

Welcome from page 13A

To join the Daytime Book Group. There was also an opening on the board of directors for someone to chair the Adopt-A-Family program, and I donated my efforts to this good cause.

This new position opened up an entire new circle of what have become friends. I have found that involvement is the key to really getting to know people and also it opens up unlimited opportunities for social growth.

As a result, I became more aware of the other interest groups, and some of us have formed our own lunch groups and day outings. A whole bunch of us got together and attended the Valentine's Day dinner dance put on by the Farmington Community Band.

It was an excellent opportunity for us to get acquainted with each other's spouses and form some additional friendships. Now, two years later, I am the current president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Welcome Wagon. I am truly enjoying the experience of directing and coordinating the activities of our 200-person membership.

We are a very supportive and cooperative group and try to help each other when needed in their respective positions. I think some of us have realized our own greatness by taking on a little responsibility as a chairperson on the board of directors or as activities chairperson.

This season we will be having four general meetings that are

open to all current and prospective members. Each meeting has a planned activity/interest and the announcement of these can be found in the Farmington Observer and in our newsletter.

Our first meeting was Sept. 27 at Faith Covenant Church (14 Mile and Drash). It was our open house and activities fair where members signed up for activities, and we also had a low-fat cooking demonstration.

In December we are planning a Christmas party and auction for a local charity. February's meeting is a fashion seminar; and in March we will have an interior decorating demonstration. There will also be coffees in the months when there is not a large general meeting. New members will have

a chance to meet some current members and find out more about our club.

Additionally we have several special interest groups. Couples' Activities will host three different events this season that may include a harvest dinner, a sleigh ride party, Super Bowl party or a night out at the theater.

We also have a Toddler Group that meets twice a month for play groups and special outings like the cider mill. This group is also organizing a mom's night out, a sleigh ride party, Super Bowl party or a night out at the theater.

There are two book discussion groups; one daytime and one evening per month members meet in each other's homes to review and discuss a previously chosen book.

This past season we had a local romance writer at one meeting and meet-the-author luncheons.

Other entertainment and interests include bunco, bridge, euchre, golf, coupon clippers, quilting, and sew and tell. We are always open to new ideas, too, if you are interested in starting a new group.

We also have several food interest groups from which to choose.

Dinners for Eight meets four times per year in members' homes and is prepared by all four attending couples. Ladies' Luncheon celebrates good food once a month by taking turns hosting while sharing expenses and food preparation. Ladies' Night Out joins together once a month for a special night out at a local eatery. Our

new Lunch Bunch group prepares the same menu each month but those attending may change.

Adopt-A-Family is our ongoing charity for a family we get through the Salvation Army. This family is from our community, and we assist them with donations of gifts for Christmas, the children's birthdays, clothing and supplies for back-to-school and holiday food baskets. We will also be doing a charity auction in December for an additional worthy cause.

I look forward to a very successful year and the opportunity to meet and welcome many new members.

Robin Serb, is president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Welcome Wagon.

Volunteer from page 13A

Courts. She also volunteered her time for the American Lung Association, Dyslexia Foundation and Veterans Administration.

"We feel Shirley is with us," said Wimmer of West Bloomfield.

"I hope she knows we're still going on for her good causes."

For more information about the American Cancer Society Holiday Gift Show, call Dru Szerba at 657-5353.

Treat kids to Halloween safety

October means falling leaves, cooler temperatures and the most exciting holiday of the year for children — Halloween.

The Safety Council of Southeast Michigan recommends the following tips to trick-or-treaters and their parents.

- Costumes should be loose enough so that warm clothing can be worn underneath but more importantly to allow freedom of movement.

- Consider using make-up instead of a mask so that a child's vision will not be blocked.

- Costumes should not be so long as to cause a tripping hazard.

- Outfits should be made with a light-colored, flame retardant fabric. Use strips of reflective tape to make children even more visible.

- Travel only in familiar areas and along established routes.

- Establish a return time.

- Children should know to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well lighted and never enter a stranger's home or car.

- If you are driving children on their trick or treat rounds, be sure they exit on the curb side away from traffic. And make sure everyone's safety belt is fastened.

- Be prepared for children to dart out into the street at any time, especially from behind parked cars.

- Youngsters need to understand they should not eat any treat until you have inspected it. It may help to give them their favorite dinner before leaving the house so they are less apt to dig into their Halloween goodies.

Regional recycling facility dedicated

BY LARRY PALADINO
STAFF WRITER

It hasn't officially been given a nickname yet, but the new Southfield's new \$7.1 million recycling facility is destined to be called "Murph" (or MRF).

It's a lot easier than "Recycle-America Metro Detroit: Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southeast Oakland County Material Recovery Facility."

The 63,000-square-foot building at Evergreen and Eight Mile roads in Southfield includes more than 48,000 square feet of space for processing, storing and shipping of recyclables. It was dedicated Thursday.

The real dedication, however, came when the eight communities decided to dedicate themselves to recycling in a public-private partnership with RRRASOC and Waste Management of Michigan. Members of the effort are: Southfield, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Lyon Township, South Lyon, Novi, Walled Lake and Wixom.

"I think this project is just marvelous," said Tom Vukonich, director of public works for Southfield, who's been working on

this project since 1989.

"We looked at 30 sites in the eight communities and ended up with this one," he said. "What makes it extra pleasing is we were able to get rid of three large industrial buildings and two abandoned residences at the site and put a modern facility in their place."

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF or "Murph") sits on a seven-acre site and includes the offices of RRRASOC, which will lease the operation to Waste Management — the nation's largest waste hauler and recycler.

When the facility is fully operational in about a week, the recycling center at the Southfield Civic Center will close. Residents who don't have curbside pickup will be able to take their recyclable items directly to Murph. Even non-residents will be able to drop things off, Vukonich said, because identification won't be required.

Authorized items include tin cans, aluminum beverage containers, glass containers, plastic with "HDPE 2" stamped on the bottom, plastic with "PETE #1" stamped on the bottom, alumi-

num food trays, newspaper (items regularly picked up at curbside), as well as such drop-off items as cardboard, high grade or file stock office paper, plastic film, polystyrene (Styrofoam) and magazines.

The facility's equipment will separate plastic, glass and metals through a co-mingled sorting system, with a fiber sorting system separating newspaper, magazines, cardboard and office paper.

Carey Wehmiller, recycling education coordinator for Waste Management, said the facility "represents the visible culmination of the RRRASOC member communities long-range plan to provide comprehensive and cost effective solid waste and recycling services for their residents."

The 15-year operating agreement "provides for revenue sharing from materials sales and host fees to the participating communities," she said. "Ownership of the facility will revert to the communities upon completion."

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Solid Waste Alternatives Program, provided a \$500,000 grant for processing

equipment. Murph is able to handle 250 tons of recycled material a day.

During construction of the facility, recycling was a priority, Wehmiller said, with demolition debris taken from the site being recycled whenever possible. Also, whenever possible, construction materials used had been made from recycled materials. She said tours through the facility will be available to interested groups when Murph is fully operational.

As host city, Southfield will be paid 28 cents a ton for Murph's processed materials in the first year. It will increase by four percent annually, and RRRASOC also will receive fees.

RRRASOC will charge a family 77.3 cents a month for the service. Waste Management will require communities to pay \$10.373 per family for the full array of refuse service, including trash collection, recycling and spring cleanup, if under a five-year contract. If communities agree to a 15-year deal the cost will be \$10.148 a family.

Waste Management contributed about \$6.6 million of the total cost. RRRASOC will lease Murph to Waste Management.

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