

Woman earns membership in Farmington Lions Club

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

FARMINGTON AREA Lions' newest member is Marilyn Hodges, a resident of Greenery Extended Care Center, who gets around by operating her electric wheelchair with one finger.

"She is not an honorary member," said her sponsor, Marion Prover. "She is a full-fledged member with a Lions pin and certificate of membership, and she earned it." Hodges earned her membership by selling 48 boxes of chocolate Easter bunnies for the Lions to the staff as well as those who visited the nursing home in downtown Farmington early this spring.

As a new member of the club she will be selling candy cans during the pre-Christmas season, stuffing envelopes with solicitation letters and whatever else might be needed of her, she said.

HODGES AND the Lions became acquainted after she sent out her own solicitation letters — typed with one finger — to every service club. Hodges asked for help in getting an electric wheelchair. The Lions responded by asking Prover to meet with her.

Between Prover and social worker Kathy Wink, the two were able to obtain an electric wheelchair through the Kinney Foundation.

Hodges called the gift "a dream come true." Her way of saying thanks was to turn saleswoman for the Lions' chocolate Easter bunnies sale, an annual pre-Easter project for the club.



Marilyn Hodges, who has lived in a nursing home for more than half of her life, is Farmington Lions Club's newest member.

HODGES, 44, WAS born with cerebral palsy, contacted polio at 7 years and now has crippling arthritis. Because her hands are contracted she was unable to use a conventional wheelchair. She has been living in the nursing home, formerly called Oak Hill Care Center, since she was 23.

She is spending a lot of her time now typing letters to the state's legislators regarding a law that takes away her freedom to leave the nursing home for an overnight visit.

"I am very concerned about my ability to pay nearly \$100 a day to hold my bed to ensure I will have a

home," she wrote.

"I am a 44-year-old handicapped person who has been in need of care for the past 21 years. I occasionally visit my mother and attend a camp. These outings are few due to my health and handicap.

"Now you are taking away my right to leave the facility for any period of time without running the risk of losing my home.

"I feel not being able to travel outside the facility for an extended stay violates my personal rights. Everyone takes vacations and has time away from work and home to rejuvenate. A change of scenery is good for nursing home residents too."



SHARON LAJELIX/staff photographer

Evening at the Ballet

Bridget Berg portrays the sun (above left) with the ballerinas who dance around her in "Springtime." In front, Lara Yridge, Danielle Kish and Laura Atkins. In the second row Delaney Coyne, Annie Bruckman, Adriana Farrugia, Madoline McAuley and Stephanie Salweh. In back are Meghan Hurt, Carrie Barton, Molly McAuley, Valerie Barnes and Melanie Davis. The ballet is one of three pro-

duced by Miss Carole's School of Ballet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 26, in Smith Theatre, Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College. In the "Cats" ballet (below) are Molly Notarianni, Rachel Farmer and Leah Robinson in front; Carole Cotter and Dena Brown in back. Also on the bill is the classic ballet "Coppelia." Tickets are \$8 at the door.



Mich. LWV elects 2 local members

Two members of the West Bloomfield-Farmington Branch of the League of Women Voters were elect-

ed to serve on the Michigan State LWV. Debbie Macon was voted vice

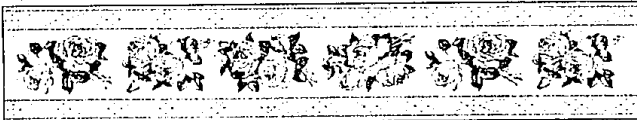
president in charge of program development. Sally Coughlin will be in charge of member services.

Not too late for 'Murder, They Read'

It is not too late for young adults to register for "Murder, They Read," this summer's reading program for

those entering grades 6-12. Club members read various books to gather clues and solve a mystery.

Registrations take place at both libraries. There is no charge to participate.



Dawn is a Nursing Assistant at Peachwood Inn. Eleanor is a resident. Dawn got married. Eleanor was invited to the wedding. Everyone had a wonderful time.

There is a very special relationship between residents, families and staff at Peachwood. There is mutual understanding, respect and perhaps most important, love. Yes, the environment at Peachwood is very beautiful but what really makes Peachwood a beautiful nursing home is the caring concern shared by everyone.

We all wish Dawn much health and happiness. We are very proud to have staff members like her.

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