills residents

"Name The Park" — the 212-acre Spicer property — by Jan. 17 and if your creation wins, it will go down in Farmington Hills history.

Farmington Hills' Department of Special Services is sponsoring a contest for residents to name the acreage on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile.

Known as the Spicer property, a term city officials want to discontinue using, the 212 acres are now owned by the city. It is the largest tract of publicly held land in Farmington Hills.

With the help of a \$1.2 million grant from the Michigan Land Trust Fund (MLTF) and \$800,000 from city coffers, the 212 acres was purchased in April from the Farmington area's pioneering Spicer family.

Presently, John Grisim & Associates, a Farmington Hills landscape architectural firm, is developing a master land use plan for the acreage. The plan is expected to include a site analysis, design, a master site plan, detailed cost estimates and a year-by-year development plan.

Grisim's plan will also include design details for botanical gardens, an

adventure playground, nature and cross-country ski trails, a nature center, picnic areas, a working farm, parking lots, a natural outdoor ice rink, an outdoor amphitheater, and both active and passive areas.

The plan will be based on recommendations made by a committee of more than 75 area residents who met in three subcommittees in late 1984 and early 1985, plus ideas generated through a community survey conducted in late December.

"Their recommendations will be formulated into a conceptual drawing and a master plan that will be adopted by the Farmington Hills Planning Commission and City Council," said Eric Wurmlinger, assistant director of special services.

The park's new name will be used in conjunction with the park's master land use plan.

The winning name will be selected by a special committee of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission, city council and Douglas Gaylor, special services director, at a commission meeting scheduled in January. The winning name will be announced at a public meeting of the city council in February.

The contest is open to all Farmington Hills residents who may enter as many times as they wish, but can submit only one name per entry form. Entries must be received at the special services department by 4:30 p.m. Jan. 17. All entries will become the property of the Farmington Hills special services department and will not be returned.

The contest winner will receive a \$50

gift certificate from M.C. Sporting Goods, \$50 gift certificate from the city's recreation division to be used for a program, class or activity, and a dinner for two at Roman Terrace restaurant in Farmington Hills.

To enter the contest fill out the entry form on this page or a facsimile and mail it or drop it off at: Parks & Recreation Commission "Name the Park" Contest, c/o Department of Special Services, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI, 48031.

2 become Eagles

Boy Scout Troop 179 will host an Eagle Court of Honor Tuesday, Jan. 7, for Mike Finegan and Dan Valdez.

Finegan has held all scouting positions in the troop, is a member of the Order of the Arrow and is now assistant scoutmaster for his troop.

The Farmington Hills resident is a graduate of Farmington High School and now a freshman at Oakland Community College. While at Farmington High he received three varsity letters for diving, was active in the Madrigals and Men's Choir and appeared in three of the school plays.

His community service project, a requisite for scouting's Eagle Rank, was fulfilled with work done on Farmington Historical Museum's gazebo, which

was unveiled on the museum's grounds last September.

Valdez has served as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader for his troop.

The Farmington High School freshman is lodge secretary for Order of the Arrow and hopes to become a test pilot after gaining a degree in aeronautical engineering.

Valdez installed a bench, made a trail and planted a flower bed on the grounds of Farmington Community Center for his community service project.

Troop 179 is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Farmington. The troop meets at 7:15 p.m. every Tuesday in the church with Scoutmaster Chuck Williams.

Youth invited to vie for pageant titles

Youth from this area are invited to participate in the preliminary 1986 America Scholarship Miss Mr. Pageants. Age divisions run from infancy to 15 years.

All contestants compete in formal wear, sportswear and close-up judges' appraisal.

Official entry forms can be had by sending a business sized self-addressed stamped envelope to America's Scholarship Pageants Inc., Entry Information, Dept. P-186, Box 140065, Nashville, Tenn., 37214. Calls are taken between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays. (615) 874-4181.

Women earn points for music program

The Farmington Area Community Women (FACW) are working to obtain a musical instrument for the music program at Williamsburg Convalescent Center. To do this they are collecting Bill Knapp Community Support Redemption Certificates.

Target date is October, 1988. Redemption certificates are obtained by asking for them when paying for a meal in any Bill Knapp Restaurant.

Members of FACW ask Bill Knapp patrons to keep them in mind when paying their tab, and pass along their certificates to assist the nursing home's music program.

The certificates are being collected by Katrina Cheema, who will take calls of inquiry at 474-3380. Persons who wish to mail them are asked to address them to FACW, P. O. Box 3227, Farmington Hills 48018.

Blind persons offered mobility training

The Michigan Commission for the Blind and Easter Seal Society of Oakland County Inc. will be offering a weeklong mobility-training program for certified blind persons in Michigan. From Jan. 6 to 10 the workshop will focus on independent-living skills such as using public transportation, sensory

training and activities of daily living. The program will take place in the Easter Seal Society, Oakland County. Transportation, meals and lodging will be provided to those who qualify.

Those who can benefit from this program are invited to call Easter Seals at 338-9626.

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Name the Farmington Hills park

I submit _____ as the name to be given the recently acquired 212-acre parkland in Farmington Hills. I believe that this would be an appropriate name because:

Entran name: _____

Address: _____ phone: _____
