

Do you know a HomeTown Hero?

Your Observer & Eccentric, Mirror, and HomeTown Newspapers, in conjunction with The United Way Volunteer Place, have established the HomeTown Heroes™ awards to recognize, encourage and reward outstanding volunteers who have given selflessly of themselves to support nonprofit organizations in Oakland County.

The United Way Volunteer Place will be North Oakland County's new one-stop shop for volunteer recruitment,



placement and training. HomeTown Heroes™ will honor volunteers in six categories: Seniors (65 and over), Youth (18 and younger), Direct Service, Faith-based, Board Member and Business (a business encouraging employee volunteerism). The business award is sponsored by Crain's Detroit Business. Nominees and award winners will be recognized at a luncheon on June 14 at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. The public is invited to attend this event.

NAME OF NOMINATOR: _____

IF GROUP CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

NOMINATING CATEGORY

☐ Senior ☐ Board Member ☐ Direct Service ☐ Faith-based ☐ Business ☐ Youth (18 and younger)

NOMINEE: _____

(Must volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit)

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

AGE: _____ (If senior, just note over 65)

DAYTIME PHONE: _____ SCHOOL (if applicable): _____

PLACE(S) OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE: _____

YEARS OF SERVICE: _____ AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS PER MONTH: _____

TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED: _____

On a separate sheet in 200 words or less, please tell why you have nominated this individual or group. Describe the nominee's major accomplishments, commitment, self-motivation, problem-solving skills, and measurable impact upon the community. Entries must be typewritten and the 200-word limit will be enforced.

Entries must be received by Friday, April 20, 2001.

Mail forms to: HomeTown Heroes™ Awards—c/o United Way of Oakland County, 50 Wayne Street, Pontiac, MI 48342 or fax to 248-458-8809

HomeTown

Observer & Eccentric

MIRROR

Part of HomeTown Communications Network™

County's top volunteers due for heroes' welcome

Hometown heroes in Oakland County — those who volunteer their time and effort for the betterment of their community and to help others — will be honored at an awards ceremony in June.

Nominations are now being accepted for the HomeTown Heroes Awards, to be given to volunteers in six categories — seniors (65 and older), youth (18 and under), boards and commissions, direct service, faith-based and business.

The awards are being sponsored jointly by Lighthouse of Oakland County, United Way of Oakland County, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Mirror Newspapers and Crain's Detroit Business.

Awards will be handed out at a luncheon June 14, a Thursday, at the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham. Speaker for the event will be announced at a later date.



Awards will be handed out at a luncheon June 14, a Thursday, at the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham.

The \$40 per seat ticket price for attendance at the luncheon will raise funds for A Volunteer Place, a new volunteer recruitment and placement center to be built in Pontiac. Its purpose is to connect volunteers to programs that need the help in Oakland County.

The center is a joint project between Lighthouse, Oakland Family Services, William Beaumont Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, United Way of Oakland County, AmeriCorps at Oakland University and the Greater Detroit Chapter of Habitat.

A ballot to nominate volunteers accompanies this article. Deadline for nominations is April 20.

Winners will be selected by a committee of representatives of the volunteer organizations participating in the Volunteer Place.

Lighthouse is seeking corporate sponsorships for tables at the luncheon to allow volunteers to attend who might not otherwise be able to afford to go. A table of 10 is \$400. Contact Lighthouse at (248) 920-6000 to sponsor a table.

Stabenow opposes proposed COPS cuts

By Sue Buck
STAFF WRITER
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U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, spoke out Monday against President George Bush's proposed cuts in funding to the Community Oriented Policing Services program, at a meeting with Farmington city council members.

Though the City of Farmington hasn't directly received COPS grants, Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss said Tuesday his department has benefited from a \$19.1 million COPS More grant in Oakland County which allows police officers to exchange information on

mobile data computers. Officers can access information county-wide through the Court and Law Enforcement Management Information System, known as CLEMIS.

The COPS program also provided for the hiring of more than 100,000 new police officers across the country during the last six years and more than 3,400 new officers in Michigan, Stabenow said.

"I was extremely disappointed to learn that the Bush administration has proposed to end the extremely popular and successful COPS program," she said. "As I have traveled around Michigan, I have continually heard from local government and

law enforcement agencies how instrumental the COPS program has been in their efforts to reduce crime. The COPS program has been a tremendous success and it would be a huge mistake to eliminate this program."

