

gion Hills postal carrier Sherri Belobradich, alias Santa, takes mail from a postal patron as part of the Santa Express

Santa bags it for post office

Sania delivered personally this Christmas, thanks to the U.S. Postal Service. and the Farmington and Farmington Rills post offices. Carrier Brian Roppin, dressed as Sania, delivered packages within the Farmington postal district directive to resident's homes on Christmas Eve as part of the Sania Express service. It was the second consecutive year for Koppin, who works as a part-time flexible carrier on different routes in the district. With the Sania Express, residents

With the Santa Express, residents could sent a Santa-delivered pack-age anywhere in the Farmington dis-trict for \$8.75 for a half-pound, or

While the service was popular, the post office would have liked more participation.

\$15 for up to five pounds. The packages could weigh as much as 70 pounds. Mailing costs included insurance up to \$500 per package.

Three other carriers dressed as Sanita took turns at the postal collection boxes on the island in front of the library to promote the service,

"We had some repeaters, people who used the service last year and loved it," said Susan Gillesple, manager of communications for the Detroit division of the U.S. Postal Service. They also had the same number of packages sent as last year. "It's too soon to tell if we'll do it again next year," she said.

"Everyone who participated was very well pleased," Bending said. "It's an expensive way to have Santa visit your home."



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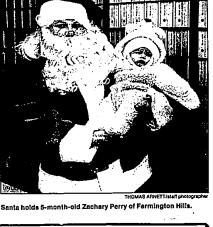
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