

Detroit cops swing at Our Lady of Sorrows



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKLER

Tempting times: Our Lady of Sorrows fourth grader David Groechel answers a few questions about the proper response to many temptations kids face. Officer Bob Wojciechowski and partners Robert Joiner, Senora Lee and Charlie Henley are members of the Detroit Police Department's Blue Pigs band.

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The Blue Pigs, a band of police officers well known in the Metro-Detroit community, performed April 11 at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Farmington.

Formed 32 years ago, the group's members are all Detroit police officers.

"We've played over 8,000 shows," said Officer Charlie Henley, who started with the group 32 years ago. He's worked 33 years with the Detroit Police Department.

Other members are Officers Robert Wojciechowski, Robert Joiner and Senora Lee.

Though "pigs" was a derogatory term coined years ago, the Blue Pigs deliver strictly positive messages in their performances.

Through comedy, music and dance, the group told students to stay in school, stay off drugs and to do their homework.

They also played a version of their game styled after, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

Band members played only for

the lower grades, hoping to book a return visit for the upperclassmen.

"We teach crime prevention through music," Henley said. "I'm so happy that kids can see cops laughing and dancing."

They also enjoy encouraging staff and principals to take part in the fun.

So many times children develop a jaundiced view of police from TV shows, Henley said. "We play for kids three to 103. We do three Detroit schools and one suburb every week."

The Blue Pigs book performances three months in advance. For more information, call Henley at (313)596-2619.



Class action: Our Lady of Sorrows students help their classmate David Groechel answer important questions.

BABES grant pays for puppets

The Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation has awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,500 to the Farmington Families in Action BABES Program.

BABES (Beginning Alcohol and Addiction Basic Education Studies) is an educational program developed by the National Council on Alcoholism designed as a child's first lesson in the prevention of substance abuse.

The program is presented by trained volunteers through the telling of stories that revolve around puppet characters. The Foundation grant will allow for the purchase of new puppets.

Over a seven-week period, each and every Farmington Public School third grade class, as well as those at Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Fabian and Hillside Day School participates in this program. Each lesson concerns various

topics such as recognizing peer pressure, coping skills and dealing with feelings. The program also provides appropriate information on alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse.

The Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation was established in 1995 and provides grants of financial support to community based programs.

ATHENA award nominations due

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with Bob Saks Oldsmobile, will present the 2002 ATHENA Awards ceremony May 22 at Executive Suites of Best Western.

Nominees are being sought for the award, which celebrates the potential of all women as valued members and leaders of the community, and recognizes those who support them.

The ATHENA Award honors

those who strive toward the highest level of accomplishment, women and men who excel in their chosen field, who have devoted time and energy to their community in a meaningful way and who also open paths so others may follow.

Recipients must meet these specific criteria:

- Demonstrate excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession
- Provide a valuable service by

devoting time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community

- Assist women in reaching their full leadership potential
- Work or live in Farmington or Farmington Hills

Nomination forms are available through the Chamber of Commerce; the deadline for submission is Friday, April 19.

For information, call (248) 474-3440.

New RE/MAX franchise

Caroline Chen, Associate Broker, GRI and Yoshiko Fujimori, Associate Broker, CRS, GRI, opened a new RE/MAX franchise in Farmington Hills. The office goes by the name RE/MAX New Trend and is open for business at 38275 12 Mile Road, Suite 101.

Resident joins firm

Kenneth Kalousek of Farmington Hills joined the real estate practice group at Dykema Gossett PLLC. He will focus general real estate law matters. Dykema has offices in Ann Arbor, Bloomfield Hills, Detroit and Lansing.

Associate gets promotion

Nordstrom Samson Associates, an architectural and engineering firm, recently promoted Robert Downey, a Farmington resident, to associate. Downey has over 25 years in structural engineering services.

Sensicore hires chemist

Glenn Martin of Farmington Hills recently joined the staff at Sensicore as an analytical

chemist. He will be responsible for the development of electrochemical sensor technology using silicon substrates.

New deputy and director

Wayne Bates has been appointed Deputy Director, and Jonathan Brown has been appointed director, Special Risk Division - International with Farmington Hills-based national specialty insurance wholesaler, underwriter and managing general agent Burns & Wilcox Ltd.

Firm is named

Marx Layne & Company has been named public relations firm of record for the following organizations: American Woman Road & Travel Magazine, The Michigan Business & Professional

Association, The Michigan Food & Beverage Association and the Detroit Zoological Institute.

Attorney joins firm

Howard Wallach of Farmington Hills recently joined the law firm of Langnas & Associates, of Southfield. Wallach, who specializes in litigation matters, was previously a partner in the law firm of Hurwitz, Karp, Wallach and Gantz, of Dearborn Heights.

Agency awards employee

Val Brewer of Farmington Hills, was named 2001 Employee of the Year at Campbell-Ewald Advertising for her exemplary leadership and exceptional service to the company throughout the year.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Harrison High School's musical Anything Goes will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 18-20.

North Farmington High School presents the spring musical, Sweet Charity at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 18-20.

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