

# Sting from page A1

large number of Farmington High School students attended the party; two of them were ticketed for public drunkenness.

Goss said the department tries to do such a sting at the beginning of every school year.

Letters were sent out to all businesses that own liquor licenses, informing them that there would be a sting sometime during October. Among those

businesses were Kmart and Farmer Jack.

According to Goss, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission will terminate licenses for those businesses who provide alcohol to minors three times over a three-year period.

"We'll keep working at this," Goss said. "We tell business owners if they know someone underage is drinking to dial 911

and we'll respond."

Meanwhile, the adults who hosted the Oct. 25 Chatham Hills party await a 2 p.m. Dec. 15 pretrial hearing in 47th District Court on a state charge of allowing minors to consume drugs or alcohol on the premises. Both Kevin Alexander and Michelle Griffith were arraigned before 47th District Judge Maria Parker on Nov. 21. They pleaded not guilty to the charges.

# Sing from page A1

feeders included peanut butter and bird seed spread on bagels; others resembled virtual necklaces made out of Fruit Loops and other kinds of cereal.

But some opted for a more careful approach.

Girl Scout Kathleen Howard, 8, of Troop 2183 at Our Lady of Sorrows, stepped up on a metal ladder and deliberately hooked her peanut butter-on-bagel feeder onto one of the branches.

"I didn't want mine to fall down," said Kathleen, who admitted it felt "pretty good" to participate in the event.

## One, two, three

As always, the highlight came when the switch was tossed a little later, turning on the long vertical strands of miniature white lights.

Doing the honors, on the count of three, were representatives from all five levels of the Girl Scouts involved in the program. Those were: Daisy, Kati McGraw, of Troop 2858 at Longacre Elementary; Brownie, Amanda Baker, of Troop 3817 at Longacre Junior; Elizabeth Ferriss, of Troop 71 at Longacre; Cadette, Michelle Patrick, of Troop 1520 at Power Middle School; and Senior, Jennifer Ohman, of Troop 1507 at Farmington High School.

This year's "Holiday Sing" was hosted by Longacre Elementary School in Farmington, which is home base for five troops. Other area schools with troops at the event included Flanders, Gill and Hillsdale elementaries, Power Middle School, Farmington High School, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Troops brought their "quarter jars," with money collected during recent weeks, and emptied them into a larger glass container or situated near the flagpole. Scouts also brought boxes and bags of presents, dropping them into a pile on the sidewalk along Liberty Street. The donated gifts were collected by the Farmington Area Goodfellows. Susan Anastasiou, services director for the Longacre troops, Wednesday said a total of \$405.04 was dropped into the jar, to be donated to the wife of a muscular dystrophy patient who lives at the Greenery Nursing Home. The money will help the wife, herself afflicted with cerebral palsy, pay for transportation



Volces amassed: With the lighted tree in the background Girl Scouts led the Holiday Sing at city hall.

to and from her Pontiac home. In 1996, the scouts collected about \$230, Anastasiou said.

Other dignitaries on hand for the "Holiday Sing" included Dick Tupper of the Farmington Area Goodfellows, Robin Stanford, Neighborhood 32 Unit Director, and new Farmington Mayor Mary Bush. All made brief remarks about the start of another holiday season while the large gathering waited for the lights to be turned on.

"When you're grown up and you drive through Farmington and see that big tree," Bush said, "You can say, 'I was a Girl Scout and I used to light that tree.'"

## Applause for kids

Stanford applauded the girls for their wide-ranging community service project. "Congratulate

yourselves for bringing those toys."

According to Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff, events such as "Holiday Sing" promote community togetherness and inspire young people to give to others.

"The kids are here for a lot of different reasons," Lauhoff said. "They're here to decorate the tree. It's a tradition. They're also here to bring gifts for those people, the needy people that don't have those kinds of things, or can't afford a Christmas like the families that are more fortunate."

"It teaches the kids a lot. It teaches them about giving and about giving back to the community and that's the most important thing that you see here today."

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