Both the Senate and House have passed budget resolutions which differ and are non-binding, according to Dave Lemmon, Stabenow's communications director. "A conference committee will resolve the differences," he said.

An appropriations bill won't be passed until October, he added. Stabenow defeated former Sen. Spencer Abraham, R-Auburn Hills, in the November election.

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about that seat include potential candidates; in fact, he admits he would take a serious look at it, if it opened up.

"There's talk about it, there's speculation about it. It's all sort of the buzz politically. When you combine that with term limits in Lansing, it's motivating some of these guys to be announcing."

Though a political campaign is still months away, Raczkowski already speaks with enthusiasm about bringing local concerns such as urban revitalization and community-sensitive federal policies to a larger audience. In addition, long-time aide Dennis Darnoi said an armed services

background will give Raczkowski an advantage with military and foreign affairs issues.

"The military issue is a big one for me," said Raczkowski, who serves in the U.S. Army Reserves. "I enlisted, so I was a private. I'm now a captain, but I understand what it takes to sweat. I'm very patriotic and I believe in doing the right thing, politically."

The potential of a congressional campaign, he added, won't take away from the work he's already doing in the 37th District. State lawmakers aren't in session during the campaign season, he said, and his home tele-

phone number is listed and he is always accessible for constituents who need his help.

"I will continue working for my constituents, and after that, we'll see where it takes us. I'm going to gather as much public input as possible and prove to people we're worthy of their support."

Welday said he's taking a more low-key approach.

"I'm trying to focus on the job Congressman Knollenberg was elected to do. I am committed to Congressman Knollenberg, and I think it's important to wait until we see where the lines are drawn. I've got my hands full."

Courts from page A1

students filed past court clerk Jacki Bretz, who stood behind a table covered with stacks of actual case files.

Soon, Davis offered welcoming comments, asked students to remove hats and caps during the proceedings and offered words of appreciation to the court for enabling students to see the process for themselves. "Quiet Please: Court in Session" signs graced both ends of the stage.

"It takes a great deal of work to move a court such as the 47th to another location," said Davis, from the auditorium stage. "We want to thank Judge Parker and her entire staff for making this program possible."

Before the first case of the afternoon session, Parker told the students a little bit about 47th District Court. She said two judges (herself and Fred Harris) try about 40,000 cases every year.

"Any violation of state or local law in Farmington or Farmington Hills comes through our court," Parker explained. "We can hear anything from a traffic violation to a murder case."

On the docket

Sentencing in a misdemeanor shoplifting case opened the session. The defendant allegedly took a sandwich, soft drink and cigarettes from a grocery store, but Parker noted that the woman suffers from short-term memory loss due to a closed head injury.

Parker sentenced the woman to 90 days in the Oakland County Jail, but the sentence was suspended pending successful completion of 12 months probation. If she fails to live up to the terms, she would be sent to the jailhouse, emphasized the judge.

"Retail fraud and shoplifting costs every single one of us in this room," Parker said to the defendant.

Next, Parker gave almost the identical sentence to a 19-year-old man who has a history of marijuana use. With a young audience watching, she made clear the terms of his probation.

Parker said he would be required to check in every day to find out if he would need to go in for a drug screening.

"Marijuana stays in your system, so it doesn't make any sense to take any chances because you could be tested any day," Parker said. "And you also can be tested positive by (breathing) second-hand smoke. ... I am going to hold you accountable for you. If you have friends who use, you'd better steer clear."

In the day's final case, Parker heard testimony about a case involving a man who gave false identification to a Farmington Hills Police Officer after a traffic stop.

The experience was rewarding and educational, said senior Brandon Engel, as he left the auditorium.

But he said he was somewhat

surprised that Parker was lenient with defendants, focusing more on how they could help themselves by fulfilling the terms of probation.

"They give more leeway than I thought," Engel said. "They'll give you a chance to fix your problems."

Later, Parker acknowledged there is a reason why certain kinds of cases are presented during in-school court sessions, such as drunken driving and possession of marijuana. She said it is hoped that teens can hear for themselves the consequences if they choose to take that direction in their lives.

ADD workshop

A free workshop to help parents and students learn more about dealing with Attention Deficit Disorder at the college level will be held April 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

Guest speakers will be Dr. Patricia Quinn and Dr. Kathleen Nadeau, nationally-known experts. The event will be held in the campus Theater. To register, call 248-522-3465.

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