

# COMMUNITY LIFE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1996

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LT. MARK R. BENDER

## Salvation Army needs your help all year long

"Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmas time -- Hold it! Wait a minute! It can't be Christmas yet. I just took the lights off my house."  
Relax. Take a deep breath. Just because you see the Salvation Army doesn't mean that it's that time of year. You probably know that, though. In fact, you probably know that the Salvation Army was more than just a social service agency.  
Or did you? Yes, it's true. In fact, "the Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel and to meet human needs." This is its mission statement.  
Most visible at Christmas, the Farmington Hills corps, at 27600 Shawneec, makes its plea to the public to raise enough funds to provide food, clothing, emergency shelter, utility assistance and other services for people in need throughout the year. The Farmington Hills corps aids people from Redford, Livonia, Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills. Unfortunately, the corps was unable to reach its target for Christmas, losing nearly \$20,000 that was anticipated. And now the summer months are here, typically the leanest as financial donations are down and resources virtually depleted.  
This does not stop the Army.  
The Salvation Army provides summer camping experiences for boys and girls, as well as an eight

See ARMY, B2

## He's an economic pioneer for city

Former innkeeper John Anhut wants to keep Grand River corridor vibrant.

BY WILLIAM COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER



When John Anhut retired after selling the historic Botsford Inn in 1993, the rocking chair just didn't fit the picture.  
Anhut, 73, has been anything but sedentary since selling the inn, which was founded in 1836, to Creon Smith.  
"I want to see to it that the city maintains this area (Grand River corridor)," he said. "Economic development in Farmington Hills now really means economic retention."

The Detroit native graduated from Notre Dame University and joined the U.S. Navy during World War II. Anhut worked in Manila on a planned invasion of Japan that never took place because of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

He would not be here today if President Truman had not made that decision," he said. "That invasion would have been a very costly and difficult one."

After the war, Anhut attended the University of Detroit Law School, but never practiced. Instead, he joined his father in the hotel business. In 1961, Anhut moved to the township after Anhut Hotels Co. bought the Botsford Inn from the estate of Henry Ford.

"I liked the business, because every day is different," he said. But some days were better than others, especially where the company's Detroit hotels were concerned. After taking losses on the Imperial Hotel, Anhut sold it and concentrated exclusively on the Botsford Inn, where he continues to maintain an office.



An enterprising job: John Anhut stands next to the national headquarters of Enterprise Rent a Car, on the south side of Grand River east of Middlebelt. The building is undergoing a massive renovation.

The sale of the Imperial to the Coalition for Temporary Shelter (COTS) at a loss, "stopped the bleeding."

Anhut, who has been active in community service ventures and organizations for many years, saw the same problem coming to Farmington Hills and was determined that it not be repeated.

"We're in tenderloin valley here," he said. "If I didn't improve things it would affect the entire city. Since this area is closer to Detroit, it is more critical than the rest of Farmington Hills."

The area had side streets with no

city sewer or water service along with the problems of urban blight. But Anhut found an ally in his attempt to revitalize the area in former City Manager Bill Costick.

"We had great rapport," Anhut said of the longtime city manager. In addition, Anhut was able to enlist the support of several residents in the area, including Olde Town activists in order to get community block grant money for housing and for businesses. The Grand River Corridor Committee was established in 1992 to find other ways to revitalize the area.

In the last four years, millions of

dollars have been brought into the area," he said.

In addition to lighting, landscaping, sidewalk and street improvements, the city has been able to buy out motel property and convert it.

Most importantly, businesses along Grand River, like Blakeney's Ranch House, have invested in their businesses rather than pull up stakes. Enterprise Rent-A-Car has invested in its building, converting it to a national headquarters and Pep Boys has a new location on the boulevard.

"The city has invested about \$1

See ANHUT, B2

I'M HAPPIER KNOWING THAT MOM IS IN GOOD HANDS. SHE'S JUST HAPPIER, PERIOD.

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