



Goodwill trucks are now fixtures at the recycling centers in Farmington Hills, Southfield and Livonia. photos by SHARON LeMIEUX/Staff photographer

Winning combo

Recycling centers team up with Goodwill Industries

By Aileen Wingblad special writer

THE RECYCLING spirit is reaching new heights thanks to a coordinated effort between some area recycling centers and Goodwill Industries.

In keeping with the "reduce-reuse-recycle" scheme, recycling stations in Farmington Hills, Livonia and Southfield are also accepting used clothing and household items for donation to on-site Goodwill collection trailers.

"Recycling and reusing items is an obvious commitment we must all make. We can't continue to operate as a throw-away society," said Karen Lillie, vice president of operations for Goodwill Industries. The joint venture, which initially

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began a few years ago at the Southfield Civic Center's recycling station, has been in operation for just a few months in Livonia and is brand new to the Farmington Hills area.

Waste management officials are

calling the program a budding success and expect donations to the Goodwill bins to increase steadily during the coming months. The good, they added, is coming about because of the joint effort. It certainly far-reaching.

"It's really a double bonus," Farmington Hills recycling coordinator Karen Birkholz said. "Residents have really taken hold of this."

THE PLAN is getting plenty of positive feedback in the Livonia area as well, according to Bill Sturgeon, solid waste manager for the city of Livonia.

"This benefits not only the cities (involved) but also Goodwill Industries — it's a win-win situation," Sturgeon said, adding he's continually being contacted by several surrounding communities who are



Goodwill employee Frank Shipman bags clothes that are brought into the Farmington Hills recycling center on Halsted Road.

interested in setting up an expanded recycling effort with Goodwill Industries.

"I've received numerous calls from other cities who are expressing a real interest... like people from Redford and Canton," Sturgeon said.

Of course, along with the increased support of recycling among residents, Sturgeon and other officials hope the Goodwill Industries/local recycling plan will encourage more business in the area to take part in the reduce-reuse-recycle philosophy.

Sturgeon said he looks forward to a greater awareness and participation among the businesses.

Lillie, of Goodwill Industries, echoes those sentiments.

Lillie said she sees this coordinated effort as a prime opportunity for business, industry and social services to "learn to work together... to move toward a much better future."

ITEMS ACCEPTED for donation at the drop-off sites include clothing, shoes and purses, kitchenware, toys, tools, books, small appliances, knick-knacks and other household goods. All items should be usable and repairable, and clothing should be clean.

An attendant is assigned to each site to assist anyone making a do-

nation, help unload cars and monitor the recycling station for cleanliness.

Because space is limited, Goodwill cannot take large appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, hot water heaters, large furniture, bed springs or mattresses, building materials or auto parts.

Donated items are then sold at any of the three Goodwill stores in Pontiac, Roseville and Madison Heights to support Goodwill Industries community service.

Plans are in the works to possibly open two additional stores this year.

Woman dies after being found engulfed in flames

A 75-year-old woman died Monday, four days after a chair in which she was sitting caught fire in her niece's Farmington Hills apartment March 12, according to police and fire officials.

Virginia Cicotte died Monday at the University of Michigan Hospital-Burn Center, according to Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin. The cause of death has not yet been released by the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner.

At 2:30 a.m., Cicotte's niece was awakened by the smoke alarm in her Green Hill Apartment on Nine Mile. She found her aunt engulfed in flames and wrapped a blanket around her. The niece activated her aunt's lifeline alert, which notified emergency personnel of a problem, according to a police report.

The niece told police she had checked on her aunt about 1 a.m. Cicotte apparently had fallen asleep in a rocking chair in the living room.

Fire investigators are uncertain how Virginia Cicotte, who smoked cigarettes, caught fire.

When firefighters and police arrived to what they believed was a medical problem, they found that the woman's hair and right slipper and ankle were still on fire. They also found that the woman, who suffered second and third degree burns over 50 percent of her body, had burns on her chest, stomach, head, face and leg.

POLICE ALSO found two stove burners on with a plate of food burning. Carpeting, a table and tablecloth also were burned.

Fire investigators are uncertain how Cicotte, who smoked cigarettes,

caught fire. They believe her clothing caught fire while she was trying to cook something on the stove or the fire was caused by a cigarette, Baldwin said.

Two days before the incident, firefighters responded to a medical call because Cicotte had fallen and injured her head. She was treated and released from Henry Ford Hospital, West Bloomfield, the same day.

"We must emphasize that if you are taking medication, don't smoke," Baldwin said, referring to the possibility that Cicotte may have dropped a cigarette. "And if you are around a stove, don't wear loose clothing." Cicotte was the city's second fire fatality this year. The first was 35-year-old Mark Gerard Masala who set his Maple Ridge Apartments unit on fire. He was pronounced dead at Botsford General Hospital after he was discovered in the bedroom of his one-bedroom apartment.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

• MEN ARRAIGNED
Two men face felony charges in connection with the armed robbery of a Farmington Hills bank March 13.

Timothy D. Neal, 33, and Eric L. Lewis, 26, both of Detroit, were arraigned over the weekend before 47th District Court Magistrate James Brady on one count each of bank robbery and one count of felony firearms.

Neal pleaded not guilty to the charges. Lewis stood mute and a plea of not guilty was entered on his behalf. Both remain in the Oakland County Jail, pending a \$100,000 cash bond each. A preliminary examination on the charges is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., March 23.

The bank robbery charge carries a maximum penalty of life. The felony firearms charge carries a two-year prison term penalty.

At 10:15 a.m., two men, armed with 9mm pistols, walked into the United Savings Bank, 33505 14 Mile, and looted over the counter. One man pulled the bank manager into the vault and announced a holdup, according to police.

With the help of other police agencies, the two men were apprehended shortly after the robbery in Southfield.

• THEFTS REPORTED
A concrete saw and bathtub with gold handles valued at \$5,900 were reported stolen from a house on North Pointe Drive, March 10-11.
Speakers and amplifiers valued at \$725 were reported stolen from a 1988 Suzuki at 125 Saks O'Connell, 35300 Grand River, Feb. 6-March 11.

Fifty-six dollars cash was reported stolen from someone's purse at North Farmington High School, 32900 13 Mile, March 11.

A total of \$355 in cash was stolen from a locker at the Farmington Tennis Club, 22777 Farmington Road March 14.

A snowblower and mulching mower valued at \$750 were reported stolen from a garage on Baywood, March 12.

A 1983 Oldsmobile valued at \$3,000 was reported stolen from a house on Collingham, March 14.

A 1991 GMC Jimmy valued at \$17,000 was reported stolen from Jefferson Ct., March 15.

• DAMAGE REPORTED
A dozen eggs were thrown at the north side of a home on Longacre in Farmington March 13, causing \$50 in damage.

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