

Help give Michigan a boost — keynoter



Channel 2 news anchor Bruce Kirk delivered the keynote address.

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Make Michigan something more, urged Channel 2 news anchor Bruce Kirk, keynote speaker at the Farmington Area Jaycees Community Leadership Prayer Breakfast Jan. 20.

"Stand up and be proud of Michigan," the Farmington Hills resident said.

The 20th annual breakfast, attended by 75 civic and business leaders, was held in the Glen Oaks County Park Clubhouse in Farmington Hills.

Farmington Hills firefighter Michael Garr — Firefighter Mike to hundreds of youngsters — received the Jaycees' Distinguished Citizen Award.

Kirk cited a long list of Michigan-made products and praised the manufacturers. "They've said, 'We believe in Michigan. We're going to do it right here.'"

Many experienced economic downturns, but all chose to remain in Michigan. And their spirit has been infectious, Kirk said.

"Their philosophy has been, 'We've got workers here that care — people here who care. They don't just want to make a product — they want to do it right.' These companies could've moved. But they didn't."

COMPANIES ACROSS Michigan have joined the "effort to make this a better state — something more than the auto capital," Kirk said.

He said Michigan's diversity "helps generate a can-do attitude."

Kirk took the occasion to praise the 92-member Farmington Area Jaycees "for the awful lot of good that comes from your type of organization." He also praised the businesses that support the Jaycees' varied community service projects.

With Police Chief William Dwyer in the audience, Kirk joked that while last year's keynoter, Channel 2 anchorman George Solis, spoke about Oriental health spas, he planned to talk about another Farmington Hills newsmaker — teen rowdys along Orchard Lake Road.

In a serious vein, he said stories like teen rowdysm "build character in all of us. From them, you can build a positive from a negative."

THE PRAYER breakfast, patterned after the presidential version held each year in Washington, D.C., marked the Jaycees' 40th anniversary. It was held during Jaycee Week.

Michael Garr received the Distinguished Citizen Award for his work in teaching fire safety and fire prevention.

"Through Mike's excellent work with the school children of Farmington Hills, a child was able to save himself during a fire using the techniques taught by Mike," breakfast co-chairs Cindy and Beau Elzinga wrote in a news release.

On Sept. 22, the Observer ran a

story about 6-year-old Ray Rudzki's presence to stop, drop and roll after his clothing caught fire at a family friend's house last June. The Girl Elementary first grader learned to stop, drop and roll from Firefighter Mike.

Jaycee service awards were presented to: Sam Chenna of Farmington Hills Market, Ralph Delmotte of Speedy Printing, John Christy of Taystee Bakery, Vern Lunn of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America, Deward Watts of Arthur Young & Co., Kim Kain of Tally Hall

and Annette Swindell of Molo Photo.

JAYCEES PRESIDENT Louise Coleman said the breakfast provided a good chance to "reflect on our accomplishments over the past year and thank those individuals instrumental in making our programs a success."

This year, Jaycee fund-raising will help support muscular dystrophy research, burn treatment, Orchard Lake Road beautification, Heritage Park development and downtown Farmington revitalization.

Last year, the Jaycees launched a

cable-TV program dealing with such news topics as roads and parks. The weekly show also presents features on people and happenings.

The Rev. Kean Cronin of Our Lady of Sorrows and the Rev. Arthur Spafford of First United Methodist Church read selected passages. Both Farmington Hills Mayor Ben Marks and Farmington Mayor William Hartsock presented Jaycee Week proclamations. Terry Sever, Farmington Hills councilman and former Jaycee president, was master of ceremonies.

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The Rev. Kean Cronin of Our Lady of Sorrows presents a selected reading.

Baptists note 30th birthday

The congregation of Forest Park Baptist Church will observe its 30th anniversary Saturday, Feb. 15.

Brother Billy Whitl, a former pastor of the congregation, will speak at the 11 a.m. service, which will be followed by a potluck fellowship meal with anniversary cake.

The anniversary celebration will be observed at 1:30 p.m. Pastor Bill Robbins will welcome charter and former members of the congregation.

The church is at 26805 Farmington Road, south of 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

It was formerly at Shawassee and Inkster until the move in 1979 to larger quarters.

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