

Meals on Wheels from page B1

death in the family. So I'll deliver 17 meals today."

"A Chrysler retiree, Nancy calls the program "a worthwhile endeavor. To walk into the homes, see people with handicaps, it's a very humbling experience."

Hundreds of meals daily

Chris Waldron, nutrition services coordinator, oversees the kitchen where 550 meals are prepared Monday to Friday. Three hundred of those meals are contracted with Mercy Services, which distributes food in western Oakland County. Another 75 meals are served daily in the senior activities center lunchroom.

"The government has specific requirements to meet an adult's basic nutritional needs for a day," Waldron said. She oversees six staffers, three of whom are developmentally disabled.

"And we rely on volunteers. We depend on them tremendously."

Waldron emphasizes how important the volunteer drivers are.

"People depend on this," she

said. "Sometimes contact with the driver is the only outside person they'll see all day, especially if they live in a private residence."

How to get meals

The eligibility criteria for the Meals on Wheels program includes: A person must be 60 or older or be the spouse of a person 60 or older. They must also be a resident of Farmington or Farmington Hills.

A spouse of an eligible client may receive a home delivered meal if the assessment indicates the meal is warranted.

A person must be homebound, and unable to participate in the congregative nutrition program because of physical and/or emotional difficulties.

A person must be unable to

prepare meals and have no one to prepare meals.

A person must be able to feed himself, must be home when meals are delivered, or contact the program when absence is unavoidable.

Although there is no charge for those who meet the criteria, donations are critical to the continuance of the program. A \$2.25 donation per hot meal and \$1 per cold meal is the suggested amount. Donations are kept confidential. All donations go directly to the program for providing availability of the meals.

One of Camille Mayotte's meal recipients, Riland Scott, has glowing things to say about the program.

"It's wonderful," he said. "And I adore Camille. There's nobody like her. Of course, all the volunteers are great."

Mayotte visits with him and his dog, Mistey, for a few minutes before heading just across the street for another delivery at the home of Robert Hull, who is waiting outside for her, as is his usual habit. Again pleasantries are exchanged.

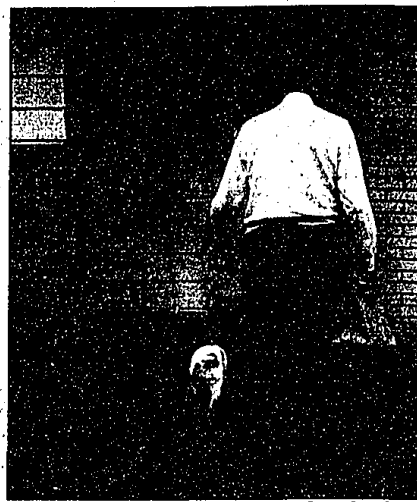
"Both my wife and I were on the program, then she passed away," Hull said. "Now I'm back on it again."

Mayotte inquires about his latest round of medical tests.

"He has quite a garden in the summertime," she reveals. "He often gives me a zucchini or tomatoe."

Soon she's back in her white van, on her way to the next homebound senior. She's available for teaching Tuesdays through Fridays, she says. But this is her Monday routine, unchanged for almost 15 years.

For more information or to volunteer, call Diane Gaydek at 473-1830.



Meal delivery: Riland Scott, with dog Mistey, walks into his home with a hot meal.

Chat room from page B1

cale Chorus gives a home to those who like to sing together for their own enjoyment and for others in the community.

Year after year in the late winter, Farmington's students have looked forward to competing for monetary awards in the Musicales scholarship program. During the club's life, hundreds of them in grades seven to twelve have gained experience in performing and have received recognition and support for their continuing studies. Some of these youngsters have gone on to music degrees and to successful careers. A number of Musicales members work closely with students community-wide as teachers, coaches and accompanists.

Each spring the club celebrates the competition with a recital by the young winners. This year's recital takes place on March 15 at 3 p.m. in Antioch Lutheran Church. To fund its scholarships the club presents annual benefit concerts, this year's on April 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Nardin Park United Methodist Church. This concert will feature a standout former winner plus duo-pianists from the club.

And here comes National Music Week from May 3-10. The Farmington Musicales and the Birmingham Musicales will bring together soloists and ensembles to perform daily in Tel-Twelve Mall,

Southfield, Laurel Park, Livonia, and plans are afoot again for Somerset Mall in Troy. Also during that week, area schools send their music groups to the malls to entertain shoppers.

The past years brought excitement. In 1972, the musical Mackinac was written, composed, acted, sung and crewed by club members; it was seen by audiences totalling 1,500 in Harrison High School. The club took the musical to the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Several years later, one of the club's composers, Charlene Slabey, was designated artist in residence by the Farmington Community Arts Council. This honor was repeated just last year when one of the most active members, Betty Walker, received the council's Service to the Arts award. As a forerunner to this, back in 1987, the arts council recognized the club itself with the Service to the Arts award.

The pleasure of belonging to the Farmington Musicales is spreading the joy and understanding of music. It is the company of friends who know the values of music study and can look back with a glow of success upon their work for young people. For more information, call Ben Scaglione at 477-2271.

June Rado lives in Farmington Hills.

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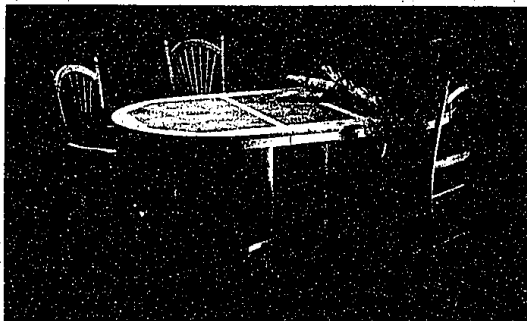
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