

Fox gets new parks, rec term



Joan M. Fox

Joan M. Fox of Farmington Hills has been elected to a 10th term as vice chairman of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

The commission is the policy-making body of the 10-park system, which includes the state's first refrigerated toboggan run, two water parks, four golf courses, campgrounds, a nature center, mobile recreation, activities centers and more.

Other parks commission officers for 1994 include Peggy D. Lewis Jr. of Bloomfield Hills (elected to a second term as chairman) and Richard D. Kuhn Jr. of Waterford (named to a second term as secretary).

New commission members for 1994 are Ruth A. Johnson, an Oakland County commissioner from Holly, and County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

Other members of the parks

commission include: Oakland County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn and County Commissioner Thomas Law, both of West Bloomfield; and past county commissioners, Roy Rowold of Rochester, and Richard Skarritt of Milford. Oakland County Road Commissioners John E. Olson of Huntington Woods and Richard Vogt of White Lake will alternate six-month appointments (as designees for Road Commissioner Rudy Lazano).

2 Hills senior citizens nominated for award

Two Farmington Hills senior citizens — Milton Rose and Zella Röske — have been nominated for Concerned Citizens of the Year Award.

The sixth-annual Concerned Citizens Awards program, sponsored by Citizens Insurance Company of America, recognizes outstanding volunteer service by senior Michiganders.

More than 150 men and women across the state have been nominated by friends, volunteer organizations, business associates and representatives of service agencies.

Ten finalists from all the nominations will be selected by a panel of judges to receive awards.

"This year's nominees are inspirations to us all," said Sheila Wright of Citizens Insurance Company. "Thanks to their volunteer efforts, we all have better communities in which to live, and

the awards program is our way to thank them."

The 10 finalists will be announced by Baseball Hall of Fame broadcaster Ernie Harwell, a Farmington Hills resident, on April 18 in Lansing at the Senior Summit, a forum on senior citizen issues presented by Citizens Insurance Company of America.

Each award recipient will win a \$500 cash prize and a \$500 donation to the charity of his or her choice.

The judges for this year's program are Pete DeMaagd, columnist for the Grand Rapids Press; Roy Westman, past president of Citizens Insurance Company; Carrie Young, editor of Conquest magazine; Mary Ablan, executive director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan; and Kathleen Lavey features editor for the Lansing State Journal.

Botsford unit accredited

The Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills has received the maximum accreditation from a national organization which evaluates rehabilitation programs.

The Rehabilitation Unit at Botsford has 20 beds and specializes in treating patients with strokes and other neurologic disorders, orthopedic impairments and the loss of limbs due to amputation.

The Tucson, Arizona-based Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, known as CARF, awarded the Rehabilitation Unit at Botsford the maximum three-year accreditation. CARF is a nonprofit organization which promotes quality care for people with disabilities.

"The accreditation means that we meet the highest standards of

care established by CARF and ensures that patients get the best care available," said Dahlia Klein, manager of the unit.

In the future, health insurers may require CARF accreditation for reimbursement to assure that rehabilitation facilities meet standards of care and that money spent on rehabilitation is used effectively.

CARF's evaluation of Botsford included looking at the quality and training of the staff of the unit, measured success in treating patients, its operations, the level of involvement of patients in their rehabilitation and the layout of the facilities for accessibility to those with disabilities, among other criteria.

Botsford General Hospital is a 336-bed osteopathic teaching hospital serving Farmington Hills and surrounding communities.

Local exec drives car seat campaign

By RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

James Mariani wants more people to restrain their children — out of love and concern.

Mariani, the regional vice president of Primerica Financial Services of Farmington Hills, is leading the Michigan portion of a nationwide Primerica campaign to provide child car seats to needy families.

Mariani, 28, and his wife Juliette, Livonia residents, hope to raise \$375,000 in the next four

years to buy 25,000 child car seats that would be distributed by area hospitals, health agencies and fire stations.

"It was just something that kind of hit us in the heart, because we've got kids ourselves," said Mariani.

The campaign is called "Operation Baby Buckle" and ties in with the release in June of "The Flintstones" movie. Hanna-Barbera Productions Inc. and the Ron McNair Foundation are also involved. Overall, Primerica

hopes to raise \$1.5 million in the next four years and buy 100,000 car seats.

The seats will be bought wholesale for \$15 each from Century Carseats. These seats generally retail for \$45 to \$80.

Mariani is planning several fund-raising events this year. A golf outing at Livonia's Fox Creek Golf Course takes off on June 18. A 5K footrace will hit the ground running on June 14. And Baby Buckle boosters will have a display at the Livonia Spree in late

June. Mariani is also trying to get other people and companies involved. If you would like to donate money or offer help, call 851-2120.

According to state law, children up to the age of 1 must be restrained in a car seat while occupying a moving vehicle. Children between the ages of 1 and 4 must be in car seats while occupying the front seat. In the back seat children ages 1-4 need only be using the regular seat belt.

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