

Goodfellows ready to spread holiday cheer

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

The Farmington area Goodfellows plan to help fewer needy families but more low-income seniors this year.

Buoyed by their motto, "A Time To Care — A Time To Share," the Goodfellows hope to brighten the holiday season for 160 families, 11 fewer than last year, and 165 seniors, 14 more than last year.

Richard Tupper, Goodfellows general chairman, attributed the fewer families to a better economy. But need can result from an economic layoff or a poverty-level income as well as from a weak economy, he said. It can also result from a major illness, a serious accident or a bad fire.

"Regardless of the economy, we still have need — people who don't have the wherewithal to work," Tupper said.

As for seniors, "A lot more could use our help, but they're reluctant to volunteer to receive it," he said. "But each year, they get more in the fold. That's why their numbers go up every year."

This Saturday, the Goodfellows will begin packing special holiday baskets to deliver Dec. 16.

EACH BASKET will contain canned goods, apples, corn flakes, dried beans, fresh bread and gift certificates to a local grocery and discount store.

Families also will receive toys,

knitwear, boys shirts, girls dresses and children's jeans. Seniors also will receive stationery, stamps, soap, lotion, paper goods and knitterwear.

Seniors, working through the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Division, are busy making mittens, caps, stuffed toys, work aprons and slippers for children, and armchair caddies, knitwear and lap robes for seniors.

Much of the food is donated through student-sponsored drives in the Farmington Public Schools. Businesses, churches and residents also donate food.

Family makeup dictates the size and content of each basket. Potential recipients must document need. Special dietary requests are honored when practical.

Volunteers from civic, school, church and community groups will work from an empty storefront at The Village Commons in downtown Farmington preparing their special brand of joy.

Farmington-based Nelson/Ross Properties donates use of the storefront during the weeks leading up to delivery Saturday.

ON DELIVERY Saturday, Farmington Hills-based Robertson Brothers Pool Service donates use of several trucks and drivers.

Financial support enables the

Goodfellows to buy what's needed to round out the baskets, tailored to each recipient's needs.

At this year's annual special-edition newspaper sale last Friday, the Goodfellows raised about \$15,000 — \$7,250 of which was raised by Farmington Hills firefighters.

The Goodfellows will work with Neighborhood House to help identify needy families. The Farmington Hills Senior Adult Division will help identify needy seniors.

BEST KNOWN around the holiday season, the Goodfellows, a lifeline for 40 years, offer limited emergency assistance throughout the year.

The Goodfellows have dedicated 1989 to the memory Mr. Goodfellow, Chuck Schulkins, who served the group for 60 years. He died at 77 in August.

"In a world so much in need of role models, here was a man who fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, clothed those in need and found toys for kids. Chuck did this at Christmas and all through the year," reads this year's Goodfellows newspaper.

VIRTUALLY ALL cash donations to the Goodfellows come back to the community, minus the cost of baskets and stamps.

The Goodfellows committee includes Shirley Richardson, Paul Blumberg, Pam O'Malley, Bill O'Connor, Nila Piltz, Pat Ratliff,



Mike Kelly, a firefighter at Farmington Hills' Fire Station 3 on Wheeler, sells Goodfellow newspapers at Grand River and Albion Friday.

Phyllis Howard, Fred Tuck, Durwood Hester, Louise McLeod, Yvonne Singer and Jim Stevens. Send checks to the Farmington

Area Goodfellows, in care of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

Typing and "thank you letter" help also is needed. To donate your time, call the chamber: 474-3440.

Suit over sale of historic house dropped

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Farmington Hills residents Jerome and Rosa Flum, who sued the city in July over a decision to award a historic house to a lower bidder, have decided to drop the lawsuit.

The Flums sought a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction in Oakland County Circuit Court to stop the sale. They also sought at least \$10,000 in damages. On July 10, the city council, acting on a historic district commission recommendation, awarded the city-

owned, 159-year-old Mark Arnold, 26490 Drake, to the low bidder, Michael von Steeg of Waldhelm Woodworks in Farmington Hills. He bid \$1,600.

Von Steeg beat out both the Flums' higher bid of \$6,000 and a \$4,375 bid from Patrick and Marilyn Welch of Farmington Hills.

"Oakland County Circuit Judge Jessica Cooper did not issue the injunction because she could not see us prevailing," Rosa Flum said.

City attorney Paul Bibeau saw Cooper's decision upholding the city's procedure in these instances.

"It (the Flums' case) was somewhat misplaced in this instance," he said.

The Flums' attorney, Donald Howard Stolberg of Goldpaugh and Associates, Birmingham, chose not to comment.

COUNCILWOMAN JODY Soronen's motion to accept von Steeg's bid was supported by council members Paul Sorensen, Jean Fox, Philip Arnold and Aldo Vagnoli. The vote was 5-2. Nay votes were cast by

Mayor Terry Sever and councilman Ben Marks.

Historic district commissioners were unified in their recommendation of the von Steeg proposal July 10, but at their June 27 meeting, their vote was split. A majority — Randall Winston, Walter Reddig, Bernard Ludwig and Daniel Burnett — voted for the von Steeg proposal. Joan Barber and Paul Blizman voted for the Flum proposal. Ruth Moehman voted for the Welch proposal.

The historic district commission said it considered with equal weight the appropriateness of the restoration plan; interest, experience and competence of the bidder; motiva-

tion; and the actual bid price.

Consideration was also given to the bidder's willingness to occupy the house as a single-family dwelling.

VON STEEG has experience in restoring registered historic homes in Farmington Hills and Dearborn as well as other homes in Oakland County and Traverse City.

Jerome Flum has been a supervisor for a modernization company and was a project manager and licensed builder for historic restorations in Detroit and Pontiac. Rosa Flum's background includes construction supervisor for a home im-

provement firm.

According to Bibeau, von Steeg and the city have entered into a land contract and von Steeg has paid the \$1,600.

"We will not deed the land to him until a certain amount of restoration is completed," Bibeau said. "He has to get it occupyable."

No restoration timetable has been set, Bibeau said.

Farmington Hills acquired the Mark Arnold House and the Miller's House, in the historic village of Sleepy Hollow at Drake and Howard, about two years ago with the paving of Drake Road. The homes were in the right-of-way.

clarification

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Community Center is 20 years old this year, not 17, as reported in a story that appeared in the Observer last Thursday about the amphitheatre.

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Farmington Observer
(USPS 187-640)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48009. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, form 3569) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 591-6500.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(in Oakland County)
One year \$26.40
(elsewhere in Michigan)
Newsstand per copy, 50c
One year \$55.00
(elsewhere in U.S.A.)
One year \$80.00

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