



Top of the world: Loren Sohn and Shane Roach re-roof the garage.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKLER

More than 100 volunteers bring 'holiday cheer' with chore help

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Christmas came early this year for two Farmington Hills senior citizens, as more than 100 volun-

teers turned out on Saturday to do their part in the nationwide Christmas in April program.

The city of Farmington Hills, along with Orchard United Methodist Church and the

Oakland County chapter of Christmas in April, coordinated the local effort, which aims to bring a little joy into the lives of seniors.

One recipient said the volunteers replaced the roof on her garage, put a deck on the back of her home to replace a dilapidating porch and recarpeted rooms in her home.

"It was absolutely wonderful," she said. "It was a very heartwarming experience to know all these people would come out to help people."

Donations were made by 14 local businesses, and volunteers were able to provide much needed repairs on the two homes, including interior and exterior painting, new entrance doors and yard work.

"It was impressive to see the

amount of work that was accomplished in one day," said Rick Lampi, community development coordinator for Farmington Hills. "The homeowners were grateful and the volunteers had fun."

The Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills donated \$1,500 and most of the labor.

Supplies were donated by ACO Hardware, Sherwin Williams Paint, Damman Hardware in Farmington, Waste Management, Arts Rental, World of Floors, ABC Appliance, H.A. Smith Lumber, K.J. Tree, Inc., and Home Depot. Food was donated by Starbucks, Krispy Kreme Donuts, Domino's Pizza, and Dolly's Pizza.

Injured goose is worrying Hills children, adults

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An injured Canada goose is causing some heartache in Farmington Hills.

Residents in the Copper Creek and Halsted Forest subdivisions in the northern section of the city have been noticing a goose with an arrow stuck in its hind section hopping about in their neighborhoods near a water retention pond.

The arrow has caused the bird to rely on one leg for support, said observers.

While residents want to help the injured animal, catching it appears to be the problem.

Resident Kelly Moran said she and her neighbors have made calls to all the help agencies to see if they can assist the bird.

"They all say we have to catch it and they will come and get it," she said.

Children in the neighborhood are upset, she said.

"They want us to help it," Moran said. "We tried everything. We did attempt to catch it, but she must be a female, because there is a male protecting her and it's pretty intimidating to try and do it ourselves."

Calls to the Department of Natural Resources were referred to a non-profit bird rescue group that helps injured fowl.

Karen Young, director of the Bird Rescue Huron Valley based in Saline, said a vol-

unteer went out once to try and catch the bird, but was unsuccessful.

"So far it has not been catchable," she said. "That's usually the case. We're all volunteers and we have quite a few animals to take care of."

She said there is no simple way to catch the goose.

"You have to be at the right place at the right time. We'd like to see it caught and help it, but we have only so many volunteers to chase after it."

Nancy Gunnigle, spokeswoman for the Michigan Humane Society based in Westland, said the society would be happy to treat the bird, but sometimes chasing after it only makes it more difficult because the bird becomes more afraid. She also said trying to catch it could further the injury.

Moran said a veterinarian friend also told her that pulling out the arrow might kill the animal in the end.

"They said they couldn't do anything either," she said.



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Bird Shot: The wounded goose hops around on one leg.

Wired: Karen Whetter and Paul Riebe replace the electrical outlet cover plates in the freshly-painted living room.



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