

School spirit

Students help disaster victims

BY SUE BUCK
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The outpouring of love and concern for the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., last week transformed even the youngest student in the Farmington Public School District into a helpful contributor to the patriotic cause.

The district is abuzz with charitable efforts:

■ Farmington High School students, who raised \$1,500 in one day last week, pushed the bar still higher during a Friday football game and a weekend car wash.

"It's now up to \$6,000," said Farmington High School Principal John Barrett Monday.

The high school students also decorated the guard shack in the parking lot which typically bears the enthusiasm for school sports teams.

■ Marcel Johnson, a William Grace fifth grader, wasted no time in coming up with an idea to help raise money for either the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army. He constructed a memorial pin using a safety pin with red, white and blue beads.

"He came to me Wednesday and brought in the pin," said William Grace Principal Mark

Marowski. "It's a great thing when a student says, 'Can I do this?'" He's resourceful and mature."

Johnson was out seeking donations to construct the pins this week and expected to unveil his plans to the student body at a Sept. 21 student assembly.

■ Two classrooms at Forest Elementary School under the direction of Jodi Martin will be collecting change at Forest. Students will roll the coins for donation. They are making a huge flag and the stripes will be made up of stick-on hearts for each donation given.

■ At Farmington Alternative Academy students have made red, white and blue ribbons for all to wear.

They also have a box in their hallway for donations of socks, gloves, flashlights and property for the relief effort. They will be shipping the items to New York next week by UPS.

They also held a 15-minute remembrance around the tree in front of Ten Mile School Friday.

"It was a time for students and staff to reflect on and remember the losses incurred on Tuesday," said Diane Bauman, director of school and community relations, in a memo.

■ Woodcreek Elementary students have a variety of endeavors. A kindergarten class is col-

lecting water bottles. Second graders are making cards and sending them to New York hospitals. Some classrooms are collecting coins, wearing red, white and blue ribbon pins, and putting together personal care kits for volunteers in New York.

■ Hillside Elementary students are displaying a "show of hands" around the school, using traced handprints. Each student will bring in a dollar to donate to the American Red Cross. The school is also taking advantage of Comerica Bank's offer to match donations dollar for dollar, according to Ann Spurling, the teacher leader.

It's important for donors to designate the city they want donations to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund to be sent, according to Amy Neale, an employee of the blood services division in Detroit. If no location is specified, the money will be put into the disaster relief general fund, she said.

"The Red Cross needs blood, needs money," Neale said. "It's that simple."

The address is American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, American Red Cross Chapter, c/o fundraising, 100 Mack Avenue, Box 33831, Detroit, MI 48232.

For more information, call the American Red Cross at (313) 833-4440.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BENDER

Piece of cake: Students Supporting Hope show off the result of their bake sale, a check for \$1,253.86. The money was raised outside Kroger at Eleven Mile and Middlebelt. Comerica Bank agreed to match the kid's efforts. The group includes Mark Brum, Samantha Herren, Theo Hicks, Emily Hill, Jenna Hinton, Mark Istrate, Austin Selden, Maya Shwayder, Jenny Smith, Katherine Soave and Lindsay Soave.

Livonia officer who injured Hills couple after high speed chase resigns

BY ALICE ASHMORE
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A Livonia police chase that ended with a collision in Farmington Hills has led to the resignation of the officer involved.

Officer Jeff Powers resigned his position with Livonia police effective Sept. 4, said Chief Pete Kunat.

"Whenever there is a chase or a pursuit, there is an internal review process. In this case a number of policy violations took place," Kunat said.

He said Powers resigned during an internal disciplinary process.

Powers could not be reached for comment.

The Aug. 4 chase began in the vicinity of Seven Mile and Wayne roads, when the officer noticed a pick-up truck was being driven recklessly.

He followed the truck into Farmington Hills, according to Powers' report.

However, the driver of the truck managed to elude Powers, and the chase ceased.

Powers was eastbound on Colfax when he spotted the truck in the distance, and accelerated to catch it.

He collided with a 1995 Geo as it was turning left into a driveway from Colfax Street, seriously injuring a Farmington Hills couple.

"He did not have his overhead lights and siren on at the time of impact," said Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer.

"He was charged with careless driving," Dwyer said.

The incident was reviewed by the Farmington Hills City Attorney. "He felt this (charge) was appropriate."

Dwyer noted that Power's in-

car videotape was reviewed by Farmington Hills police investigators.

"We conducted a very thorough, in-depth investigation," he said.

Powers was estimated to be traveling in excess of 50 mph at the time of impact, Dwyer said.

"Obviously, we are very concerned about the injury to the driver of the other car," Kunat said.

"We put a tremendous amount of training into this area (driving and pursuits)," Kunat said. "We feel our driving instructors are doing a good job."

The driver of the pick-up was arrested later by Livonia police.

"We developed a lead about the subject driving the truck. He was arrested for fleeing and eluding," Kunat said.

Hills couple's drowning still a mystery

BY KEVIN BROWN
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No alcohol or heart attack was involved in the drowning death of a Farmington Hills couple Aug. 9 in an Upper Peninsula lake.

Authorities said that following the release last week of a toxicology report on Mark Bewick, 50, a Visteon engineer, and wife, Karen, 49, a computer consultant, the circumstances of their deaths remains a mystery.

"They just drowned pure and simple," said Schoolcraft County Sheriff Gary Maddox.

"Probably one got in trouble

and one went to help, and both perished in the process. It's only guessing," he said.

What police do know is that the couple were avid campers and familiar with water. They arrived at East Lake on Aug. 5.

The other two members of the party - Mark's brother Scott Bewick and Scott's 12-year-old son - had left the campsite at 1 p.m. Thursday for a day trip to the Seney Wildlife Refuge.

Scott Bewick and his son returned to the campsite, along East Lake, 23 miles north of Manistique, about 7 p.m.

When Scott Bewick and his son returned to the campsite,

they didn't see Mark or Karen.

Then, in front of the camp site at East Lake, Scott Bewick discovered his brother's clothing.

"It was nicely folded and organized - his brother's clothes, wallet and glasses in a tennis shoe," Sheriff Maddox said.

The first body recovered was Karen Bewick, at 2:10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10. "There did not appear to be any suspicious situation," Maddox said. The body of Mark Bewick was found at 8:30 a.m. the following day.

Both had attended Michigan Technological University in Houghton and loved the Upper Peninsula, family members said.

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