



10-4: Farmington Hills Fire Department training officer, Thomas Shurtliff, opens and begins to unpack a new communication device that was delivered to Fire Station No. 5, at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads. The radio will be used during a mass casualty training exercise slated Aug. 2 at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARROLL

New radio used in mass casualty drill

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER
kbrown@oec.hometown.com

The notorious Ford Wixom and Royal Oak Post Office shootings a few years back showed that police agencies need to communicate better to handle a crisis.

Now, the Farmington area could benefit from a device that will join police communications from various cities during hazardous materials emergencies.

Farmington Hills Fire Department Inspector Michael Kish, also a hazardous materials specialist, said the TRP-1000 Transportable Radio Interoperability Unit will be introduced Aug. 2 at the "One of a Kind" Weapons of Mass Destruction exercise at the Oakland Community College

Orchard Ridge Campus.

"We are planning on using it in the training exercise. It's an excellent time for all the agencies to train with this as well," he said.

The unit was demonstrated in a presentation Friday at Farmington Hills Fire Station No. 5. Troy Fire Chief Bill Nelson demonstrated the unit to a group of firefighters and police officers.

The unit will soon be used by the Western Wayne Hazardous Incident Response Team which serves the Farmington area, as the team has received a \$40,000 federal grant to buy one.

Nelson said that a large percentage of area police agencies have upgraded equipment in the last 10 years. But because

they choose from a range of systems, brands and radio frequencies, they are still not able to communicate directly among themselves.

For example, he said the Farmington Police Department operates on 150 megahertz, while Farmington Hills Police operates on 420 MHz.

The TRP-1000 Transportable Interoperability Unit converts frequencies for participating police/fire agencies to allow joint communications when needed.

"You can establish a network just like they're on the same frequency; you don't notice a delay or anything," Nelson said.

Participants in the Orchard Ridge Campus exercise will include various law enforcement agencies and hospitals.

OBITUARIES

SHERMY LEE MOXON

Services for Sherry Lee Moxon, 48, of Farmington Hills were held Saturday, July 28, at 10 a.m. at Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington. Burial was at Oakwood Cemetery in Farmington.

Mrs. Moxon was born Sept. 24, 1952, in Detroit and died July 24 at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

Survivors include husband, William Moxon; daughter, Diane (James) Goodridge; sisters, Kathy Fischer, Karen Fischer, Laurie Fischer, Roxanne Fischer; brother, William Fischer; mother, Barbara Fischer; grandson, Joshua; granddaughter, Abigail; nine step-children and 11 step-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her father, Henry.

JANNE L. GOULET

Services for Jeanne L. Goulet, 82, of Farmington Hills were held Thursday, July 26, at Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Clifford Powell officiating. Cremation took place at Southern Michigan Services in Livonia.

Mrs. Goulet was born Dec. 16, 1918, in St. Paul, Minn., and died July 24 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Survivors include husband, James Goulet; son, David (Virginia) Hunt; brother, John Preston; and grandson, Corey D. Hunt. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

C'ville MEAP scores improve

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oec.hometown.com

Clarenceville elementary and middle school students can read, write and count, judging by their success on the state achievement test.

Formulas and philosophies left them perplexed, though.

Better than half of fourth and seventh graders passed Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests in reading, math and writing. Fifth and eighth graders scored poorly in social studies and science.

"We saw some improvement, which was great," said Trustee Sharon Simpson, who learned of the results during a recent board meeting. "We're seeing some of the programs that have been implemented in the last couple of years are showing some results."

A substantial jump occurred in eighth-grade writing where 69 percent met or exceeded state standards. Last year, only 47 percent of eighth graders achieved passing marks.

Seventh-grade reading scores also improved. This year, 55 percent achieved the state standard compared to 38 percent in 2000.

The Clarenceville district includes portions of Farmington Hills, Livonia and Redford.

Fourth graders scored above the state average in reading and

math. Sixty-seven percent met or exceeded standards, comparing favorably to the state average of 60 percent.

Fourth graders nipped the state average in math by three-tenths of a percent, with 72.6 percent achieving the standard compared to 72.3 percent statewide.

State averages were not available in other subjects as MEAP officials sort out reports of testing irregularities in some districts.

Clarenceville officials didn't need state numbers to tell them science and social studies scores were below average.

Only 33 percent of district fifth graders met the standard in science. In eighth grade, a mere 25 percent passed.

Those results were disconcerting to Church.

"We did switch the curriculum. We thought that would show a positive impact sooner, but it hasn't," Church said. "We plan to take a look at it. I am concerned."

Social studies remained a problem. Only 13 percent in both fifth and eighth grade passed.

School officials have criticized the MEAP social studies test given to fifth graders, saying the exam requires higher level thinking skills than should be expected for children of that age.

Visitors explored family history during festival

BY JONI HUBBED
STAFF WRITER
jhubb@oec.hometown.com

While others might have traveled a fair distance to attend the Farmington Area Founders Festival last week, four visitors from Minnesota and Wisconsin had a very special interest in the heart of the event.

The festival, which was designed as a way to celebrate the history of Farmington and Farmington Hills, drew Emily Brash of Rhinelander, Wis., her sons Dave of Eden Prairie, Minn., and Rich of Roseville, Minn., and Emily's sister, Mary Ellen Reid of Duluth, Minn., because of their ties to Farmington founder Arthur Power.

"Our grandmother was Louise

Power," Emily explained. "She married John Pinkerton from Northville. Her grandfather was Arthur Power."

Emily and Mary Ellen have been tracing the roots of their family tree for years. Their mother, who had the family history verified when she became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, encouraged the sisters early on to get involved, too.

"When I was in college, she wanted me to," Mary Ellen said. "I didn't have time."

The sisters were soon busy raising their own families and didn't actively pursue genealogy until later in life. Their trip to Michigan was a dream for years, until they finally decided it was

time to just do it. "When you turn 70, you don't buy green bananas," Emily quipped.

Son Rich called around to find out more about the area and learned about the Founders Festival. He was also given Brian Golden's number; Golden is actively involved in several local historical groups and penned the Festival's "Magical History Tour."

"You can't talk to Brian long before you're saying 'All right, let's do it!'" Rich said.

The family took Golden's history tour, which offered them a quick view of Arthur Power's dream come true. Both Emily and Mary Ellen were anxious to see the placement of things they'd read about in books

they've studied to learn more about their family history.

"They also planned to make a stop in Northville. 'The thing I really want to do now is find out about the Pinkertons,'" Mary Ellen explained.

While they raved about the Founders Festival, the family was also impressed with the cities themselves.

"I'm thoroughly impressed with how the historical base of the community has been preserved," said Rich.

"It's just amazing to me the kind of community Farmington was developed into," Emily said. "I think it makes you feel kinda proud to be part of this."

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