

# Spirit cited

## Helping hands get a hand of thanks at senior center

By Aileen Wingblad  
special writer

**N**ATIONAL VOLUNTEER Week is just about over, yet the volunteer spirit is flourishing throughout the Farmington area with scores of programs and services ready for helping those in need.

One of the area's major sources for volunteer activities — the Senior Citizens Center at Mercy Center, Farmington Hills — was the site for a special day of recognition Monday in honor of the 400-plus volunteers who regularly serve with the center.

Community leaders and local officials were on hand to thank the 250 or so volunteers who turned out for the ceremony, and presented each with a customary certificate of recognition and "golden apple" lapel pin.

Dan Potter, director of special services for Farmington Hills, praised the volunteers for their dedication and caring, and said volunteer work saves "thousands of dollars" for the community each year.

"With the hundreds of people who have come here today, it's a good example that the spirit of volunteering is alive and well," Potter said.

"Without the help of volunteers, we'd need to spend a lot more staff time and money to facilitate these types of programs, and frankly, the money is just not there. We just would not have these programs and services available," added Potter.

INDEED, IT is the volunteers' commitment that is so important to the survival of the more than 20 activities of the Senior Center, coordinated by Mercy Center's Senior Adult Supervisor Loretta Conway and her staff.

Programs range from transportation services to legal and medical assistance, as well as social groups and

*"With the hundreds of people who have come here today, it's a good example that the spirit of volunteering is alive and well."*

— Dan Potter  
director of special services  
Farmington Hills

nutritional service, like the popular "Meals on Wheels."

"Help is mainly targeted toward the homebound and the elderly," said Conway, with a focus on "maintaining people in their own home with dignity."

Shirley and Jack McCloud, of Farmington Hills, are two of the 180 volunteers with the center's nutrition program. For the past two years, the couple has been with "Meals on Wheels," making weekly deliveries to assigned shut-ins in the area.

Both agree that it is vital to a community to have people who will help those who are unable to do for themselves.

"And there is the sense of self-satisfaction of doing something for someone less fortunate . . . these people really look forward to the meals, just to know somebody is coming to see them. They're all alone," said Shirley, adding that they bring their two young grandchildren along on deliveries whenever they can.

"I think it's a good lesson for them, to realize that some people are old and needy," she said.

LAST YEAR, the nutrition program served more than 77,000 meals to local residents.

Unfortunately, the needs of the elderly too often go unnoticed, according to Farmington Hills resident Betty Martin, who along with her husband Maynard, volunteer with the Community Services by donating funds from the American Legion to the senior citizens emergency fund.

"So many seniors need help, so badly . . . they are on fixed incomes and most of them can't work. And while Loretta (Conway) is doing a great job trying to get the word out, I don't think a lot of people realize the situation many seniors face," she said. "Overall, a lot of people need help."

Martin, like the McClouds, says volunteering can also be a "source of socialization" for the hundreds who donate their time and talents, according to John Washburn, volunteer coordinator for the senior center.

Calling the center a "booth of activity," Washburn says that the center's volunteers — most of whom are retired seniors citizens themselves — find friendship and a sense of belonging by working within the programs.

And Alice and Russell Hunt of Farmington Hills, as well as Alice's sister Edith Tourangeau — volunteer with the tax notice service — say they realize "good fellowship" when they contribute.

"It makes us feel like we belong and are truly a part of the community," said Tourangeau.

Of course, local VIPs have no trouble expressing gratitude and appreciation, on behalf of the Farmington community, for the volunteer efforts of so many.

Said Farmington Hills Mayor Jonathan Grant:

"All of you (volunteers) are very special individuals. You have touched thousands of lives throughout the year that without you could go untouched for weeks or possibly months."



Dorothy Block of Livonia gives herself a playful of other volunteers are honored at the Mercy Center.  
pat on the back Monday as she and hundreds

## police/fire calls

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

### ● LARCENY BY TRICK

An unidentified woman is believed to have walked away with \$500 over the weekend after confusing an employee at F & M Distributors, 31005 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, according to a police report.

The woman gave the 19-year-old employee a \$20 and a \$10 bill to pay for items she was buying. As the employee was getting change, the woman reached into the cash register and put her hand on the 20s. The employee told her not to touch the money in the cash register.

The woman then asked for a \$50 for two 20s she got out of her purse, as well as change from her purchases. The woman then left the store.

As the woman was leaving, a second woman in line at the cash register, with a similar type of foreign accent, told the employee the woman only wanted to know the denominations of bills.

It was later discovered that \$500 was missing.

### ● STUDENT SUSPENDED

A 17-year-old Farmington High School student was suspended for five days after allegedly picking a fight with another student and injuring him.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, the fight occurred on April 27 at 8:35 a.m., as the 17-year-old victim was bending over to get a drink of water

at the school, 32000 Shilwaukee. The other student struck the victim with a closed fist on the face, causing cuts to the cheek and face, a bump on the head and a bloody nose.

