

# Wood Creek worker saves choking child

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Paraprofessional Tony Fudge is slightly embarrassed by the attention and publicity he's received lately.

But others at Wood Creek Elementary in Farmington say it is

well-deserved after Fudge performed the Heimlich maneuver Tuesday in the cafeteria and rescued Rachel Warunkiewicz, a fourth grader, who was choking.

Fudge was on lunch duty when he was summoned by a teacher and some students who told him the girl was having problems.

"She was choking on a lettuce stalk," Fudge said. "I just reacted. It was a long piece of lettuce."

Fudge said he learned his lifesaving skills during the years he spent coaching college football at Los Angeles Valley Community College.

Rachel didn't tell Barry Nofzinger, a Wood Creek physical education teacher, about the incident until after she performed a 10-minute jogging test later in the day.

"She's living large," he said. And apparently is no worse because of the incident.

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residential community looks different. There's two communities in every community. There's the workforce community and the residential community.

Other thoughts were also relayed which emphasized improving communication.

Though foreign-born students benefit from newcomer services, students who come from other towns in the country don't always know how to make the transition.

"Students who come from other towns don't always know how to make the adjustment," Mary Brown, assistant principal of Harrison High School. "We need to do a better job of getting them and their parents better connected."

Public Safety Director Gary Goss cited isolation in subdivisions.

He grew up in a neighborhood

where it was difficult to get in trouble because, thanks to good communication among neighbors, his mother knew about anything he did before he arrived home. He now lives in a similar subdivision in Farmington with only 14 homes.

"I feel sorry for these kids because there are even two cops in the neighborhood," he quipped. "I'm not sure this is real prevalent in the community. We have become an automatic society. We pull into our drive-ways, automatically open our garage doors, automatically get into our house, automatically turn on our TVs, and automatically avoid our neighbors. We know more people through organizations like this than we know our own neighbors."

Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock said some people who complain play a race or cul-

tural card. "They say, 'You are picking on me because...'" Brock said. "That's very frustrating. It makes it hard to deal with the issue."

The MCMR council organized several programs throughout the past year. They included: Many Faces, One Future, Our Community's Heritage Festival; Kick-Off Rally with Too Ger Klone; The Newcomer Immigrant Experience; Learning to Celebrate Our Religious Diversity; Rainbow Recognition Awards Breakfast; Student Forum, and Helping Our Community Better Respond to the Needs of Persons with Disabilities.

"I feel like I know you," Krichbaum concluded at the end of the meeting. "I feel like I can take any of you to any community where we are working and show that community Farmington."

## Contribute cans, bottles to FHS music program May 19

On May 19th, the Farmington High School music program will hold its annual Spring Bottle and Can Drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. behind the Farmer Jack Super Market on Nine Mile and Farmington Roads.

The money raised will pay for sheet music, uniforms, etc. Students will be coming around door to door to pick up donations. If you're not home simply leave your contribution of bottles and cans on the porch with a note for FHS.

## MILITARY NEWS

Army Reserve Spec. Opeyemi-Amoso Ajani has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the training, the soldier received instruction in many areas of study, including physical fitness, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Ajani is the brother of Moses Olaniran of Farmington.

He is a 1999 graduate of Michigan State University, East Lansing.

## AFS seeks Michigan families

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