

Saying thanks

Melissa, lifeguards celebrate anniversary of poolside heroics



Celebrate: Mitch Forester takes a photo of Laura Hryczk and Melissa Garr on Friday at the same swim club where Melissa was critically injured two years ago. Melissa brought the lifeguards a special lunch to celebrate their heroics.

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Melissa Garr keeps moving forward in her amazing recovery from a coma. But to do so, she occasionally has to look back.

On Friday, in fact, Melissa went to the very place where - exactly two years before - she sustained her critical injuries.

She returned to the Farmington Glen Aquatic Center on the second anniversary of the poolside accident, where a heavy tree branch inexplicably toppled and struck her on the head, resulting in a fractured skull and coma.

Only the efforts of lifeguards Laura Hryczk and Melissa McKee saved her on July 23,

■ 'I figure there should be some recognition for them.'

*Melissa Garr
-talking about lifeguards*

1997. Exactly two years later, on Friday, Melissa Garr again said thanks by bringing a picnic lunch to the lifeguards.

"I figure there should be some recognition for them," said 18-year-old Melissa, a recent graduate of Farmington High School.

Meanwhile, Melissa is gearing up for the fall start of classes at Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

"I'm already scheduled to take

psychology and English," Melissa said.

Her summer is busy for other reasons, too.

On Thursday, Aug. 5, she will again donate blood to the American Red Cross at the Farmington Hills Fire Department headquarters on Orchard Lake Road south of 11 Mile Road.

And she is ready to turn pages at the piano for her mother, Susan Garr, at the Farmington Community Chorus concert at



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BREWER

Two years after: Melissa Garr (right) embraces Laura Hryczk, one of two lifeguards who rushed to her aid on July 23, 1997 at Farmington Glen Aquatic Center in Farmington.

Heritage Park, set for 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12.

The director of the chorus, Steve SeGraves, is giving Melissa voice lessons, too.

"Maybe I'll be singing in the holiday concert this year," she said.

Melissa said she's doing fine physically and is getting by

without need to use a cane or walker. But she still intends to do some physical therapy at McPherson Hospital in Brighton.

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

CONCEALED WEAPON

In Farmington Hills: Police arrested an Ortonville man, 33, after a semi-automatic pistol was found under a seat of a 1994 Chevrolet Cavalier stopped with the hood up on northbound I-275 and 10 Mile at 6:45 a.m. July 19. Police also found five grams of marijuana in a plastic bag while searching the car. The driver had outstanding felony and misdemeanor warrants.

VANDALISM SPREE
In Farmington Hills: Vandals damaged mailboxes, flowers, trees and opened mail on Susan Drive, Ryan, Canfield and Grayfield the night of July 18-19. One resident on Susan Drive reported someone set fire to his newspaper and mail. More than 30 homes were hit by vandals. Another resident also reported his mail was set on fire. A resident reported hearing a loud banging noise at 3:30 a.m.

CHECK MATE

In Farmington Hills: A check for \$285 was stolen and cashed from Bros Rehabilitation on Eight Mile July 20. Police questioned an employee who denied being involved. A LEIN check revealed the worker had outstanding warrants, including one in Farmington. When an officer tried to handcuff him, he ran out of the door. He continued to run east behind several office buildings and vaulted a fence into a neighborhood. Police found him hiding inside a parked van on Eight Mile and took him into custody. A search of his wallet turned up a fake driver's license for a "Sean Carter," which was the name used to endorse the stolen check.

THEFT

In Farmington Hills: Someone stole 50 CDs and \$16 in change from a 1998 Chevy Cavalier parked at an apartment on 12 Mile Road the night of July 18-19.

An 86-year-old man's wallet with \$240 cash and credit cards was reported stolen from a Fairmont Park Apartment residence the night of July 19-20.

BAD CHECK

In Farmington Hills: A Hills man told police another man tried to cash one of his checks for \$2,500 at a Comerica Bank July 20. The teller became suspicious because of the amount and the check was out of sequence. The man fled the bank after the teller spoke with a

manager. The victim believes 100 of his checks may have been stolen. He closed the account.

ASSAULT

In Farmington Hills:

A man told police a coworker punched him in the head five to seven times during an argument at Autotek on Research Drive around 7:45 p.m. July 19. Coworkers broke up the scuffle and the coworker was sent home before police arrived.

A 65-year-old Hills man sustained several facial injuries after a fight with a 25-year-old outside an Independence Drive residence at 10:20 p.m. July 19. Witnesses said the fight started when the victim went into the residence to challenge the Hills man to a fight.

The man followed the victim outside and punched him several times in the head, knocking him down. Three others got out of a car and started kicking and punching the man while he was on the ground, witnesses said.

Police went to the victim's home and found he was severely injured.

An argument between the boyfriend of an employee and her boss escalated into a wrestling match at the Knight's Inn, which involved one of the men swinging a frying pan at the other July 21. The boyfriend said the frying pan hit him in the side of the head, knocking off his glasses. The manager, who admitted swinging the pan, said he missed. The boyfriend said he confronted the manager and the boss threatened his girlfriend for using the company phone for personal business.

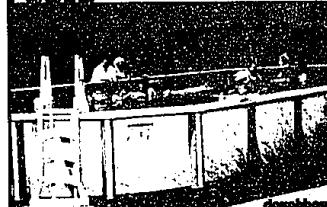
HOUSE PARTY

In Farmington Hills: Police ticketed 20 adults and nine juveniles after breaking up a party at a vacant house on Gettysburg around 10:30 July 21. Officers reported smelling marijuana and saw numerous teens between 16-18 drinking beer. Police took an 18-year-old woman into custody for unlawful entry and interfering with officers who were trying to question party-goers. She said she entered the vacant home through a sliding glass door. Police also found two marijuana pipes in her purse. Officers spoke with the woman's father who said his family lived in the house until July 10. He said the house is owned by another man, who changed the locks. Those 16 and under were released to their parents. Those 17 and older were ticketed and released. Most were cited for illegal occupation of a house.

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EVERYTHING 90 DAYS SAME AS CASH!

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16' ROUND
48" DEPTH

VOGUE
VOGUE POOL PACKAGES
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\$1466
18' ROUND
52" DEPTH

EVERY POOL PACKAGE INCLUDES FILTER, LADDER, VACUUM, AUTO SKIMMER, HAND SKIMMER, CHLORINE, FOOT BATH, TEST KIT, POOL CARE BOOKLET.

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90" x 90.5" x 34.5" 1.5 HP PUMP
10 JETS

16x20' 18x20' 20x20'

16x24' 18x24' 20x24'

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