Finding alternatives

Woman helps homeless, at risk youths

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER
ppace@oe.homecomm.net

Nancy Timberlake read the mission statement of the Alternatives for Girls organization and know it was a place she could believe in.

"It was fate," the 25-year-old Farmington Hills resident said of coming to work for the non-profit agency.

"I saw a strong need for programs for women with a positive outcome," she said. "Their mission is something I believe in and want to be a part of as a social worker."

She heard about the organization while working for Covenant House about a year ago.

"I instantly felt the passion that the people there have for their work," she said.

Alternatives for Girls or AFG helps girls and young women who are homeless or at high-risk to avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation. The agency allows them to explore and access support and resources

Nancy Timberlake

available, helping them stay safe, grow strong and make positive choices in their lives.

Ages of the clients range from 5 to 21. Through the 14 years the group has been in existence, it has helped the lives of about 6,000 girls.

Timberlake is the organization's development specialist and it's her job to secure corporate, government and foundation funding.

"*I always enjoyed working* with people and work in a field where I felt I was making a difference," she said.

Role is vital

Though she doesn't have direct contact with clients all the time, her role in the help agency is vital in its ability to survive and grow. She said the organization is unique because it's a place for young women who are not part of the criminal or foster care system.

"These are girls with no where else to go," said Timberlake, who holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan.

Three programs are administered by the group, a crisis shelter for young women, a street outreach program geared towards southwest Detroit and a prevention program.

Timberlake also volunteers as a mentor for two little girls at AFG.

She and her co-workers and volunteers are excited about the plan to build a new, 32,000-square-foot facility in Detroit that will increase the program's shelter capacity by 375 percent.

"We currently have to turn away 25-30 girls a month at the crisis shelter because there is not enough room," Timberlake said.

Her supervisor is Jan Gondek, director of marketing and development.

Gondek said AFG is fortunate to have Timberlake on the team.

"Her background is critical to us," she said. "But what is really important is she is grounded in her beliefs – that the clients and families come first."

Gondek said Timberlake is in the office by 6 a.m.

"I often have to remind her you have to go," she said. "She's a very dedicated, hard worker."

Gondek noted Timberlake was able to secure large amounts of corporate funding for the new building right from the start of the fund-raising campaign.

"She's a key player here," *Gondek said.*

Alternatives for Girls can be found on the Web at www. alternativesforgirls. org. For more information, call AFG at (313) 964-5450.

Commission seeks 'Pay It Forward' stories

The Commission on Children, Youth and Families each year honors community volunteers and has chosen the "Pay It Forward" theme to recognize good deeds and acts of kindness.

Based on the book and movie of the same name, "Pay It Forward" represents the concept of doing a good deed, then asking only that the recipient do a good deed for someone else. The Commission's program supports Farmington Community Library's "Everybody's Reading: Pay It Forward" effort, which is also endorsed by the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council.

To encourage participation, the Commission is seeking stories about good deeds and their benefits. The good deed may be something large or a small kindness, may have happened only once or more frequently. It may have been performed by a stranger, friend or loved one.

Written responses should be no more than two paragraphs and may be submitted anonymously. Stories will be featured in the local press, and must be mailed or emailed by March 30 to: Beverly Papai, Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334; papaibev@farmlib.org.

Farmington Hills hosts 2nd annual open house

Residents can get better acquainted with their hometown when the City of Farmington Hills hosts its 2nd Annual Open House from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5 at the Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile east of Middlebelt.

Displays will offer information on everything from community policing, cultural arts and fire safety to recycling, the city's website and youth programs. Representatives from every city department, the Farmington community library, Planning Commission, Beautification Commission and Consumer Protection Committee will participate.

"The open house will provide a fun, relaxed atmosphere where residents can learn more about how their City government works for them," said Mayor Nancy Bates. "We hope those attending will leave with a better sense of the programs and services our community offers and where they can turn when they need help."

The evening will also include activities for kids, refreshments and a drawing for prizes, including new bicycles. For information, call 248-473-9500.

Toll Brothers, Inc. will webcast report

The Farmington Hills-based headquarters of the Midwest division of Toll Brothers, Inc., the nation's leading builder of luxury homes, today announced the company will broadcast its fiscal year 2002 first quarter earnings and a discussion of the results live on its Web site.

The webcast, at www. tollbrothers. com, is scheduled for February 26, 2002 at 1:00 p.m.

Hosted by Robert I. Toll, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, the conference call will announce first quarter 2002 results for earnings, revenues, contracts and backlog, and will also discuss outlook for the future Toll Brothers.

The event can be accessed by visiting the Investor Relations page and clicking on "Conference Calls." It will be replayed on the Web site through April 30, 2002.

