

Mercy mixer is fun for all ages



RANDY BORST/staff photographer
Gloria Sheridan, a Farmington Community Library children's librarian, tells stories to the kids at the senior picnic.

It was the first time in their 10-year history they'd been rained out. But the downpour did little to dampen more than 300 lively spirits at the annual Grandparent-Grandchild senior adult picnic at Mercy Center.

"It's the one day of the year when their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren are welcome at the senior center," said Maggie Loris, senior adult specialist for the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services senior adult division.

Despite the longstanding tradition of picnicking under a giant outdoor tent provided by the Farmington Area Jaycees, the all-day celebration was moved into Mercy Center

Aug. 23. But there was no sign of dismay.

"They had a great time. Most people kept saying they thought it was a really neat day," Loris said.

In addition to lunch, games and prizes, the Detroit Police Department's Blue Pigs band made an appearance with their emphasis — for the kids — on the continuing "Say No to Drugs" campaign.

The annual picnic is designed to involve the senior adults' grandchildren. "Some of the kids wonder where grandma and grandpa go every year. So this way, they can see where they go and what they do," Loris said.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer
With grandmother Phyllis Maykovich (left) and great-grandmother Lillie Bolling (right) of Farmington Hills cheering them on, Redford Township youngsters Craig and Sarah Broombaugh, ages 3 and 5, skip rope at the senior picnic.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer
Ginny Loesche of Farmington Hills plays catch with grandson Joe Morehouse, 3, at the senior picnic.



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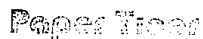
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