

FARMINGTON
NOTES

Applause for her!

Shaunty Harris is the winner of the Botsford Continuing Health Center's "Applause! Applause!" award for August. Harris, a certified nursing assistant who works the midnight shift at the nursing facility, was nominated for the care given the residents over the past two years, according to her co-workers. "Her dedication has often gone beyond the call of duty," said a colleague. "She's donated socks and combs for residents and spends time with residents who have trouble sleeping at night." Harris was also recognized for working with others and orienting new employees to the unit. The "Applause! Applause!" award is given monthly to those who have provided exceptional care and service to BHC residents. Botsford Continuing Health Center is a 179-bed nursing facility in Farmington Hills.

Exchange officers

New officers have been voted in at the Farmington Exchange Club for 1994-95. They are: Bill Law, president; Fred Harris, first vice president; Brian Nocella, second vice president; Chuck Roach, treasurer; John Richardson, secretary; and Jody Soronen, past president. Exchange Club directors are: Tim Moran, Barbara Platt, Bill Hartsock, Frank Lauhoff, Glenn Grace and John Herzog.

Overeaters take note

Overeaters Anonymous sponsors three weekly meetings in Farmington Hills. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. Mondays in the West Conference Room of Botsford General Hospital on Grand River; at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 35300 W. Eight Mile Road, west of Gilt Road; and at 7:30 p.m. Fridays in the Administration and Education Building of Botsford Hospital. Overeaters Anonymous requires no dues or fees, only a desire to stop eating compulsively. For more information, call 541-1133.

Car salesman drives to serve handicapped



Webner, a salesman at a local auto dealership, is devoting his career to helping provide specialized vehicles for handicapped motorists.

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Frank Webner and Joe Synkonis had little in common and little reason to think they'd ever do business six months ago.

Webner, 27, is a Waterford father of three and a car salesman. Synkonis, 56, is a former orthopedic surgeon who lives in Farmington Hills with his wife Dorothy.

A few months ago, Webner was asked if he would be interested in finding a way to convert a van for a handicapped customer. And not that long ago Synkonis, who suffers from disabling multiple sclerosis, needed a vehicle that would allow him to travel with his wife and take along his "scooter."

"When they asked me if I'd like to try a conversion, I said, 'Why not?'" Webner said.

Webner soon found out why not. Most car dealers didn't take the time to court handicapped customers or work with companies that make those specialized, often expensive, conversions on a regular basis. But at Farmington Hills Chrysler-Plymouth,

he found a willing employer.

"It took some research, but pretty soon I had some reputable companies lined up and they (managers) told me to go ahead," Webner said.

Now the dealership regularly orders vans modified by companies like Care Concepts in Phoenix, Ariz., and KneelKar in Battle Creek.

Cost is \$28,000-\$45,000, and that includes the cost of the van. Handicapped customers who order Chrysler vehicles are eligible for a rebate up to \$750.

"There's no reason why someone who can't use his hands can't drive," Webner said.

That knowledge and work has paid off for Webner, who now specializes in car conversions for handicapped customers almost exclusively.

"I think within the next six months, that's all I'll do," he said. And that pleases Joe Synkonis to no end.

Although he can't drive himself because of deteriorating vision, Synkonis is still able to get out, but was frustrated using ordinary vans.

See SALESMAN, 11A



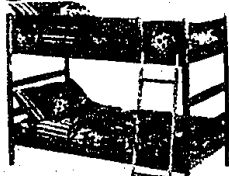
Getting around: With the aid of a boat rail attached to his mini-van, Farmington Hills resident Joe Synkonis is able to make his way to his powered chair.

storewide



Colette Chair, SALE \$599

summer



Oak Bunk Bed, SALE \$649
Ladder, SALE \$119

sale



Quatro Desk System shown, SALE \$828

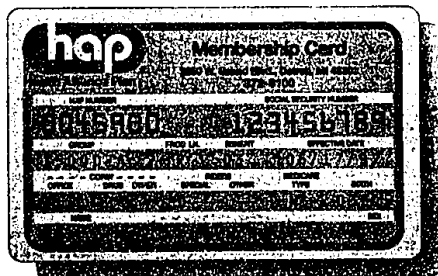
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workbench

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GENERATIONS AHEAD