Nationally, Toll Brothers, Inc. generated $2.2 billion in revenues and $213 million in earnings during the fiscal year 2001. The company has produced over 20 percent compound average annual growth in revenues and earnings for the last one-, three-, five-, seven- and ten-year periods.

Toll Brothers recently announced a record first quarter 2002 homebuilding revenue of approximately $483 million on 979 homes ($53 million from Toll Brothers' Midwest division), an increase of 5% from the record $458.4 million on 971 homes set during the same period a year ago.

POLICE CALLS

The following reports were filed during the past week with the Farmington Hills Police:

ATTEMPTED THEFT

At the J.R. Thompson Co. on Haggerty, an employee spotted four men attempting to steal a $7,500 flat screen TV from the lobby around 9:40 p.m. Tuesday. When the employee shouted at the men, two of whom were trying to take the TV off a wall mount, they fled the building. Entry was apparently made through an unlocked lobby door.

POT FOUND

Police pulled over a vehicle along M-5 and Farmington Road around 11:20 p.m. Tuesday, because did not have a license plate light. Police found the passenger had two baggies of marijuana in his sock and they also confiscated suspected drugs from inside the vehicle.

STOLEN GAS

At the Mobil station on 12 Mile and Middlebelt around 12:40 p.m. Tuesday, a woman pumped $12.49 worth of gas in her vehicle and fled without paying.

STOLEN PAINT SPRAYER

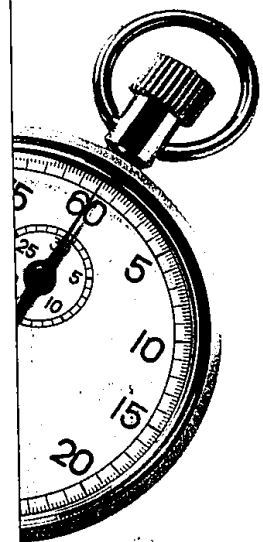
A Ford van parked in the 30300 block of Timberlake, had its rear window broken to gain entry during Tuesday night. Stolen from inside was a $3,000 paint sprayer. Damage was $300.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

Police responded to a minor injury accident at Northwestern Highway and Wellington around 5:40 p.m. Wednesday. The driver, a 57-year-old Sterling Heights man, had a 0.18 blood/alcohol level.

Compiled by Paul R. Pace

There's a time and a place for a home equity line of credit. Now is the time. This is the place.



Rates as low as 4.50% APR*

Right now, Bank One is offering our lowest rates in years. Consolidate high-interest debt with Bank One's flexible home equity line of credit. Use the money as you need it and only pay interest on what you owe. And since the interest may be tax-deductible, it's one of the last great tax advantages for homeowners.† Apply now and get an answer in just 30 minutes. Hurry, before now is over.

1-800-800-LOAN
www.bankone.com/800800LOAN

BANK ONE

*Consult your tax advisor regarding interest deductibility. Subject to credit approval. Advertised rates subject to certain conditions and restrictions. The rate you receive is subject to Bank One credit and other policy requirements and considerations and may be different from the advertised rate. Rates are subject to change at any time without notice and may be higher or lower than the rate currently offered. This offer is available only on new home equity lines. Property and flood insurance may be required. Other fees may apply. Borrower is responsible for a $50 annual fee. Title insurance (when required), mortgage taxes, and lien release fees. Please contact us for more information regarding rates, fees, terms, conditions, and restrictions. Advertised rate includes qualifying loans having an 85% or less loan to value ratio and on credit lines of $50,000 to $175,000. Other rates are available on credit lines of $5,000 to $49,999 and up to 100% loan to value. The APR on variable rate lines may increase or decrease, not to exceed 18%. Member FDIC. ©2001 Bank One Corporation

PDF120002

MASTER SPAS
FACTORY DIRECT
SPA SALE

Buy Where The Dealers Buy!
ALL IN STOCK SPAS MUST GO!
SAVE 50% TO.....

75% OFF* THIS WEEKEND!

*MUST BRING IN THIS AD

Gazebos Save 50%*

Super Saver! 7' Dix Spa Loaded was $6999 now $2999

Come See Why WJR's Radio Show Host, Joe Gagnon chose a Master Spa

COME SEE THE WORLD'S BEST SPA!

Hurry! Limited Supply Sale Ends Monday, Feb. 25th

MASTER SPAS® FACTORY OUTLET

HALL RD LOCATION
8771 Hall Rd., Utica
(Just W. of M-53)
(586) 739-9111

BONUS COUPON
TRADE IN SPA SALE
Trade in your used hot tub and receive $2500-$5000 CASH BACK*
Towards a new spa
Must Bring In Ad