A visit from the Egg Bunny

Egg Hunt: *On Saturday, April 7, Jessica Upfall of Farmington Hills (pictured left) was among over 500 children braved the cold spring air for the 46th annual Spring Egg Hunt sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees. This event, featured over 55,000 pieces of candy, 28 Egg Bunny gift baskets, a coloring contest and a visit from the Egg Bunny on a Farmington Hills Fire Department truck. Andrea Mazuchowski, Community Development VP., Betty Ference, Individual Development Director, along with David Makowski, Egg Bunny Chairman, helped organize the event which continues to grow in popularity each year.*

Volunteers 'worth a million'

BY TIM SMITH
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Volunteerism helps drive Farmington Public Schools toward becoming the "premier district of the 21st century," said school board President Frank Reid during Tuesday's volunteer appreciation program at Dunckel Middle School.

Although the nearly 1,800 employees of the district work tirelessly toward that goal of excellence, Reid said "it really takes that extra element to achieve that premier status, ... represented by all of you in this room."

The volunteers were given 10-minute "Phone a Friend Free" cards by the district as a token of appreciation near the end of the "You're Worth a Million" program.

"When you use this phone card, remember us," said Superintendent Bob Maxfield. "What this whole business of volunteering and service is about is 'phoning a friend.'"

Guests including Todd Lipa, Dick Carvell, Lincoln Avery, Karen Bolsen and Jody Soronen enjoyed refreshments in the Dunckel cafetorium and were serenaded by the Dunckel Middle School Concert Choir, directed by Kathy Seremet.

"I love to volunteer," said Katie Wemyss, of the Hill & Dale Garden Club. "It makes you feel good that they appreciate you and appreciate your work."

Tribute: *Mallory Michalak, a fifth grader at Longacre Elementary, won an award for a poem she wrote in tribute to her friend, school custodian, Ray Wyss.*

Longacre student finds hero in school custodian

"No, my hero doesn't fly, save the world or conquer evil enemies. My hero is someone you meet in the grocery store check out line, or the guy in front of you at the gas station. My hero is Mr. Ray, the custodian."

– Mallory Michalak, fifth grader, Longacre Elementary School

BY TIM SMITH
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To most people, a school custodian does an important job, albeit one that is most underappreciated.

With one fell swoop of her pen, Longacre Elementary School fifth grader Mallory Michalak changed all of that.

Mallory, a student in teacher Janice Byron's class, wrote a poem entitled "A True Hero," about custodian Ray Wyss. The poem was selected for publication in *Kaleidoscope*, a Michigan Reading Association publication.

Approximately 270 students from all over the state contributed short stories and poems for the publication, which intends to promote a love of writing.

"He's a real nice guy," said Mallory about the man she calls Mr. Ray. "He smiles and says hi."

But why is he her hero?

"Because of what he does," said Mallory. "The tribute is in the poem."

She wrote that Wyss goes "above and beyond what he needs to do," and does it without a trace of conceit.

"Maybe he won't make a great cartoon, but Mr. Ray is a hero indeed," her poem concluded.

■ 'Maybe he won't make a great cartoon, but Mr. Ray is a hero, indeed.'

Mallory Michalak
—Student poet

Mallory's dad, Ed Michalak, understandably couldn't mask his pride about his daughter's accomplishment.

"I'm very proud of her," said Michalak, during the recent science fair at the school. "It's just very touching. I don't think we give children enough credit for many things."

Mallory was honored at a luncheon in Grand Rapids last month. Children's author Mike Thaler signed a copy of his latest book for the student.

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your full name, address and phone number. Send them to:
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Keep Michigan Beautiful seeks office space

Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. is looking to put down roots in a new location in Farmington.

The non-profit organization's statewide volunteer offices have been based in Farmington for the past 30 years.

Keep Michigan Beautiful is seeking 450 square feet of office space for the volunteer office.

The organization typically schedules morning hours three days a week.

Until recently, the organization had shared space in the Training Center with the Farmington Public Schools Adult Basic Education Administrator.

"The Adult Basic Education has moved out also" said Keep Michigan Beautiful member Lincoln Avery.

Members of the Keep Michigan Beautiful organization would like to have the headquarters remain in the Farmington community, Avery said.

To offer space to the organization, please call Elsie McKeown at (248) 661-1455

Farmington Democratic Club elect new officers

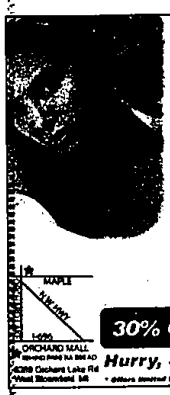
State Senator Gary Peters (D - Bloomfield), a candidate for the 2002 Democratic gubernatorial nomination, recently spoke to members of the Farmington Democratic Club.

Peters stressed his support for strong environmental laws, public education and improvements in health care.

The Democratic Club announced its officers for the 2001 year. Gerald Goldberg returns as chairman of the organization. Vice Chairman is Rose Christoff; Treasurer, Aldo Vagnozzi; Recording Secretary, Jim Nash; and Corresponding Secretary Dave Kinchen.

Officers at large are Bill Helwig, Carrie Christoff, Mariette Simon, Pat Blackard and John Lightner.

The club now has 100 members, the highest number in its history. Thirty of those are new members who were attracted by last fall's election campaigns.



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