### ● CART FIRE

Damage was estimated at \$2,000 when firefighters responded to a report about a fire at the Independence Green Golf Course at Haled and Grand River, Sunday afternoon, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

When firefighters arrived they found two golf carts, one burned, the other firefighters extinguished. The fire appeared to have started in the engine compartment of the gas-powered cart, which apparently had not been used all day.

### ● THEFTS REPORTED

A portable radio and 27 cassette tapes valued at \$300 were reported stolen from a 1985 Honda on Leetown, April 24-25.

Jewelry, a cordless phone, VCR, stereo, mantle clock and statue valued at an undetermined amount were reported stolen from a unit at the Pendleton Condominiums on Pendleton, April 18-26.

A grade book, lesson plan book, calculator valued at \$30 and a pocketknife valued at \$10 were reported missing from a classroom at O.E. Dunkel-Middle School, 32800 12 Mile, April 17-27.

Two county stop signs and a neighborhood watch sign were reported stolen from the Inkster-11 Mile Road area, April 27.

Four tires and wheels valued at \$500 were reported stolen from a

1990 Ford at Roscoe, 27260 Haggerty, April 24-27.

Three video cameras valued at \$5,800 were reported stolen from the Fiat Corp., 39300 Country Club, April 24-27.

A pulse oximeter valued at \$1,300 was reported stolen from Community Emergency Medical Services Ambulance, 27650 Farmington Road, April 24-27.

A loaded gun, mobile radio, leather jacket and speakers valued at \$1,350 were reported stolen from a vehicle parked in a garage on Leetown April 24-25.

### ● DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$1,000 when someone broke into Buddy's Pizzeria, 31646 Northwestern Highway, April 25. Electrical wires leading to the building were cut, windows and alarm boxes broken, and the office and desk were ransacked. Apparently nothing was stolen.

Damage was estimated at \$400 when someone punctured three tires and poured paint on the trunk of a 1967 Lincoln on Dresden, April 25-26.

A lamp post on Arden Park was smashed, apparently with a bat-type of object, April 23-24. Damage was estimated at \$100. On nearby Wyckshire two electrical lamp posts also were smashed. Damage was estimated at \$300.

Damage was estimated at \$200 when the lock of a night dropbox at Metrobank in downtown Farmington was filled with an adhesive glue April 24-25. Similar incidents occurred the two previous weekends, as well.

cerns of business owners in the community.

Licenses, or their representatives, are urged to attend. There is no charge for the seminars but interested licensees are asked to RSVP by calling the department's crime prevention section at 473-9640, no later than Tuesday, May 5.

On-premise licensees may attend 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 6, or 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 7. Off-premise licensees may attend 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, or 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Thursday, May 7. The seminars will take place in the Farmington Hills city council chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

*The seminars will address the various aspects of operating a licensed facility, whether alcoholic beverages are served on-premise, or off-premise. Compliance with liquor rules will be discussed as will concerns of business owners in the community.*

## Limited storage allowed for rec vehicles

If you have trailers, campers or other recreational vehicles without license plates stored on your property, they can be there now only for a limited time.

That's the backbone of a

toughened ordinance recently adopted by the Farmington Hills City Council. It gives you up to six months to store unlicensed recreational equipment and is designed to address situations where such equipment causes blight.

The former zoning ordinance allowed recreational vehicles to be stored but not specify a time period. For more information about the changes, you can contact the zoning office at 473-9525.

## Michigan Eyecare Institute

**Myopic Surgery  
Refractive Surgery  
Radial Keratotomy  
Excimer Laser Surgery**

### Learn What These Procedures Are And If You Can Benefit From Them

Call the Michigan Eyecare Institute, where we have had over fourteen years of experience in Myopic surgery and where the first Excimer Laser in Michigan was located. Our doctor was the second in the United States to perform Radial Keratotomy and the first currently practicing in Michigan to perform this procedure.

Scheduled lectures, FREE screenings and consultations are available in your area by calling 352-2806 or 464-7800. Ask for Pearl or Nancy, specialists in Myopic counseling.

### When It Comes To Your Eyes Don't You Deserve A Doctor With The Greatest Longterm Experience?

Complete quality eye care at affordable prices. Five convenient neighborhood locations to serve you:

**29877 Telegraph, Suite 100  
Southfield, MI 48034  
352-2806**

14555 Levan  
Suite E 101  
Livonia, MI 48154

5050 Schaefer  
Dearborn, MI 48126

2861 West Road  
Trenton, MI 48183

Fisher Building  
Suite 874  
Detroit, MI 48202

## Police department hosts liquor operation seminars

As part of its Operation Cooperation, the Farmington Hills Police Department will host two training seminars about the operation of liquor-licensed establishments.

The seminars, scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, and Thursday, May 7, are a joint effort of the police department and Farmington Hills liquor licensees. "This is very much a team effort to reduce the number of liquor violations in our community," police Chief William Dwyer said.

The seminars will address the various aspects of operating a licensed facility, whether alcoholic beverages are served on-premise, or off-premise. Compliance with liquor rules will be discussed as will con-